



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, 16 November 2021

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TUESDAY, 16 NOVEMBER 2021



The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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

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

ASSENT TO BILLS



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

The Honourable C.W. Pitt MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

My dear Mr Speaker

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

Date of Assent: 28 October 2021

A bill for an Act to amend the Governors (Salary and Pensions) Act 2003, the Public Officers Superannuation Benefits Recovery Act 1988, the Right to Information Act 2009, the Superannuation (State Public Sector) Act 1990 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes, and to repeal the Superannuation (State Public Sector) Deed 1990

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

Yours sincerely
Governor

28 October 2021

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 28 October 2021, from His Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to a certain bill on 28 October 2021 [\[1912\]](#).



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

The Honourable C.W. Pitt MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

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

Date of Assent: 4 November 2021

A bill for an Act to establish the Queensland Veterans' Council and to amend the Anzac Day Act 1995, the Public Sector Ethics Regulation 2010 and the Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Regulation 2019 for particular purposes

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


Governor

4 November 2021


Tabled paper: Letter, dated 4 November 2021, from Her Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to a certain bill on 4 November 2021 [\[1913\]](#).

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Fouras, Hon. D, AM


 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of former Speaker of the House, Jim Fouras. At a future time the House will formally note its condolences at the passing of the Hon. Jim Fouras. However, I wish to place on the record my condolences at his passing. My thoughts go out to his wife, Tanya, and his children, Yanoula, Athanasi and Andreas, and grandchildren.

ABSENCE OF MEMBER

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have received advice from the member for Glass House that he will be absent from the sittings of the House occurring from 16 to 18 November 2021. The member's notification complies with standing order 263A.


PRIVILEGE

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 8 November 2021 I tabled a ruling regarding a matter of privilege relating to a complaint by the member for Callide alleging that the Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water deliberately misled the House on 31 August 2021. Also on 8 November 2021, I tabled another ruling regarding a matter of privilege relating to a complaint by the member for Traeger alleging that the Leader of the House and Minister for Health and Ambulance Services deliberately misled the House on 10 March 2021. I ruled that both matters did not warrant the further attention of the House via the Ethics Committee. I now refer to both matters so that if any member wishes to exercise their rights in respect of those matters under the standing orders they should do so immediately, identifying the matter they are referring to.


SPEAKER'S RULING

Error in Petition

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I am advised there was an error in posting an e-petition to the parliament's website resulting in two e-petitions inadvertently containing the same wording, rather than two petitions with different wording. Both petitions have now closed and I have ruled that both petitions may be tabled. The principal petitioner has been advised and a new e-petition has commenced.

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 Ithaca Creek State School in the electorate of Cooper and Montessori School in the electorate of Noosa.

PETITIONS

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

Gloucester Road, Buderim, Speed Limit

Mr Mickelberg, from 287 petitioners, requesting the House to reduce the speed limit on Gloucester Road, between Mill Road and Main Street, Buderim from 60 km/h to 50 km/h [[1914](#), [1915](#)].

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

William Ross State High School Hall

Mr Walker, from 842 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the construction of a school hall for William Ross State High School [[1916](#)].

Public Transport Workers, Safety

Mr Boothman, from 812 petitioners, requesting the House to implement measures to protect drivers on our public transport networks from assaults [\[1917\]](#).

Office of the Health Ombudsman

Mr Perrett, from 321 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake an independent investigation into the administrative culture and procedures of the Office of the Health Ombudsman [\[1918\]](#).

M1, Exit 41

Mr Crandon, from 912 petitioners, requesting the House to re-commence the community consultation process for the Exit 41 upgrade with a view to considering a slip lane from the northbound Exit 41 to the Norfolk Village residential area [\[1919\]](#).

Aged-Care Facilities, Care Providers

Mr Crandon, from 1,115 petitioners, requesting the House to allow a designated person attend to the additional care and needs of a resident in Aged Care, to maintain their mental health and general well-being, during times of aged care facility lockdowns [\[1920\]](#).

Herberton State School, Years 11 and 12

Mr Knuth, from 781 petitioners, requesting the House to re-instate Senior Secondary Years 11 and 12 at Herberton State School Secondary Campus [\[1921\]](#).

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

Homelessness, Short-Term and Crisis Accommodation

1,696 petitioners, requesting the House to identify vacant and underutilised properties of all types and list them in a public domain for not for profit organisations to provide short term and crisis accommodation and other facilities to help the homeless [\[1922\]](#).

Coronavirus Vaccination, Incentives

1,376 petitioners, requesting the House to stop all incentives relating to getting vaccinated [\[1923\]](#).

Coronavirus Vaccination, Age of Consent

1,913 petitioners, requesting the House to stop all school aged vaccinations and make age of consent 18 years of age [\[1924\]](#).

Coronavirus Vaccination, Queensland Border

Two petitions, from 3,978 petitioners, requesting the House to stop at once the requirement of vaccinations to enter the state [\[1925\]](#), [\[1926\]](#).

Coronavirus, Queensland Border

281 petitioners, requesting the House to re-open the border bubble without restrictions in remote locations [\[1927\]](#).

Coronavirus, Queensland Border

1,285 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the government stops using police and military to enforce COVID restrictions in the state and at the borders [\[1928\]](#).

Coronavirus Vaccination, Requirement

43,232 petitioners, requesting the House to not violate the right of any Queenslanders by coercion to be vaccinated [\[1929\]](#).

Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, Chief Executive

357 petitioners, requesting the House to call for a full parliamentary enquiry in relation to the Chief Executive of the Department of State Development Manufacturing Infrastructure and Planning supporting private waste companies against local councils [\[1930\]](#).

Shark Control

2,042 petitioners, requesting the House to rapidly end the use of shark nets in Queensland and roll out non-lethal drone technology and aerial shark surveillance [\[1931\]](#).

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPERS

1 November 2021—

[1850](#) Queensland's Category 2 Water Authorities—Annual Report 2020-21, Consolidated report

[1851](#) Queensland's River Improvement Trusts—Annual Report 2020-21, Consolidated report

[1852](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 18, 57th Parliament—Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) 2021 and Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2021

[1853](#) State Development and Regional Industries Committee: Report No. 14, 57th Parliament—Justice Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response—Permanency) Amendment Bill 2021

[1854](#) Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: Report No. 15, 57th Parliament—Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021

[1855](#) Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: Report No. 16, 57th Parliament—Police Legislation (Efficiencies and Effectiveness) Amendment Bill 2021

2 November 2021—

[1856](#) Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board—Annual Report for 2020-21

[1857](#) Transmax Pty Ltd—Annual Report 2020-2021

[1858](#) Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee: Report No. 107, 57th Parliament—Annual Report 2020-21

3 November 2021—

[1859](#) Education, Employment and Training Committee: Report No. 12, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 18 June 2021 and 9 August 2021

[1860](#) Education, Employment and Training Committee: Report No. 13, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 10 August 2021 and 31 August 2021

4 November 2021—

[1861](#) Wet Tropics Management Authority—Annual Report 2020-2021

[1862](#) Wet Tropics Management Authority—State of Wet Tropics 2020—2021: Growing Opportunities—Landscape restoration for biodiversity and ecosystem recovery report

8 November 2021—

[1863](#) Office of the Work Health and Safety Prosecutor—Annual Report 2020-2021

[1864](#) Ruling by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt—Alleged deliberately misleading the House by the Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water

[1865](#) Ruling by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt—Alleged deliberately misleading the House by the Leader of the House and Minister for Health and Ambulance Services

9 November 2021—

[1866](#) Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: Report No. 17, 57th Parliament—Oversight of the Office of the Queensland Ombudsman

[1867](#) Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: Report No. 18, 57th Parliament—Oversight of the Office of the Information Commissioner

10 November 2021—

[1868](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 19, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 3 September 2021 and 14 September 2021

[1869](#) Auditor-General Report 3: 2021-22—Water 2021

11 November 2021—

[1870](#) Response from the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure (Hon. Dr Miles), to a paper petition (3624-21) presented by the member for Callide, Mr Boyce, and an ePetition (3614-21) sponsored by the member for Callide, Mr Boyce, from 325 and 419 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to investigate the internal decision making processes of the North Burnett Regional Council in providing services that are relevant and represent value to the community

[1871](#) Takeaway liquor authority notice number 27 issued in accordance with section 235D and 235F of the Liquor Act 1992 by the Commissioner for Liquor and Gaming

[1872](#) Land Court of Queensland—Annual Report 2020-2021

[1873](#) Land Tribunal—Annual Report 2020-2021

[1874](#) Legal Services Commission—Annual Report 2020-2021

[1875](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. D'Ath), to an ePetition (3578-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 624 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure that anyone appointed as Queensland Chief Health Officer must have worked and resided in Queensland for at least ten continuous years prior to appointment

[1876](#) Response from the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing (Hon. Grace), to an ePetition (3584-21) sponsored by the member for Gregory, Mr Millar, from 3,772 petitioners, requesting the House to preserve the purpose-built accommodation facilities at the Schools of Distance Education Campuses in Emerald and Longreach and to expedite the return of students and families to these on-site facilities

[1877](#) Response from the Premier and Minister for the Olympics (Hon. Palaszczuk), to an ePetition (3575-21) sponsored by the member for Hinchinbrook, Mr Dametto, from 1,514 petitioners, requesting the House to guarantee regional project delivery, regional skills retention, regional population retention and implement programs to offset the net negative impacts on regions from the 2032 Brisbane Olympics

- [1878](#) Response from the Premier and Minister for the Olympics (Hon. Palaszczuk), to an ePetition (3591-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 3,779 petitioners, requesting the House to direct that all politicians and any government employees earning over \$150,000 per year are to take a wage cut of 25% for the duration of any subsequent lockdowns imposed in Queensland
- [1879](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3580-21) sponsored by the member for Theodore, Mr Boothman, from 339 petitioners, requesting the House to increase parking spaces to at least 500 at the proposed Helensvale North station and to change the name of the station to Hope Island Road
- [1880](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3598-21) sponsored by the member for Scenic Rim, Mr Krause, from 667 petitioners, requesting the House to cause an upgrade of roads on Tamborine Mountain, in particular Main Western Road, Golf Course Road, Guanaba Road and Henri Robert Drive
- [1881](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3604-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 1,314 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake a range of measures relating to driver/rider training to reduce the road toll
- [1882](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to a paper petition (3622-21) presented by the member for Gympie, Mr Perrett, and an ePetition (3511-21) sponsored by the member for Gympie, Mr Perrett, from 11,232 and 916 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to ensure the upgrade of the road from Gympie to Tin Can Bay and Rainbow Beach and to provide a proper and safe passage for residents and tourists as a matter of urgency
- [1883](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to a paper petition (3623-21) presented by the member for Gympie, Mr Perrett, and an ePetition (3602-21) sponsored by the member for Gympie, Mr Perrett, from 48 and 179 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to investigate the numerous accidents and near misses from the Bells Bridge intersection to Atkinson Road, Curra and to reduce the speed limit from 100 kph to 80 kph

12 November 2021—

- [1884](#) Response from the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs (Hon. Scanlon), to an ePetition (3582-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 430 petitioners, requesting the House to assess any application for dredging of the seabed at Redland Bay to include other sea locations
- [1885](#) Community Support and Services Committee: Report No. 12, 57th Parliament—Child Protection Reform and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021
- [1886](#) Community Support and Services Committee: Report No. 13, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 26 May 2021 and 31 August 2021
- [1887](#) Rail Safety National Law (South Australia) Act 2012: Rail Safety National Law National Regulations (Fees) Variation Regulations 2021
- [1888](#) Rail Safety National Law (South Australia) Act 2012: Rail Safety National Law National Regulations (Fees) Variation Regulations 2021, explanatory notes
- [1889](#) Response from the Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water (Hon. Butcher), to an ePetition (3513-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 577 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake a full feasibility and benefits study of the Bradfield Scheme and include the additional cross benefits of a realignment of the Inland Rail to Roma, Emerald and to Gladstone
- [1890](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. D'Ath), to a paper petition (3626-21) presented by the member for Traeger, Mr Katter, from 321 petitioners, requesting the House to repurpose the vacant Eventide Residential Aged Care Facility's hostel accommodation area at Charters Towers as desperately needed residential accommodation for elderly low income earners

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Professional Engineers Act 2002:

- [1891](#) Professional Engineers (Code of Practice) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 159
- [1892](#) Professional Engineers (Code of Practice) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 159, explanatory notes
- [1893](#) Professional Engineers (Code of Practice) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 159, human rights certificate

Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994:

- [1894](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Drought Preparedness Grant Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 160
- [1895](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Drought Preparedness Grant Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 160, explanatory notes
- [1896](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Drought Preparedness Grant Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 160, human rights certificate

Governors (Salary and Pensions) Act 2003:

- [1897](#) Governors (Salary and Pensions) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 161
- [1898](#) Governors (Salary and Pensions) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 161, explanatory notes
- [1899](#) Governors (Salary and Pensions) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 161, human rights certificate

Fisheries Act 1994:

- [1900](#) Fisheries Legislation Amendment Declaration (No. 2) 2021, No. 162
- [1901](#) Fisheries Legislation Amendment Declaration (No. 2) 2021, No. 162, explanatory notes
- [1902](#) Fisheries Legislation Amendment Declaration (No. 2) 2021, No. 162, human rights certificate

Economic Development Act 2012:

- [1903](#) Economic Development (Southport PDA) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 163
- [1904](#) Economic Development (Southport PDA) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 163, explanatory notes
- [1905](#) Economic Development (Southport PDA) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 163, human rights certificate

Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991:

- [1906](#) Queensland Building and Construction Commission (Rectification of Building Work) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 164
- [1907](#) Queensland Building and Construction Commission (Rectification of Building Work) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 164, explanatory notes
- [1908](#) Queensland Building and Construction Commission (Rectification of Building Work) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 164, human rights certificate

Environmental Offsets Act 2014, Nature Conservation Act 1992, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, Statutory Instruments Act 1992:

- [1909](#) Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2021, No. 165
- [1910](#) Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2021, No. 165, explanatory notes
- [1911](#) Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2021, No. 165, human rights certificate

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Coronavirus, Update; Coronavirus, Vaccination



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.37 am): Today is a double donut day: no new cases. We have 15 active cases, 7,999 tests were undertaken and 14,112 vaccines were delivered by Queensland Health in the past 24 hours. Some 82.29 per cent of Queenslanders have had one dose—great news—and 70.54 per cent are fully vaccinated. Queensland's strong health response to the pandemic has allowed our strong economic response and we go from strength to strength. Our children are at school, their parents are at work and our state is safe. This is a world-leading result and the credit for this belongs to each and every Queenslanders.

This government went on a vaccination drive and the results speak for themselves. I thank all Queenslanders. Mackay is up 4.5 per cent in a week. Central Queensland is up 4.1 per cent on last week. North-West Queensland is up four per cent on last week. Cairns is up 3.5 per cent from the previous week. We set a target to get 70 per cent of eligible Queenslanders fully vaccinated by 19 November, and we beat it by nearly a week. This has allowed us to bring forward plans to open our borders to travellers from hotspots interstate, allowing them to home quarantine and reunite with friends and families sooner. We have achieved these results by bringing the vaccine closer to the people. Whether it is at Bunnings or their local school, thousands have taken advantage of the protection of getting the vaccine, but more needs to be done.


That is why this weekend is another 'super schools weekend'. We are going to target 100 schools that will open this weekend right across Queensland: at Gordonvale, Dalby, Merrimac, Southport, Mackay and Deception Bay—just to name a few. More schools will be added throughout the week, and I encourage all members to spread the word.

I have also announced measures to reward those who are fully vaccinated and to protect the freedoms Queensland has enjoyed throughout the pandemic. The only way we achieve this is if everyone at venues is vaccinated. That includes making sure that our pubs, clubs and cafes can operate without restriction; that our music venues, which have really done it tough, cinemas and theatres can safely welcome a full house; that families can go to the cricket or the footy knowing that the people around them are safe; and that we can do it all without masks so we can see each other smile again.

This is both a reward for those who are fully vaccinated and a precaution for the time when more cases arrive in Queensland. These measures have been welcomed by the AMA who said, 'I think the mandate is a great idea.' Bernie Hogan from the Queensland Hotels Association said it was 'a relief' for his members. John Collins from the Triffid music venue described it as a game changer.

I know that there are some people out there who still have questions about the vaccine. They should talk to their trusted local family GP or a pharmacist or the health professionals at our vaccination clinics. They are there to listen and to put your mind at ease. We have just 31 days before 17 December when our borders open more fully. It is vital that Queensland achieves an 80 per cent vaccination rate of those eligible before an outbreak arrives. There is only one thing I want for Christmas, and that is for the people of this state to be protected. The best way to do that is to go and get vaccinated.

Satellite Hospitals


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.40 am): I am pleased to advise the House that my government's \$265 million Satellite Hospitals Program is forging ahead. I can announce today a very important milestone: Hutchinson Builders have been appointed as the stage 1 managing contractor. This means that we are a step closer to delivering seven satellite facilities that will bring health care closer to home. The program is the first of its type in Australia, and it will bring new and improved health services to the heart of growing local communities.

The seven satellite hospitals will be built in the areas of Caboolture, Bribie Island, Pine Rivers, Redlands, Brisbane South, Ipswich and Tugun. Six parcels of land have already been identified as ideal locations for these health facilities and land acquisition is either finalised or well underway. The seventh site is also progressing well, with further announcements to come.

This is all about investing in health and investing in infrastructure. It is about creating jobs, increasing the capacity of our health system and strengthening the economy—all vital to our COVID-19 economic recovery plan. The satellite hospitals will take pressure off our health system by easing the demand on major hospitals. They will also support hundreds of jobs for Queenslanders. The economic benefits will be significant, with the Satellite Hospitals Program anticipated to support more than 770 local jobs during construction and many more once operational. This is a key part of our economic recovery plan.

Community consultation has been happening to make sure the health services offered are what the community needs. All sites will include minor injury and illness centres, with other services ranging from day therapy services, including chemotherapy and renal dialysis, to outpatient clinics and opportunities for community health services and virtual health care. The Satellite Hospitals Program is a key element of my government's record \$22.2 billion health budget for 2021-22 which is supporting the health and safety of Queenslanders as well as supporting local jobs.

M1, Upgrade

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.42 am): By investing in new infrastructure, we are putting Queensland on the road to recovery. Today I can confirm we are one step closer to starting major construction on the second M1, with some works already underway. We have contracted Acciona Construction Australia and Fortitude Valley based Georgiou Group to start early works, while WSP and Spring Hill based BG&E group finalise designs.

I am advised that means we will be officially turning the sod on the stage 1 north section of the project from Coomera to Helensvale in the middle of next year once federal environmental approvals have been obtained. In addition, we are also forging ahead with the stage 1 central component of the project from Helensvale Road to the Smith Street Motorway. Requests for proposals on the stage 1 central package will be available to industry before the end of the year. This is great news for the people on the Gold Coast—and it is something that we committed to during the election campaign.

Up to 210,000 cars travel on the M1 every day. Building the Coomera Connector is vital to easing congestion between Brisbane and the Gold Coast and catering for strong population growth in this region in the future. With the 2032 Olympic Games on the horizon, it has never been more important to invest in vital transport infrastructure and work with the Commonwealth to ensure Queenslanders get their fair share. That is why we have committed \$755 million to deliver the 16-kilometre first stage of this important project.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members!

Ms PALASZCZUK: So much good news today, Mr Speaker!

Dr Miles: Tell us more!

Ms PALASZCZUK: In fact, there is even more.

Mr Power: They don't like good news.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. They don't like good news.

Queensland Australian of the Year Awards



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.44 am): The nominees for Queensland Australian of the Year awards were so many, and so deserving, that any of them would fill us with pride at the national awards event in January. In challenging times, when critics have the loudest voices, it is refreshing to hear about dedicated people who are working hard every single day to improve their communities across our great state.

I was honoured to present this year's awards to the wonderful Queenslanders who will represent us in Canberra on the eve of Australia Day. The Queensland Australian of the Year recipients are Sue and Lloyd Clarke, parents of the late Hannah Clarke. Terrible circumstances brought Sue and Lloyd into our lives, but we are so grateful for their involvement in ending domestic and family violence with the Small Steps 4 Hannah Foundation.

The Queensland Senior Australian of the Year is Colin Dillon—Australia's first Indigenous police officer and the first officer to courageously tell the Fitzgerald inquiry about the corruption he saw. He is an inspirational role model for all of us.

The Queensland Young Australian of the Year is mental health advocate Dr Tahnee Bridson. Tahnee's work is teaching us to remember to consider the wellbeing of our health professionals, just as they look after ours.

The Queensland Local Hero for 2022 is Saba Abraham for helping refugee women into work and for translating COVID messaging. Her pride in Queensland is as big as her heart.

There were four nominees in each of the four categories. They were all inspiring and it was wonderful to meet them last week. We also heard again from the 2021 winners, reminding us that the talent, sacrifice, generosity and community spirit of Queenslanders is on display year after year.

I said on the night that a little bit of positivity goes a long way. In fact, there was enormous positivity which goes a very long way. Mixing afterwards with the nominees and their families was so enjoyable. It was wonderful when families came up to me telling me that they had all been vaccinated. I thank and congratulate every nominee and wish our 2022 Queensland Australian of the Year recipients well for the national awards.

Renewable Energy



Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (9.46 am): Global giants continue to recognise Queensland as a world leader in renewable energy and they are bringing the jobs of the future here to Queensland. Through our \$2 billion renewable energy and jobs fund, our government is forming the partnerships that create new projects and jobs. One of these exciting projects is Fortescue Future Industries' electrolyser manufacturing plant. This will be one of the world's largest manufacturers of electrolyzers, which are used worldwide to produce hydrogen.


Last month the Palaszczuk government and Andrew Forrest announced that FFI had selected Gladstone as the site for this facility. Today I am pleased to inform the House that this project has reached another milestone. Queensland's Coordinator-General has now provided the planning approval that will allow the facility to be constructed in the Gladstone State Development Area.

FFI's facility will be known as the Global Green Energy Manufacturing Centre, or GEM. Construction is expected to begin in February 2022 at a four-hectare site at Aldoga, within the SDA. Production of electrolyzers is targeted to commence in 2023. This represents a \$114 million investment by FFI in what will become a world-leading hydrogen hub.

More than 100 jobs will be created during construction and there will be a further 50 operational jobs. It will be the first facility in Australia able to make multigigawatt-scale electrolyzers for the hydrogen industry. GEM will have initial capacity to manufacture up to two gigawatts of electrolyzers each year, making it the world's largest electrolyser factory. There are plans to further grow the facility with an expansion of electrolyser manufacturing plus the addition of other green industry products.

GEM is one of the projects that is boosting Queensland's credentials as a world leader in green hydrogen. It will develop into one of the major hubs in a growing industry that is set to transform our regional Queensland economies.


Economy

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.49 am): Despite a once-in-a-century public health emergency that continues to significantly impact the global economy, Queensland's economy remains the envy of Australia. Labour force data for October from the Australian Bureau of Statistics shows that employment in Queensland was 90,000 persons, or 3.5 per cent, higher than the pre-pandemic level recorded in March 2020. For the rest of Australia employment remains over a quarter of a million jobs down, or 2.4 per cent lower, than the pre-pandemic level. While we wish the people of New South Wales well with their recovery from a serious and damaging COVID-19 outbreak, October's ABS data shows that New South Wales has lost 174,200 jobs since the pandemic began. Employment in Queensland is up 90,000 persons from its pre-pandemic level. New South Wales and Victoria combined are down 300,400 jobs compared to the start of the pandemic, which demonstrates that Queensland leads Australia when it comes to jobs growth.

The good news does not just involve job creation. Domestic economic growth of 4.6 per cent from pre-COVID levels is higher than the 3.1 per cent growth in New South Wales and Victoria. Retail turnover volumes are also up 8.9 per cent since pre COVID at a time when retail turnover fell four per cent in New South Wales and Victoria. No wonder recent reputable surveys have underlined the strength of business and consumer confidence across Queensland. The NAB's latest business survey showed that business conditions in Queensland were above the national average. Westpac's most recent survey showed that consumer sentiment in Queensland remained above its pre-COVID level, and the latest national accounts data demonstrates that domestic economic growth in Queensland since the pandemic began is significantly above the national average. What does this all mean? It means that Queensland is the place to be, and it will continue to be the place to be. Australians continue to vote with their feet and move to Queensland. Our net interstate migration gain of 30,000 residents in the latest data is almost 10 times as big as the next most attractive state, Western Australia.

The Palaszczuk Labor government has kept Queenslanders safe. We have provided businesses with the necessary support to get through the pandemic. Those businesses are well-positioned to thrive as part of our ongoing recovery, and as more Queenslanders continue to get vaccinated more and more Queensland businesses can enjoy more and more benefits from the opening of our borders and the further easing of restrictions. Vaccination is the best way to combat the virus, to keep the economy open and to keep creating jobs. Working together, Queenslanders will continue to drive our ongoing economic recovery from the virus and build a brighter future for our state.

Coronavirus Vaccination, Schools

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.52 am): The Palaszczuk government has a sensible and measured plan to reunite families, protect Queenslanders and continue our economic recovery. The key to this plan is vaccination, and schools and school communities across the state are pitching in to ensure their communities are vaccinated and safe. As we all know, thanks to the amazing effort of Queenslanders we hit 70 per cent double dosed vaccinations on Sunday, and yesterday at 5.11 pm we saw the first people coming into Queensland under the new home quarantine rules. But we cannot stop here—it is now to 80 per cent double dosed and beyond.


More than 100 schools opened their gates for the 'super schools weekend' in October, with around 16,000 people walking through to get their jab. What is great is that more than 85 per cent rolled up their sleeves to get their first dose, which means it is time for all those people to come back and get their second dose if they have not already. A further 58 schools hosted pop-up vaccination clinics last weekend. With around 10,000 Queenslanders showing up to get their jab, nearly 60 per cent of them were having their first dose. We are gearing up for another 'super schools weekend' this weekend with a targeted 100 schools in areas where vaccination rates are low, with additional school locations to be confirmed as soon as possible.

The clock is ticking on getting vaccinated. We know there are more than 800,000 eligible Queenslanders 12 years old and older who are completely unprotected. They need to get vaccinated before the border opens further and restrictions come in for unvaccinated people. This should be their top priority. From Balaclava State School up in Cairns to Merrimac State High School on the Gold Coast, right across Queensland schools are throwing open their doors this weekend. There is no need

to make an appointment for our pop-up school clinics. Anyone 12 years old and over can show up and get their first and second dose, just like Felix did at Cavendish Road State School. While you are there, support your local school's fundraising efforts by grabbing a sausage or perhaps a cupcake.

On that note, can I thank all of the school staff, P&C volunteers, Queensland Health staff and the Minister for Health who have made these pop-up vaccination clinics possible, helping to keep our communities safe. Let's keep that momentum going this weekend by getting out to your local school, rolling up your sleeve and getting the jab.

Coronavirus, Vaccination

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.55 am): For the past nine months we have been rolling out the COVID-19 vaccine across the state. Millions of Queenslanders have been vaccinated by thousands of health workers. We have stood up hundreds of vaccination clinics across every corner of the state. We have teams going door to door engaging with Queenslanders to ensure they are able to protect themselves and their families. That hard work is paying off.


Today more than 80 per cent of Queenslanders aged 16 and over have received at least one dose and more than 70 per cent are fully vaccinated. Yesterday we announced that Queensland reached our first vaccination target under Queensland's COVID-19 Vaccine Plan to Unite Families: 70 per cent fully vaccinated. Reaching this target means that people who have been in a hotspot in the past 14 days can now enter Queensland and home quarantine if they are fully vaccinated, arriving by air and have had a negative COVID test within 72 hours prior to arriving. It brings us one step closer to the 80 per cent fully vaccinated target, which will see even more freedoms for the vaccinated as our borders open.

Last week we announced public health measures linked to vaccination status, providing a pathway that will allow businesses to return to operating at full capacity. I know this has been welcomed by the tourism and business sectors alike, which continually advocated for a public health direction to give them the certainty they needed to ensure their staff were vaccinated as were customers walking through their doors. To enable this to occur, anyone vaccinated when the borders open to 80 per cent double dosed will be able to access vulnerable settings and non-essential leisure activities. This is to offer greater protection to the unvaccinated from COVID-19. We know that high-risk settings like pubs and bars, nightclubs, indoor live music venues and restaurants can be lightning rods for COVID-19 transmission. These rules will also assist businesses by reducing the risk of their staff becoming infected and impacting closures.

We also need to protect our most vulnerable Queenslanders. That is why only vaccinated people will be able to visit hospitals, residential aged-care facilities, disability care accommodation and prisons. I want to be clear: this does not apply to patients. Every Queensland hospital accepts anyone who turns up at their door. This is about visitors. This is about making sure that those who arrive to visit their loved ones are not putting them at greater risk by being unvaccinated and potentially carrying the virus with them.

Communities across Queensland will be exposed to COVID-19 eventually, and we know that being vaccinated is the best way to be protected against serious illness. Queenslanders are heeding that message. In the five days after our announcement we saw a 62 per cent increase in the number of people getting vaccinated compared to the five days prior. We have also seen a significant increase in the uptake of vaccination amongst our First Nations Queenslanders. In the last week we administered 10,385 doses compared to 2,000 the week before. Queenslanders have done so well throughout the course of this pandemic. We know that COVID is coming and it will have a huge impact on all of our lives, but we can protect ourselves, our families and our economy by getting vaccinated.

Coronavirus Vaccination, Stadiums

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement) (9.58 am): Getting vaccinated is the only way to drive Queensland's economic recovery. Vaccination is the only way we can return to the relative normality Queenslanders are entitled to. Most have worked hard to manage the health impacts of the global pandemic, and that includes getting the jab. That is why the Palaszczuk government makes no apology for making double vaccination a condition of entry to all government owned stadiums from 17 December, when we expect to hit our 80 per cent two-dose vaccination target.

What we have seen is a huge boost in vaccination numbers since declaring our stadiums a no-go area for the unvaccinated. Whether it is Metricon, the Gabba, Suncorp or Queensland Country Bank Stadium in the north, you will need to prove you are double jabbed to get through the stadium turnstiles. The enjoyment and spectacle of live elite stadium sport—from the Big Bash, the T20 and the one-day internationals to next year's NRL, State of Origin, AFL and concerts—will be reserved for fully vaccinated Queenslanders.

We are currently working with the creators of the Check In Qld app to include proof of vaccination status to ensure it is as quick and easy as showing your admission ticket. Queensland's first fully vaccinated stadium event is expected to be the Brisbane Heat versus Sydney Thunder Big Bash match at the Gabba on 19 December, and what a celebration it will be. The upcoming first Ashes test from 8 December will be played at the Gabba under current COVID-safe requirements, which enables a capacity crowd and no masks, but it will be the last opportunity for the unvaccinated to attend a day at the cricket for the foreseeable future.

Being double dose vaccinated is our pathway to regaining the freedoms that Queenslanders enjoy. It means continuing our economic recovery while also protecting our most vulnerable. Full vaccination is your passport to being part of Queensland's growing reputation as Australia's sporting capital and to a big summer of entertainment.

Coronavirus Vaccination, Police



Hon. MT RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.00 am): Our best defence against COVID-19 is to be vaccinated. Getting vaccinated is the best way to drive Queensland's economic recovery and reunite families for Christmas. As with every decision throughout the pandemic, the Palaszczuk government is taking measured and cautious action to keep Queenslanders safe.

To support community safety, certain venues will be operated on a vaccinated only basis. This includes hospitality, indoor and outdoor entertainment venues and places like coffee shops. All through the pandemic police have exercised good judgement and compassion when dealing with COVID-19, but make no mistake: police say that if someone or a business—for example, a coffee shop business—deliberately tries to breach the new requirements for vaccinated venues, then action will be taken. Any person found in breach of a public health direction could face a penalty of up to 100 penalty units, which is about \$13,800 or six months in prison. The Police Commissioner has stated very clearly that the Queensland Police Service will be strictly enforcing these rules—because these rules are for all Queenslanders, to keep us all safe. Queenslanders, we have done so well, but if you are not yet vaccinated, now is the time to get vaccinated.

On the vaccination front, I am pleased to say that police are leading the way, with more than 99 per cent of officers now fully vaccinated, along with many of our firefighters and custodial officers. There is also a large cohort of people who are out there currently training to be police officers. Our two police academies are flat out. They are flat out because the government is making the biggest investment in policing in this state in more than 30 years. This is part of the Queensland Police Service's investment that will eventually deliver more than 2,000 extra police personnel.

These new recruits are setting a great example to their fellow Queenslanders. Every new recruit must be vaccinated before they begin training. This is entirely sensible. When they graduate from the academies and move into the community, they will be on the front line. We have seen the vital role frontline workers and volunteers have played in supporting community safety during the pandemic. By helping to keep the virus out, they have not only kept the community safe but also protected our economy.

I want to thank every member of Queensland's frontline community safety agencies for their dedicated, passionate and professional commitment to their fellow Queenslanders throughout the pandemic. We must all remember that, when it comes to these great Queenslanders, their jobs save lives, but it will be the jabs of all Queenslanders that will also save lives. Get vaccinated now and keep yourself and your loved ones safe.

Coronavirus Vaccination, Truck Drivers



Hon. MC BAILEY (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.03 am): Let me start today with a thank you to our Queensland truckies for rolling up their sleeves and getting the COVID jab. As of yesterday, I can report to the House that 824 truckies have been vaccinated at our two special

border clinics at Tugun and Goondiwindi. It is a huge help to our border towns and communities serviced across Queensland's freight network. It is also a huge help to Queensland's hospitals and health workers by preventing positive COVID infections.

We know that necessary interstate travel by truckies to keep our supply chain open has been a high risk to both their health and the health of the community. That is why we set up the two clinics for truckies specifically to get vaccinated. Our quick and decisive action has proved effective because we listen and act on health advice. Despite the constant and predictable howls by the typical suspects about the Palaszczuk Labor government's strong health response, it is measures like our dedicated truckie clinics that have kept Queenslanders safe.

These clinics have now done their job. At every turn the freight industry has worked collaboratively with us in responding to the pandemic, and I thank everybody in the freight industry for working with us on the health response. Not only have they been getting the jab, but they have been sticking to the rules to keep Queenslanders safe. On Saturday we stopped 1,049 trucks at the border and only nine were turned around for not having either the right pass or a negative test.

We are not out of the woods yet. COVID-19 is still a threat and Queenslanders are responding via our clinics, our hubs and our GPs statewide. Getting vaccinated is the best way to drive our economic recovery, and getting vaccinated is the best way to reunite families for Christmas. We are now welcoming back more people and gearing up for a bumper summer tourist season, but it means we will also see COVID arrive in the Sunshine State at some point so we need Queenslanders to be like our truckies and to get vaccinated and to keep acting on health advice. Get the jab so we can spend the Christmas with our families. I have one message: don't vacillate; vaccinate.

Coronavirus Vaccination, TAFE



Hon. DE FARMER (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.06 am): We know vaccination is our best chance of beating COVID and allowing Queenslanders to be safe, which is why I am so pleased to say that TAFE Queensland—our largest public training provider—are taking their responsibilities around vaccination very seriously. They are not only offering life-changing opportunities through their award-winning training; they are providing life-saving opportunities too.

Pop-up vaccination hubs at TAFE campuses have been set up or will be set up at nine campuses across the state from Inala to Townsville. So far, more than 70,000 doses of vaccine have been delivered to staff and students in Bundaberg, Hervey Bay, Inala, Loganlea, Bohle and Pimlico. Top marks go to Bundaberg and Hervey Bay for a combined effort of more than 60,000 jabs. I know the members for Bundaberg and Hervey Bay have been working very hard to achieve that outcome. Today I can confirm that the Ipswich TAFE pop-up has returned for two days this week, having previously been on campus in late October. New dates have also been set for Bracken Ridge, Bohle and Pimlico—all before the end of November.


I know the mighty efforts of TAFE Queensland can help us edge closer to that 80 per cent double-dose rate across Queensland. The pop-up clinics are making vaccinations easily accessible to so many, including those for whom getting vaxed might be extra challenging—just like the mobile COVID-19 vaccine hub at the Loganlea campus, which I visited in September, which helps students enrolled in our adult migrant education program get the jab. The hub was part of the joint venture between TAFE Queensland, Queensland Health and the Mater refugee health service and saw more than 300 migrant and refugee students fully vaxed by the end of September.

It can be overwhelming as a non-English speaker to navigate the process. The mobile hub helped overcome those barriers by having interpreters fluent in the student's first language attend the clinic or be at the end of a phone to help the student. I heard from our TAFE staff that many of the students were particularly hesitant because they initially did not understand the process, so their trusted TAFE teachers and interpreters helped them—answering questions and addressing their concerns, including about how they could register online and book their vaccination appointments. In the end, many were not only getting the jab themselves; they were bringing family members along as well.

I cannot praise our TAFE and health staff enough for their dedication to this task. Their hard work, empathy and positivity was clear to everyone around them. I also want to give a big shout-out to the health staff in Mackay and Rockhampton. The members for Rockhampton and Mackay took me along to meet them when I visited last week. Their dedication was absolutely outstanding. I know those members have been throwing their full support behind that messaging and have got great results today with the increase in the numbers vaccinated.

TAFE Queensland already delivers opportunities for Queenslanders to have a rewarding career and now they are literally saving lives. The message is clear: vaccination is critical to our continued economic recovery as borders reopen on 17 December. The best day to get vaccinated is yesterday; the second best day is today.

Coronavirus Vaccination, Agriculture Industry

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (10.09 am): Despite the havoc the COVID-19 pandemic has created, there is a bright shining light for Queensland and that is our marvellous agriculture sector. Because the Palaszczuk government classed agriculture as an essential industry at the start of the pandemic, top quality Queensland produce continues to be sent around Australia and also overseas. The industry is doing important work, encouraging the workforce to get vaccinated against COVID-19 because they are going to need their workers fit and firing with the workload to come.

The latest AgTrends data shows the total value of Queensland's primary industries commodities is forecast at \$20.66 billion in 2021-22. That is eight per cent higher than the final 2020-21 estimate, and that is despite the massive economic and social disruptions of COVID-19.


There were more than 365,000 people working across the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors in 2020-21. That is up four per cent on the previous year and a testament to the wonderful work our producers have done to keep growing top quality food and fibre, and all with the unwavering support of the Palaszczuk Labor government. The latest AgTrends data—

An opposition member: Oh, you are kidding!

Mr FURNER: No, I am not kidding at all; I am serious. The latest AgTrends data shows the value of our high-quality wheat and barley crops is set to double. Cotton and chickpea crops are forecast to increase by 30 per cent and our sorghum crop is set to see a 15 per cent increase. But we cannot continue to grow Queensland agriculture if we cannot keep Queenslanders safe.

Now is the time to get vaccinated against COVID-19. I want to commend and thank a number of producers who have set strong examples by vaccinating themselves and their staff, like Australian Country Choice and also JBS on the Darling Downs. Wherever you are in Queensland, now is the time to vaccinate to keep Queenslanders safe and our food supply chain going.

Building and Construction Industry

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement) (10.12 am): Mr Speaker—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr de BRENNI: Admiration!

Mr SPEAKER: I will wait for silence, members.

Mr de BRENNI: I rise today to talk about the Queensland building and construction industry because it has never been stronger or fairer. The sector is growing and employing more Queenslanders than ever. Last sitting week, in fact, I announced that we have grown the industry to be now worth more than \$47.4 billion, employing 230,000 hardworking Queenslanders, and a record number—168,000—of new homes and renovations were delivered this last financial year.

Queenslanders are loving their freedom from COVID. If the crowds at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre on the weekend are any indication, then it is clear that Queensland is in good hands. The exhibition centre played host to several industry award nights, including those hosted by the Master Plumbers and the Master Builders. Whilst not all industry groups agree with each other all of the time, they were in all in lockstep with one of the fundamentals of this government: Queenslanders getting paid on time in full for the work that they do. It is a principle at the heart of our suite of building reforms.

On Friday night at the Master Plumbers annual awards, attended by 630 tradies, the Palaszczuk government was acknowledged for our work on security of payment as an area critical to their industry success. In fact, insolvencies are at their lowest level in nine years in the construction industry. Disputes and construction defects are at incredibly low levels too. We make no apologies for that or for the changes to refine rules and improve the industry.

I can inform the House that on another night of nights for industry at the Master Builders Queensland Awards, we announced that we will now commence our review into developers, headed by respected practitioner Alison Quinn. Ms Quinn has more than 25 years experience as a chief

executive officer and senior executive in the property development sector. When property developers do their job well, industry does well. This review will ensure all developers do their job well and fairly. We know that it is contractors and subcontractors who bear the burden from incomplete work and that consumers have a right to a quality product. This review will consider the benefits of ensuring everyone is accountable for security and sustainability of the industry. It will make sure that whether you invest in an apartment or some other type of development that you will get what you have paid for and that quality is up to scratch.

Our Queensland Building Plan has already commenced our security of payment reforms, inquired into improvements in the home warranty scheme and led the nation in the eradication of combustible cladding. It has led the way on accessible housing for elderly Queenslanders and those with a disability and energy efficient buildings. This review is part of that comprehensive and balanced approach. It is just one of the reforms and reviews we have brought in to make sure this critical industry can get on with its job.

Continuing our reform momentum, today I can advise that my department has commissioned an independent review of the structure of the independent regulator, the Queensland Building and Construction Commission. This review will be led by respected administrator Jim Varghese AM and will ensure the regulator continues to perform at a high level in an industry that thrives on innovation and agility. It will continue our track record of reform that has delivered the strongest and fairest building and construction in the country.

Our commitment to job creation is delivering the strongest economic growth in the nation and we will work every day to protect the Queensland jobs that come from that.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Everton, you are warned under the standing orders. I do not like being interrupted.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will conclude today at 11.16 am.

Caboolture Hospital, Review



Mr CRISAFULLI (10.16 am): My question is to the Minister for Health. Does the minister have confidence in the review of Caboolture Hospital or is she taking further action?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. I have confidence in the independence and the expertise of the reviewer and the report that they have handed down. I also support the actions of the board and the board chair in accepting the recommendations of this report and outlining an implementation plan to deliver on all of those recommendations.

Caboolture Hospital, Review

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question is to the Minister for Health. I refer to the Caboolture Hospital review terms of reference which outline the team would look at allegations of botched surgeries. Sadly, the final review said people like Olivia and Janelle, whose lives were torn apart, were not included. Does the minister have confidence in a report which did not include any victim statements?

Mrs D'ATH: I know that the opposition have been making these comments since this report came down—

Mr Crisafulli: It is not in the report.

Mrs D'ATH: What is in the report is a statement around the complaints that have been made and how they are going to be managed. I understand that, with any complaints that came forward around surgeries, there was a clinical review of all of the clinical notes in relation to those surgeries to assess them. In relation to the complaints and individuals, page 6 of the report says that parallel to this review, a hotline was set up by Metro North HHS to facilitate—

Mr Crisafulli: It was an inconvenience.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, you have asked the question and the minister is responding to the question asked. You will cease your interjections.

Mrs D'ATH:—to facilitate any past or current patient of Caboolture Hospital regardless of the time frame to register their complaints. All cases where identification was possible have been reviewed and triaged into three categories and all cases reported via this mechanism will be followed up to a

conclusion. They are making contact, I understand, with every one of those people whom they have identification details for to follow through their complaints to a conclusion. They have categorised them into the medico-legal review within the Metro North reporting framework and clinical review external to Caboolture Hospital, and the chair board has made public statements reaffirming that this will be done by the HHS.

Coronavirus, Vaccination

Mrs GILBERT: My question is to the Premier and Minister for the Olympics. Will the Premier update the House on efforts to get as many Queenslanders as possible vaccinated and any alternate approaches she is aware of?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Mackay for the question. There is one health issue that concerns all Queenslanders at the moment and that is keeping them safe by getting vaccinated. I want to thank regional Queensland for really stepping up over the last week and coming forward to be vaccinated.

I can report that in Mackay the first dose went up 4.5 per cent; 82.6 per cent of people in the Mackay region now have had their first dose. That is fantastic news. That is one of the biggest movers of regional Queensland in the last week. People are doing it because they want to continue to enjoy our great Queensland lifestyle.

We are seeing results right across regional Queensland, with Townsville up 3.3 per cent to 80.4 per cent first dose; Cairns is up 3.5 per cent to 81.9 per cent; and North-West Queensland is up 4.0 per cent to 70.4 per cent first dose. We want to see that lift. However, the biggest movers in this state have been in regional Queensland, so well done regional Queensland.

I can also report that in terms of postcodes some of the greatest movers have been 4720, Emerald, 5.8 per cent increase; Dysart-Norwich Park, postcode 4745, 5.84 per cent; postcode 4744, Moranbah and Peak Downs Mine, up 5.6 per cent; 4753, up 5.57 per cent; and around the Townsville region with Magnetic Island, postcode 4819, up 5.51 per cent.

Queenslanders are taking this seriously. The key question today is: does the LNP support our strong policy about ensuring people are fully vaccinated? It is a very simple question. Of course, we know George Christensen has been peddling misinformation.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Here they go. The shadow cabinet was up there recently—the Leader of the Opposition—at a private breakfast with the member for Whitsunday. Who sponsored this breakfast? The brochure states it was authorised and printed by George Christiansen MP.

An honourable member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I say to the Leader of the Opposition there is a bit of mixed messaging about the vaccination—

(Time expired)

Mrs D'Ath interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the House, you will direct your comments through the chair.

Caboolture Hospital, Review

Ms BATES: My question is to the Minister for Health. The Caboolture Hospital review says the number of unplanned returns to theatre is greater than any other Metro North hospital and further investigation is required. Are these investigations underway?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for her question. As I said, the board chair has committed to all of the recommendations of the report and has outlined an implementation plan for them.

Coronavirus, Vaccination

Ms LUI: My question is of the Premier and Minister for the Olympics. Will the Premier update the House on the government's strategy to ramp up the vaccination rollout throughout Queensland?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I want to thank the member for Cook, because we have seen an increase in her electorate. Of course, that region north of Cairns is going really well. However, we want to still encourage our First Nations people to get vaccinated, especially in the Far North of our state where the levels do need to lift. I thank the member for Cook for the work she has been doing along with the ministers who are ministerial champions going into those communities to encourage vaccination.

Last week I had the pleasure of joining the Minister for Education when we went out to Kingaroy, Murgon and Cherbourg. It was great just to see the work that is happening in local communities. I thank the mayors and the councils for their very strong leadership locally on the ground. I also thank the workers who are going door to door explaining to families one on one about the benefits of vaccination. I think this is working very well in some of our First Nations communities.

It was absolutely delightful to join the mayor of Cherbourg but also to go to Murgon and see the encouragement that the young people were showing in getting vaccinated. I also had the opportunity with the minister to open a brand new hall in Murgon. It would be great to see the member for Kingaroy out there talking about vaccination as well. It would be lovely to see that happen.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right, yes. We need people to understand that there is a lot of misinformation being spread on social media. If I can stress one thing, it is that if anyone has any concerns about vaccination they should go and see their local GP or their pharmacist. These are questions they can put to their trusted family GP; they can ask any question about the vaccination.

We know the vaccination is safe. Millions and millions of people have had this vaccination. It has been tested and it is good protection against COVID. We know that on 17 December, when the borders open and people are reunited with their families, there will be more cases of COVID in Queensland. The best way we can protect our families, our community and our state is by vaccination. I would urge every single member of this House—every single member of this House—to stand up, to be out there in their communities, to stand strong and to talk about the benefits of vaccination to continue to keep Queenslanders safe.

Caboolture Hospital, Review

Dr ROWAN: My question is to the Minister for Health. The Caboolture Hospital review said a clinical decision to operate caused the death of a patient who otherwise would have survived. Does the minister have confidence with this review outcome, or are more investigations underway?

Mrs D'ATH: I have already answered the question in relation to the report. The review was independently established with an expert individual, Dr Sweeney, who conducted the review. The board and the board chair have accepted all of the recommendations in the report, have committed to implementing all of the recommendations in the report and have released an implementation plan to see that commence immediately. I could not be any clearer that all of the recommendations have been adopted.

The member asks whether I have confidence because the report identified failings. That is what we would expect a report to do: to scrutinise what has been happening and to identify any failings or gaps in the services. That is why there are recommendations and that is why the board has said they are committed to introducing and implementing every single one of those recommendations.

Renewable Energy Projects, Jobs

Mr KING: My question is to the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure. Can the Deputy Premier outline to the House how the Palaszczuk government is encouraging renewable energy projects to create more jobs for Queenslanders, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for his question. I know that, as an energy worker himself, he knows how important it is that we attract the jobs of the future here to Queensland, whether that is in renewable energy or in the supply chains that support it. That is why our agreement with Fortescue Future Industries is just so important and why we will continue to use our Jobs Fund to attract projects that will create jobs here, making Queensland a leading manufacturer of the goods of the future, whether that is electrolyzers, batteries or everything else in the renewable energy supply chain.

The United Nations climate conference in Glasgow confirmed that the whole world is now heading towards net zero 2050 and the only choice, really, is whether we seize that opportunity to create jobs in Queensland and lock in that economic growth for decades to come. While the conference outcome was a good one for the world, it was not a great one for our Prime Minister. Imagine going all that way just to be called a liar by the French and the Americans, and it was not long before the challengers started circling.

The Prime Minister was barely off the plane when Peter Dutton started dusting off his softer side. In 2014 he warned then prime minister Julia Gillard to watch out for colleagues appearing softer in the media, and on the weekend we found out that Peter Dutton really is just a big softie. It reminded me of that time he had to get his wife to tell us all that he was not a monster, and even she did not seem too convinced. The Prime Minister is not the only LNP leader who should be watching their back. I tuned in the other day to the member for Broadwater's Facebook Live. There were three people watching, and I was one of them!

Ms Palaszcuk: Shane Doherty was the other one.

Dr MILES: Shane Doherty was the other one. I wanted to see if the Leader of the Opposition was talking about getting vaccinated, but do members know what? The member for Broadwater's video was all about the member for Broadwater and how he had been Leader of the Opposition for a whole year now and how it was so hard to be the Leader of the Opposition. Poor member for Broadwater! With killing season around the corner and Peter Dutton circling the Prime Minister, surely one of you can do a better job.

Mr SPEAKER: Through the chair.

Dr MILES: Surely one of you can put him out of his misery, because if you thought the last year was hard you should see the next three.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, a word slipped in during the earlier part of your answer which related to the Prime Minister. Could I ask you to withdraw that word?

Dr MILES: I withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you. I did not have the heart to stop you.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana!

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I will wait for silence, members.

Caboolture Hospital, Review

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My question is to the Minister for Health. I refer to comments the minister made regarding Caboolture Hospital that there were no findings in relation to any individual doctor. Does the minister have confidence there is not another rogue surgeon like Jayant Patel operating at Caboolture Hospital?

Mrs D'ATH: All of the allegations that have been brought forward in relation to surgical outcomes were investigated, I understand, through this report. If there are other allegations that have not been brought forward that would lead to the sorts of assertions and inferences that the member for Nanango is now putting forward, then by all means put them forward. All of the matters—the complaints—that have been put forward about surgical outcomes were considered as part of this review, I understand.

Coronavirus, Vaccination

Mr TANTARI: My question is of the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment. Will the Treasurer please update the House on how important strong vaccination plans are to Queensland's economic recovery from COVID-19, and is the Treasurer aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Hervey Bay for his question and for his strong support for the Queensland government's vaccination campaign running across the length and breadth of Queensland. We want Queensland businesses to get back all the business they can—to ditch the limit on the dance floor, to pack the pubs, to bring crowds back to concerts—but to do that we need everyone in this state to get vaccinated and to support the vaccine rules. Whether they be for workers in pubs or clubs or hospitals, it should be bipartisan. It is a simple question: do you back Queensland getting back to business?

When it comes to providing freedoms to vaccinated Queenslanders, once again the Leader of the Opposition has walked away. As soon as the Premier made the announcement of the freedoms that will be enjoyed by fully vaccinated Queenslanders, the member for Broadwater hightailed it out of town. He ran to Ayr, to Redlands and to Roma—to places the Leader of the Opposition hoped he would not be asked about his stance on the government's strong health measures, but he was.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr DICK: What was the Leader of the Opposition's response?

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition!

Mr DICK: He said, 'We've sought a briefing. We've got questions we want to ask on something—something, something, police, something. Will something, something reflect on it?' Those opposite got something to reflect on last Friday. The Leader of the Opposition had his chance to cogitate, to digest and to finally form an opinion, and what did we get? He wants modelling on something else. The Leader of the Opposition can reflect on something or whatever he likes. He does not want to hear that the Queensland government's policy on vaccination is working because, for all of his brave talk, there is one group the member for Broadwater will never talk tough about, and that is the QAnon cranks in his own party. Because guess what? The Leader of the Opposition needs their votes. When he gets their votes, the Leader of the Opposition will overlook their weirdness and the dangerous opinions that put the health of Queenslanders at risk. The Leader of the Opposition does all of this for his own base political purposes.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr DICK: The Leader of the Opposition will not even say the word 'mandate' when it comes to vaccination in this state. This shows that we have two viruses in Queensland: we have the COVID-19 virus and we have the antivax virus that is infecting the LNP. Our plan is to protect Queenslanders from COVID-19, but when it comes to the LNP only the Leader of the Opposition can disinfect his own party.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr DICK: I challenge this shadow of a leader to stop hiding, to stop the autobabble and to get—
(Time expired)

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Leader of the Opposition, I appreciate there was some provocation in the delivery, but you have been asked to cease your interjections. You have been continuously interjecting. You are warned under the standing orders.

Coronavirus, Queensland Border

Mr JANETZKI: My question is to the Premier. The Dawsons from the Lockyer Valley are a double vaccinated family of five stuck less than two hours from home across the border. These parents with three children must expose themselves to COVID at an airport, costing them thousands of dollars, instead of driving under two hours to their front door. Will the Premier release the health advice to the Dawsons which supports this logic?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I reject some of the premise of that question for a start.

Opposition members: Which bit?

Ms PALASZCZUK: The bit where you said that COVID is at the airport. Let me say this very clearly: we have put in place our plan. Our plan has been out there in the public arena now. Everybody knows that plan. The sooner Queenslanders get vaccinated, the sooner the borders will open. The evidence has shown that—and we have had this situation—when freight drivers have come across the border and stopped at different places along the way they have put Queenslanders at risk. I say to the member very clearly that 17 December is not long to go—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! The member for Lockyer will cease his interjections.

Mr Crandon: Where's the logic?

Mr SPEAKER: Really?

Ms PALASZCZUK:—and the plan is very clear that if—

Mr SPEAKER: Sorry, but which member was that?

Ms PALASZCZUK:—they are coming into Queensland from a hotspot they need to come in via the airport.

Mr SPEAKER: It was Michael Crandon. Member for Coomera, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The best thing that those opposite could do is encourage people in their communities to get vaccinated, because I am very concerned about the mixed messaging coming out from the LNP. I am very concerned—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left, I am having difficulty hearing the Premier due to the level of interjections. Member for Maroochydore, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Those opposite are obviously a party that is divided, yet on this side of the House the government is absolutely united in our priority to keep Queenslanders safe in this state. Today is a double doughnut day. This is due to the great work that Queenslanders have been doing and now they are going out and getting vaccinated.

To see those rates today, where some postcodes have increased over five per cent, to see regional Queensland, which I was very concerned about, increase now over four per cent in those areas I mentioned earlier, shows that Queenslanders are willing to come out to protect themselves, to protect their community and to protect this state.

We know that those on the opposite side have always been against the policies of this government. They called 64 times for the border to be opened. Imagine what we would have had in this state. We would have seen waves like we have seen in New South Wales and in Victoria. Now we hardly see any discussion from those opposite about getting people vaccinated. As the Treasurer said, you cannot even see the Leader of the Opposition say that he supports mandated vaccination. He cannot even say the words. They need to put forward very clearly to Queenslanders what their policy is. What is their party political position when it comes to mandating vaccinations, or do they support a divided rabble of an LNP?

Students

Ms LAUGA: My question is to the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. Can the minister update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is supporting the wellbeing of students, especially during the pandemic, and advise if there are any alternative approaches?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for the question. As Assistant Minister for Education she knows the importance of supporting the mental health and wellbeing of our students. The last 22 months have not been easy for our school communities. It has been very difficult. We have had to adjust and be agile. I want to thank all of the teachers, the staff at the schools and the parents who have done an excellent job in doing that. We went to the election with a \$100 million health and wellbeing package for our students and we are rolling that out. I know that the member is very supportive of this. We have been to schools where the first psychologists have now been employed and there are other health professionals that are now being employed as part of our mental health and wellbeing package.

The best thing for the wellbeing of our students is to get them vaccinated, particularly those high school students 12 years and over. The Premier raised this some time ago. We are also looking at what happens to primary school children five years and over, and we will be ready for their wellbeing to be protected when the borders open and when COVID does come into the state. We cannot do it alone. We need the support of the community. It is great to see every member on this side of the House out in their communities supporting vaccination, spreading the word that we need to get as many people protected as possible, because there is no doubt that COVID will come and it will be attacking those who are unvaccinated. Even today we hear some of the members opposite talking about opening the borders, let them in, when those vaccination milestones are not being reached. It is really quite incredible when one considers we are in a world health pandemic, and the best those opposite can do is continually ask that borders be opened ahead of the time when Queenslanders are protected. It is about protection. They are having an inquiry at the moment about 50 elderly people dying in a nursing home in Victoria.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

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

Ms GRACE: People who were unvaccinated were going into that nursing home and the federal government did nothing about it. There is an inquiry with regard to this.

As the Premier said, the shadow ministry over there, together with the Leader of the Opposition, travelled to Mackay on 8 November. In Central Queensland the member for Rockhampton and the member for Keppel are out there advocating vaccinations every single day. What does the shadow

ministry do? Do they go on Facebook and say, 'We are in town, get vaccinated'? No. Do they put anything on social media? No. Do they visit a vaccination hub to see how it is going? No. They go, 'We are going to Mackay. What can we do? I know what we can do, let's go to a fundraiser by George Christensen. That fellow who really is supporting vaccinations!' Honestly, when one hears those opposite talk about Queensland, they are a joke and will always be a joke.

(Time expired)

Coronavirus, Queensland Border

Mr BLEIJIE: My question is to the Premier. The opposition has been inundated with calls for help from South-East Queensland residents who are stuck across the border in the Tweed. Why is it safer, under this government's policy, for these Queenslanders to drive to a New South Wales airport, fly in a plane full of people, drive home from the airport and then have their car towed across the border than to drive from the Tweed to their home nonstop?

Ms PALASZCZUK: As I said to the member for Kawana and everyone in this House, we are determined to keep this place safe. Those opposite may want to put Queensland at risk, but not me and not this team. For the member for Kawana, our plan was put up on the website, it was sent out to all Queenslanders so everybody knows very clearly the plan. The plan is here and the plan is working. The best thing the member for Kawana could do is to actually encourage people to go and get vaccinated.

I was on the Gold Coast yesterday. As I said very clearly, the Gold Coast numbers need to increase. This is a tourism hotspot that will be inundated with tourists coming from COVID hotspots in December and over January. The vaccination rates at the moment are too low. Then when you have international travellers who will probably be coming in next year as well that puts at risk the Gold Coast and also Cairns. They are the areas that need to get vaccinated.

Let me say this—and this is what makes me really annoyed: we have people in the LNP who are peddling misinformation and are determined to drive down the vaccination rates in this state. Michelle Landry says very clearly that the federal government has been clear that vaccinations should not be mandatory.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: Perhaps Michelle Landry needs to go and speak to—

Mr SPEAKER: Premier—

Ms PALASZCZUK:—Scott Morrison—

Mr SPEAKER: Premier—

Ms PALASZCZUK:—about aged care being mandatory.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier! Please resume your seat.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 118(b). I asked specifically about the government's policy—the Premier's policy—about border travel—

Ms Palaszczuk: Yes, the plan.

Mr BLEIJIE: I did ask about the plan, and I am asking for an explanation of how it is safer to travel with 300 people in a plane than one person on a road by themselves.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Pine Rivers, you are warned under the standing orders. It is not a frivolous point of order. It has some relevance and I ask the Premier to come back to the question as asked.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Our plan is about vaccination and keeping Queenslanders safe. Luke Howarth talked about the government's vaccination announcement yesterday, condemning it.

Mr Dick interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: George Christensen, the Leader of the Opposition's mate—

Mr SPEAKER: The Treasurer will cease his interjections.

Ms PALASZCZUK:—is talking about taking away freedoms—the person who actually organised their fundraising event. Shame, shame, shame!

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms PALASZCZUK: Phillip Thompson expressed concern about mandating vaccination.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Sorry, Premier. Premier!

Ms PALASZCZUK: The LNP is divided.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, I have called you to order. Please listen to instructions from the chair. Treasurer, you are warned under the standing orders. Minister for primary industries, you are warned under the standing orders. I could not hear the Premier because of your interjections drowning the Premier's comments out. Premier, you have the call. Do you have any further to add relevant to the question as asked?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Absolutely.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Buderim, you can leave the chamber for one hour. No warning. I had called the House to order. It is not an opportunity for you to interject.

Whereupon the honourable member for Buderim withdrew from the chamber at 10.48 am.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, you have the call.

Ms PALASZCZUK: What I have demonstrated is that the LNP is absolutely divided. They are not game to come out and back in the mandated vaccine policy that we announced. They are not prepared to do that because they are weak. The party is weak. We will continue to back our plan that has, for the last 18 months, kept Queenslanders safe. Every plan that we have put to the people of this state has kept Queenslanders safe. Now as we come to 17 December we want to get as many Queenslanders as possible vaccinated to continue to keep their community safe.

(Time expired)

Coronavirus Vaccination, Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders

Mr McCALLUM: My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Can the minister update the House on the vaccination rollout for First Nations Queenslanders and any impediments?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for Bundamba for his question. I know he is committed to increasing vaccination rates among our First Nations people throughout Queensland. I acknowledge the member for Bundamba, the member for Algester and the member for Cook for what they are doing to get the message out to our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people so that they understand the significance of lifting our vaccination rates. We want all Queenslanders to be safe—everywhere and anywhere they live across Queensland.

It was a pleasure to visit the cape and the Torres Strait with the member for Cook. We talked to the locals. We sat under the knowledge tree on Darnley Island. We went to Thursday Island and Bamaga and we visited the communities around the peninsula to talk about the importance of vaccination, people's concerns and what more we can be doing to encourage the rollout of the vaccination.

I acknowledge all of the leaders we met: the mayors, the councillors, the amazing health workers and our First Nation health workers in whom the community puts so much trust when they hear directly from them why it is important to get vaccinated. Of course, I acknowledge the spiritual leaders who play a really important role in the remote communities. We know that those communities feel deeply their Christianity and they want confidence from their spiritual leaders as well.

It was important to shift the dialogue from worrying about the safety of the vaccine to understanding the risks of the virus. The vaccine is safe; the virus is dangerous. We need to get the community focused on that message.

I acknowledge our amazing teams and the collaboration that is going on with our ACCHS as well. At Injinoo one evening, the leaders came together and put on a community barbecue to have conversations around the vaccination. On Thursday Island health worker-led clinics are being held in people's homes and at shopping centres. We have many visits coming up to towns such as Aurukun and Wujal Wujal, as well as to Hammond Island and Masig Island, just to name a few. There is so much work being done by incredible health workers. I also acknowledge Mayor Elvie Sandow, the mayor of Cherbourg, and thank her for her support.

However, the person we really need to hear from is the Leader of the Opposition, because anyone who is willing to put George Christensen's name on their flyer has a lot to answer for as that person is spreading dangerous misinformation. The Leader of the Opposition should do everything he can not to support his behaviour.

(Time expired)

Electricity Supply

Mr KATTER: My question is to the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen. In relation to the ongoing operational issues at the Diamantina Power Station, which have caused prolonged blackouts for more than 10,000 customers in the north-west, is the minister aware of the cost to Queensland in terms of lost minerals and business production and can he confirm that the government will deliver on its pre-election commitment to connect the north-west to the National Electricity Market?

Mr de BRENNI: I thank the member for Traeger for the question. I understand that the member is referring to the outage that occurred on Wednesday, 10 November in a fault in a transmission line in the switch yard at the 242-megawatt Diamantina Power Station operated by APA Group. That occurred at about 1.50 on Wednesday afternoon. The result was that about 10,000 customers, homes and businesses, in Mount Isa were without power. As a result I immediately stood up my department's emergency response team.

Of course, our first priority was the 55 customers who reside in the neighbourhood and have life-support plans, meaning they require ventilators et cetera. We made sure that their plans were in place. My next step was to seek assurances about the investigation of the outage and the restoration of power. Of course, I engaged directly with the member and the mayor of Mount Isa to provide them with updates.

The fault was quickly identified and power was restored at about 6.30 pm or thereabouts to most customers. As members would be aware, not all power goes back on at once. The load is restored sequentially. I acknowledge the staff at Ergon for their support in resolving this issue.

I also acknowledge that APA Group was very proactive in reaching out to its large customer base, including the minerals producers. APA Group is a private provider of electricity to large customers. They engaged directly with those large customers. Any interruptions for the large customers and any cost to them is a private matter between them and their electricity provider.

We understand that the reliability of the electricity supply in the Mount Isa region is a concern for householders. I can inform the House that I have sought advice about a range of interim measures as we go through the consideration of the CopperString proposal. I have looked at reinstating the 216-megawatt Mica Creek power station. As the member would know, that power station is five decades old. To make it operational again would take probably two years. The government is focused on our in-confidence negotiations with CopperString, which are underway at the moment. I am not at liberty to divulge the details of that.

The member asked whether we would deliver on our election commitment to support CopperString. We have. We have delivered \$15.9 million to underwrite its initial development plans. We will continue to work with CopperString and other proponents to make sure that there is reliable, cheap, clean power in the north-west.

Coronavirus Vaccination, Resources Industries

Mr WALKER: My question is of the Minister for Resources. Will the minister update the House on the vaccine rollout in Queensland's resources communities and its importance to the thousands of Queenslanders who rely on the resources sector?

Mr STEWART: I thank the member for Mundingburra for his question. I know how passionate he is about keeping Townsville safe from COVID-19. Thanks to the strong COVID management of the Palaszczuk government, the resources sector has been able to stay open and keep 80,000 Queensland workers safe during the pandemic. Thanks to the diligence of the resources companies and their workers, we have not had a single case of COVID-19 in any of our mines or quarries. Queensland's vaccine rollout has been successful, but there are still some challenges that remain before our resources communities are fully protected.

The Isaac region is seeing some great improvements in its vaccination rates week to week, but right now only 42.6 per cent of its population is fully vaccinated. Less than two weeks ago I visited the region and spoke with Mayor Anne Baker about the importance of those vaccinations. I know that the Minister for Health has also gone out and spoken to residents about the importance of vaccinations.

I would like to ask the member for Burdekin what he has done to encourage his Isaac community to get vaccinated. In fact, I would like to ask those opposite what they are doing to encourage the take-up of vaccinations in our resources communities. The member for Broadwater was in the Burdekin electorate recently but did he encourage locals to get the jab? No! Did he give a straight answer to the journalist when asked if he would be doing anything around vaccinations while in the region? No! What he did give the journo was two minutes of absolute waffle that did not answer the question. You would think that, as a former journo, he would know better.

I note that an article in today's *Townsville Bulletin* quotes the federal member for Herbert, Phillip Thompson, who is accusing the state government of scaring people over the importance of vaccinations. What is really scary is how serious the effects of COVID-19 can be on unvaccinated people. Shame on the federal member for not supporting the vaccine rollout. What we want from the LNP is for them to back the importance of getting vaccinated.

If those opposite are out of ideas, I can tell them what the member for Cairns and I are doing. We are tapping into the local rivalry between Cairns and Townsville. If Townsville gets to 80 per cent fully vaccinated first, the member for Cairns will have to wear the Townsville Blackhawks jersey into parliament. Unfortunately, if Cairns gets in front I will have to wear the Northern Pride jersey. The member for Burdekin thought that that was absolutely trivial. He will not promote the vaccine but he will take pot shots at those who do. At the end of the day, if it encourages more Queenslanders to get protected from COVID it is certainly worth a go.

Queensland Building and Construction Commission, Review

Mr MANDER: My question is to the Minister for Public Works and Procurement. Will interactions and directions from the minister and his office to the QBCC form part of the review of the QBCC?

Mr de BRENNI: As the member would be aware, I am required to table in parliament any directions from the QBCC. I invite the member to check the parliamentary record.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I will wait for silence members.

Gold Coast, Infrastructure

Mrs McMAHON: My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Can the minister update the House on major infrastructure projects being delivered across the Gold Coast?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the member for the question. Of course, when we look at all the infrastructure on the modern Gold Coast—the stadiums, the hospital, the convention centre, the heavy rail to Varsity Lakes, the light rail—it has been built by governments such as the Palaszczuk Labor government. We built the light rail stage 2 for the Commonwealth Games when it was not planned for by those opposite. We are seeing a billion dollars of M1 upgrades happening right now on the Gold Coast after not one single new dollar went into the M1 under the LNP's time in power. When we look at the record, who invested in infrastructure on the Gold Coast? This government. When we look at infrastructure on the Gold Coast and the Gold Coast LNP, it is like comparing Scott Morrison and the truth. It is like Barnaby Joyce and net zero. It is like Clive Palmer and modesty. The two never go together. We know that, with the Gold Coast LNP and infrastructure, members of the LNP will cut it as that is what they are.

What we see now in this state, including on the Gold Coast, is an infrastructure boom. What happened when those opposite were in power? They bombed infrastructure. Infrastructure went through the floor. What we are seeing on the Gold Coast at the moment is a billion dollars of M1 upgrades funded and driven by this government. We see the third stage of the light rail early works underway from Broadbeach to Burleigh. Of course, we announced the new contract on the second M1. Remember the second M1? It was blocked by those opposite when in power. They had their chance; they blocked it. When we came into power, we did not even have a corridor. We had to gazette the whole corridor before it could be funded. Now we have \$2 billion of funding on the table after gazetting it in record time. The only time infrastructure is built on the Gold Coast is when it involves Labor governments, particularly under this Premier. That is what happens with us.

The Gold Coast LNP can go back to their snoozy ways. They talk big. They never deliver. This new contract will see heavy construction start next year. Already this year we have seen geotechnical work on the Coomera Connector, second M1.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

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

Mr BAILEY: This infrastructure boom across the state is driving incredible economic activity, increasingly on the Gold Coast. Gold Coast people love their M1 upgrades and light rail and will love the second M1! We are proud to have done the infrastructure. I might add that they will get the whole 16 kilometres of stage 1; they will not get the puny little six-kilometre version that the LNP took to the last election. That is all they promised—a puny little section between Helensvale and Coomera—because the member for Bonney interfered with its policy.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, if you would like to give any style tips I would ask that you give them in your own time.

Queensland Building and Construction Commission, Review

Mr HART: My question without notice is to the Premier. Can the Premier guarantee that the review of the QBCC will take into account the experience of alleged victims, or will it be another dud review like that of the Caboolture Hospital?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I reject the premise of the question and ask the member to refer to the terms of reference that will be published. I have every confidence in Jim Varghese who is in charge of that review.

Coronavirus, Vaccination

Mr SKELTON: My question is to the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services. Will the minister update the House on some of the ways the government is getting the vaccination message out to Queenslanders and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr RYAN: I thank the member for the question. The member is a good vaxxer and is getting the message out to his community about how they can be good vaxxers as well.

Of course, the government is very committed to continuing its very proud record of keeping Queenslanders safe from COVID-19. All of our emergency service agencies are doing their part. We have seen that our police, emergency service workers and volunteers have been on the front line keeping the community safe, but they are also on the front line when it comes to getting the message out around getting vaccinated and how that can keep individuals, their family, friends and community safe. Right across the state, we see our emergency service workers and our police officers promoting that very positive message.

At our last parliamentary sitting we launched Your Job Saves Lives vehicle magnets which now are on emergency service vehicles right across the state. We also launched a partnership with Surf Life Saving Queensland: 'Be a lifesaver, get a job'. We saw those big signs across the state. In fact, through a partnership with Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, we had a plane flying over the South-East Queensland coast towing a banner that stated: 'Be a lifesaver, get a job.'

Our emergency service workers and partners are stepping up. We also have a partnership through the Queensland and Fire and Emergency Services billboard program. The fire and emergency services department has a number of billboards right across the state based on main roads in front of fire stations. We are getting the message out through there.

Billboards come to mind. We have the positive message out there in terms of, 'Be a lifesaver, get a job' and 'Our job saves lives, your job saves lives'. When we think about how to spend money on billboards, we are spending money on positive messages about keeping Queenslanders safe. The LNP spends money on messages about how to undermine the safety of Queenslanders. How many times have those opposite promoted the positive message, through billboards for instance, when it comes to getting vaccinated? Zero. Mr Speaker, you do not even need my calculator to know that number—zero times from those opposite. When we think about the 64 times those opposite called for the border to be opened, 64 times zero care for Queenslanders is still zero. When it comes to contributing to community safety and to protecting us from COVID-19, the Palaszczuk government delivers every single time while those opposite just deliver zero.

(Time expired)

Remote Queensland, Coronavirus Preparedness

Mr LANGBROEK: My question is to the Minister for Health. Currently, Doomadgee has 60 per cent of its hospital beds unavailable; Thursday Island has 59 per cent unavailable; Mornington Island has 57 per cent unavailable; and Palm Island has 36 per cent unavailable. With these communities having some of the worst COVID vaccination rates in the country, does the minister have confidence that they are prepared for COVID?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for his question. It is a really important issue in relation to the planning that is going on across our hospital and health services for our COVID response and why we are travelling right through the regional and remote communities throughout Queensland to lift our vaccination rates, because that is the most important thing we can do to help our health workers. They know that it is absolutely critical. They are all going through their planning processes. When I was in Bamaga, they took me through the Bamaga Hospital and showed me their isolation areas where they have actually taken beds offline to use as their testing area so it is removed. It has an external access door so people do not walk through the hospital system and risk infection.

We know that our remote communities and our remote health services will be under incredible strain. It is a fact. We can see what is happening interstate. We know what is coming if we do not get our vaccination rates up.

The great news is that we will be in one of the best positions when the virus starts coming. Remember that when New South Wales had their outbreak their vaccination rate was four per cent. In Victoria it was 20 per cent. Look at where we are. We still have zero cases today. Every day that we have zero cases is another day we can lift vaccination rates, continue to plan and prepare our hospitals.

We are as prepared as we can be, but the reality is that we cannot ever sit here and know exactly how many cases we will see in one community versus another community. All we can do is plan for an outbreak and the virus spreading and educate our communities about the importance of getting vaccinated to take the pressure off our health system, to keep people safe, to avoid spreading it to their young children or to the elderly and most vulnerable in their community and to ensure their economy is supported. That is why it is critical.

Yes, we are doing the planning in all hospitals. The one thing we can do to ease the pressure on our hospital system when this virus comes—and it will come—is get everyone vaccinated. That is what those on the other side should be doing. Every single day they stand up they should be saying, 'Get vaccinated. We want you to get vaccinated.' All we hear is criticism. We do not hear support. In fact, the Leader of the Opposition is willing to put George Christensen's name on one of his flyers, and that says everything.

Building and Construction Industry

Mr POWER: My question is to the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement. Will the minister explain how the Palaszczuk government has kept the construction industry going during the pandemic and will ensure workers stay in jobs when the borders open fully in December?

Mr de BRENNI: I thank the member for Logan for the question. Down in Logan we know that construction is the powerhouse of our local economy. Every morning on the roads in Logan—Wembley Road, Mount Lindesay Highway and the M1—thousands of local tradies are off to work. They are on their way to work because they do not listen to the LNP. Logan tradies are getting vaccinated because they do not listen to the LNP. They did not listen to the LNP when they put up ridiculous billboards calling for the borders to be open—billboards like the one I have a picture of here. They saw what happened in New South Wales. Hundreds of thousands of tradies were out of work. That is what the LNP campaigned for—tradies out of work.

Tradies did not listen to Prime Minister Scott Morrison either when he said that New South Wales was the gold standard. Logan tradies are smarter than that. They did not want to be out of work. What they did do was listen to the health advice. What they did want was to ride the wave of a building boom. They put their jobs, their community, their work mates and their families above the base politics being peddled by the LNP in Queensland.

Across the state—everywhere from Logan to Lockhart—tradies are getting vaccinated because they want to be part of our \$52 billion infrastructure program. They want to keep building the M1. They want to build the Logan Hospital expansion. They want to deliver the Everleigh State School in Greenbank. They want to keep working on the Mount Lindesay Highway between Stoney Camp Road and Chambers Flat Road. Queensland tradies want to be part of our economic recovery. They do not

want to be part of the LNP conspiracy. I say to all tradies and apprentices in Logan: 'Congratulations. Well done on getting the jab.' The figure is up 17.5 per cent since the start of October. They are getting jabbed because they want a Christmas with their families.

They did do not want to see an industry shutdown like we saw in New South Wales when they returned to work in January. It appears the same cannot be said for those opposite. What tradies in Logan are asking is this: why are the LNP antivax? Why is the LNP anti tradie? They ask: why does the LNP not want tradies to be able to go to the pub on a Friday afternoon for a knock-off beer? They want to know: why did the LNP try to cripple their industry at the height of the pandemic? These are the questions tradies are asking.

I will tell members why they are antivax and anti tradie. It is because the LNP are battling a different virus to the rest of us and the rest of the world. It is a disease that those opposite are racked with. It is a good old case of irrelevancy.

Coronavirus, Queensland Ambulance Service

Mr LAST: My question is to the Minister for Health. The Queensland Health crisis has exposed police cars being used as ambulances because of increased ramping. Does the minister have confidence the QAS has taken adequate steps to prevent response times blowing out from 17 December when they will be further stretched by COVID?

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

Mrs D'ATH: I consider the question misleading. Putting that aside, I will say this: 'Union warns of ramping issue at university hospital'; 'Hospital ramping death revealed'; '... current ramping figures are not good enough'; 'No bypass for hospitals'; 'Emergency shake-up'; 'Readers doubt ramping will ease'; 'Ramped patients should go to GP, says minister'; 'Flu stretches hospital resources'; 'Health Minister Lawrence Springborg says ramping will continue in Qld Hospitals, even after a ban on bypass starts next year.'; 'Long delay for treatment leaves patients in agony'; 'The system has let them down'; 'Ramping at Cairns Hospital has reached crisis point after region's only rescue helicopter was grounded for more than an hour ...'; '... Queensland Health Minister says ambulance ramping is still a problem at Hervey Bay Hospital.'—let me know if you want me to stop—'Ramping has emerged as a significant issue in recent months.'; and 'Caller Rose, who works in a 000 call centre, says she disagrees with Lawrence Springborg, Queensland Health Minister, on comments made in an earlier interview regarding the role of ambulances in the health system. She says that Springborg's claims that ramping is no longer occur is "simply untrue".' This was all in 2012-13. I table those quotes so the opposition can have a read of them.

Tabled paper: Bundle of news articles relating to ambulance ramping [1938].

There has been a lot of commentary around the Caboolture review. I have as much faith in the Caboolture review as the LNP had in 2013 when they initiated an independent clinical review into the treatment of 23 patients, including three deaths, at the Gold Coast hospital as well as their clinical review on the Cairns Base Hospital and the Rockhampton Hospital. Let us also remember the inquiry they did not have—an inquiry into the closure of the Barrett centre. They have no credibility. They should just apologise.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

MOTION


Business Program



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.16 am): I move—

1. That the following bills will be considered during this week's sitting:
 - (a) the Queensland University of Technology Amendment Bill, and
 - (b) the Justice Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response—Permanency) Amendment Bill.
2. If any bill listed in 1. has not completed all stages by 5.55 pm on Thursday, 18 November 2021, Mr Speaker:
 - (a) shall call on a minister to table any explanatory notes to their circulated amendments, any statement of compatibility with human rights or any statement relating to an override declaration
 - (b) shall put all remaining questions necessary to pass the bill without further debate
 - (c) may interrupt non-specified business or debate on a bill or motion to complete the requirements of the motion
 - (d) will complete all stages required by this motion notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders.

We will be debating important legislation this week: the Queensland University of Technology Amendment Bill and the Justice Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response—Permanency) Amendment Bill. I am pleased to say that there will be no time limits put on these individual bills other than if the bills are not completed by the end of the sitting week the questions will be put. We also hope that with the time we have this week we will hear many of the remaining speeches on the address-in-reply, which I am sure all members are very eager to listen to. There will be the important debate on committee reports. I commend the motion to the House.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.17 am): I am not going to oppose this motion today. The only reason I am not opposing it is that it is my daughter's 16th birthday and I am in a very good mood today. I do not feel inclined to have an argument with the Leader of the House for the next five minutes. We will see what happens after that. I wish my daughter Madison all the very best. Like any good father, on her 16th birthday she is coming to Parliament House for dinner today. It is the best I can offer her in a parliamentary sitting week.

Mr Mander: Lucky, lucky girl!

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection. While I am on my feet speaking to this motion, I say to the government, 'I told you so.' I told the parliament that the delays with the address-in-reply would mean that members in this House would be delivering their speeches in the address-in-reply to a speech by a Governor who is no longer in office. I think it is highly disrespectful to former Governor de Jersey that we are debating the speech he gave because in the Business Committee—

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, thank you for your benevolence, first of all. Secondly, you are anticipating debate on a motion before the House. We really should come back to the motion at hand.

Mr BLEIJIE: It is good that the two bills we will be debating this week do not have time frames, because guess what? This is how the parliament should operate. Bills come before it and we debate them. Any member gets the opportunity to speak, if they so wish. If they want to stick up for their constituents on issues important to them, they should be able to get that opportunity. That is why I am supporting this motion again today, because this is how the parliament should operate. If the parliament needs additional time then the parliament should give it that additional time.

It is concerning that at the meeting yesterday the Leader of the House said if we get through these two bills we may then go on to the address-in-reply. At the start of the week members of parliament should know exactly what the parliament will be doing on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. We have seen an increasing—and I suspect it is going to happen today. The Leader of the House will filibuster and we will have another motion on the agenda at some stage this week. I think we may have a surprise motion about vaccinations at some stage this week, or even after this motion. I anticipate that will happen this week. I see the Leader of the House waving a bit of paper around. I suspect that is the motion that we will be debating that was not discussed at the Business Committee meeting yesterday.


We want to discuss the big issues in Queensland. We want to discuss the fact that the Treasurer seemed to miss the invite to the lunch with K Rudd and 'Blocker', the left-wing union man organising when Steven Miles, the Deputy Premier, takes over from the Premier. Where was the Treasurer? Where was his invitation?

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, you need to be relevant to the motion before the House.

Mr BLEIJIE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thought I had such a good start. It is my daughter's birthday. I was on a roll.


Mr SPEAKER: Your benevolence knows no bounds but mine does.

Mr BLEIJIE: I will not oppose the motion today but I make the simple point: this is how parliament should operate. I have been talking about it for five years despite the fact that we are going to hear from the amateur thespian himself in a minute—Minister Bailey will jump up. Despite all of that, today we are saying parliament should operate like this. Hence I am not opposing the motion.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (11.21 am): I rise to make a couple of observations. Firstly, we all know the member for Kawana as the chief monarchist and royalist. He listens to them and is concerned about the Governor but just not about net zero or the other environmental issues.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, the member for Kawana's comments were anticipating debate. They were not relevant; neither are yours.

Mr BAILEY: I will move on, Mr Speaker. It is interesting to hear that the tactics from the Manager of Opposition Business are driven by his moods. We see opposition and a wasting of this parliament's time consistently because apparently he is in a bad mood. It is only today that he is in a good mood. Interestingly, even though he supports the motion, he nearly rang out a full five minutes in his speech anyway. When it comes to amateur thespian medals, the member for Kawana has that all sewn up on his own. I am not going to take up any more time. The motion is supported and that is a good thing.

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.22 am): I would like to join with the Manager of Opposition Business in saying we will not be opposing the motion today. Taking the lead from the Manager of Opposition Business, I have a couple of daughters with about six assessments each this week, so I would like to wish them the very best too.


As the Manager of Opposition Business has already outlined, this is exactly how the parliament should be working. Time and again we jump up in this place and debate this motion because it curtails the opportunity of members on this side of the House to speak to issues of direct relevance to our constituents. It is time that we had that opportunity returned, that we have the opportunity to represent our constituents to the very best of their interests. I again join with the Manager of Opposition Business in not opposing the motion and in wishing Madison a very happy 16th birthday.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

EVIDENCE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

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) (11.24 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Bail Act 1980, the Criminal Code, the Disability Services Act 2006, the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012, the Evidence Act 1977, the Justices Act 1886, the Magistrates Act 1991, the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 and the acts mentioned in schedule 1 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: Evidence and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 [[1932](#)].

Tabled paper: Evidence and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021, explanatory notes [[1933](#)].

Tabled paper: Evidence and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021, statement of compatibility with human rights [[1934](#)].

It gives me great pleasure today to introduce the Evidence and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 which contains a number of important reforms to improve Queensland's justice system. Firstly, the bill delivers on the Palaszczuk government's commitment to establish a statutory framework to provide better protection of the identity of journalists' confidential sources. We recognise that a free, independent and effective media is crucial for a strong democracy, and this bill provides protections to ensure journalists can effectively fulfil their role as facilitators of free communication and report on matters of legitimate public concern.

The framework in the bill has been informed by extensive consultation, and I thank all stakeholders and community members for their time and participation in the consultation process. The feedback has been invaluable to inform the development of the contemporary, balanced and effective laws for Queensland. I am pleased to inform members that a consultation report containing a summary of feedback received on the discussion paper entitled *Shielding confidential sources: balancing the public's right to know and the court's need to know* will be published this week on the Department of Justice and Attorney-General's website.

Consistent with all other Australian jurisdictions, the bill amends the Evidence Act to introduce a qualified journalist privilege by creating a presumption that a journalist cannot be compelled to answer a question or produce a document or thing that would disclose the identity of a confidential informant or allow their identity to be ascertained. This presumption will be capable of being overridden if disclosure is in the public interest.

A confidential informant is a person who has given information to a journalist in the expectation it may be published and the journalist promised not to disclose their identity. To reflect the contemporary media environment, the bill adopts a broad function based definition of 'journalist' focused on whether the activities of the person are journalistic in nature, rather than on their employment state and organisational links. This approach also accommodates the emergence of new and innovative modes

and methods of communication into the future and ensures journalists are not excluded from the protections simply because they do not operate under the traditional concepts of journalism and news media.

The bill also extends protection to relevant people associated with the journalist such as their employer and those who work with them in relation to publishing information, such as editors, producers and camera operators. Recognising that the privilege is qualified and involves the assessment of a legal test relating to the public interest, it will apply in any proceeding before a court of record, whether or not the court is bound by the rules of evidence in the proceeding. In addition to traditional courts, this will include the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal, which is established as a court of record in Queensland.

A journalist or relevant person will be able to claim privilege in the context of giving evidence at a hearing or trial, as well as in the context of disclosure requirements as part of preliminary proceedings and processes including, for example, a subpoena or interrogatories. If the claim for journalist privilege is established, the other party to the proceeding may apply to the court for an order to override the claim if satisfied the public interest in disclosing the informant's identity outweighs any likely adverse effect of the disclosure on the informant or another person and the public interest in the communication of facts and opinions to the public by the news media, including the news media's ability to access sources of facts.

The court may consider a range of factors when making this assessment including the nature and subject matter of the proceeding, any likely adverse effect on the informant and how the journalist used the information, as well as any other factor it considers relevant. This approach allows a balance to be struck between protecting confidential informants while allowing courts to require disclosure if this is in the interests of justice.

To ensure confidential informants are not vulnerable at an early stage of an investigation, the bill extends to search warrants and provides that a journalist or relevant person may object to the inspection, copying or seizing of a document on the basis of the privilege and sets out a procedure for the privilege to be determined which largely mirrors the test applying in the context of a proceeding. The provisions in the bill will not prevent the informant from self-identifying or consenting to the production of evidence that discloses their identity. The bill also does not prevent a journalist, relevant person or other witness from giving evidence that discloses the identity of the informant despite a promise of confidentiality.

It is important to note that whilst shield laws provide a framework to better protect the journalist-informant relationship, they do not mandate the protection of the identity of the informant or regulate journalists' conduct. The laws are there to provide a protection in the form of an evidential privilege from compellability. How each journalist and relevant person chooses to utilise that protection may vary. For example, a journalist may choose to claim journalist privilege while their employer, given different financial and organisational considerations, may choose not to claim the privilege and instead give evidence that may disclose the informant's identity.

There is also no restriction on a journalist or relevant person claiming privilege in relation to the same informant on multiple occasions and no requirement to maintain a privilege that has already been upheld by a court. For example, a journalist who objects to the production of a document during the preliminary stage of a proceeding may later choose not to claim the privilege in a trial if the identity of the informant otherwise becomes public knowledge. Similarly, a court is not bound to make the same decision throughout a proceeding. The facts and circumstances that weigh in favour of upholding the privilege at a preliminary stage of the proceeding may change such that the public interest at a later stage weighs in favour of removing the privilege.

Shield laws are complex and must be flexible. How each journalist and relevant person chooses to use the protection and how the court considers each claim will vary in accordance with the facts and circumstances of each particular situation. While this bill does not provide for the application of shield laws to investigations and hearings conducted by the Crime and Corruption Commission, the search warrant provisions are broad and will apply to the commission. I want to acknowledge the views of stakeholders that the consideration of journalist privilege in these matters is important to ensure the appropriate protection of journalist-informant relationships. The application of privileges in the context of Crime and Corruption Commission investigations, hearings and proceedings is again very complex. This is reflected by the fact that the position in other Australian states and territories for equivalent commissions varies and only a few expressly allow for the privilege.

As noted by the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commission in its recent report on the activities of the Crime and Corruption Commission, under the Crime and Corruption Act 2001 different provisions apply for a person who refuses to answer a question or produce a document or thing in crime investigations and intelligence and witness protection function hearings as well as corruption investigations and confiscation related investigations. The government is committed to examining shield laws as part of the ongoing work that is being undertaken regarding the operation of privileges under the Crime and Corruption Act which arise from the previous recommendation of the PCCC. I can assure stakeholders that further consultation will be undertaken in relation to this work and that we will be in a position to determine the most appropriate course of action in the first half of next year.

Another key reform in this bill delivers on the government's response to the State Coroner's recommendation in the findings of the inquest into the death and disappearance of Daniel Morcombe. Daniel died in what can only be described as the most confronting and devastating circumstances which no person, let alone a child, should ever have to be faced with. Recommendation 2 in the findings in Daniel's inquest recommended that the Queensland government amend the Criminal Code to ensure that a time limit is imposed on the testing of human remains in circumstances where the prosecution and defence fail to reach agreement on the identity of the deceased. The recommendation arose because of a significant delay in the return of Daniel's remains to his family in the context of the accused's trial for murder.

Responding to the coroner's recommendation raises complex and unique legal, coronial and forensic issues. The amendments contained in the bill being introduced today follow consultation with stakeholders and seek to strike an appropriate balance between a range of competing issues and interests to achieve the underlying intent of the coroner's recommendation in Daniel's case. The bill amends the Criminal Code to clarify the process for viewing and examining a deceased person's body in a criminal proceeding and ensures that consideration can be given to both the need to protect the integrity of the remains as well as the need to release the remains by the coroner and not be unnecessarily delayed. While conditions will be able to be imposed in relation to the new testing and examination of remains, a time limit will not be mandatory. This approach ensures that the court retains discretion and flexibility to make an order that is appropriate having regard to the facts and circumstances of each case.

While the coroner's recommendation does not seek to address any systemic issues and Daniel's case was unique in many respects, there is no option simply to do nothing. Following the Day for Daniel that was recently held on 29 October, I am pleased to introduce this bill in honour of Daniel's memory in the hope that it will provide further closure and comfort to the Morcombe family. Again I want to thank Bruce and Denise Morcombe for their work with the department on this bill. While I would hope that no family ever has to endure what the Morcombes went through, if necessary this amendment will ensure that in the future Queensland families are better protected.

I now turn to the amendments in this bill that establish a legislative framework to support a pilot to enable videorecorded statements taken by trained police officers to be used as a victim's evidence-in-chief in domestic and family violence related criminal proceedings. I am extremely proud of the work the Palaszczuk government is doing to respond to the impacts of domestic, family and sexual violence in our community. Earlier this year we established the independent Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce, chaired by the Hon. Margaret McMurdo AC. We are expecting the task force's first report on coercive control and the need for a specific offence of domestic violence at the end of this month and the task force's second report on women's experience in the criminal justice system in June next year. In tandem with the critical work the task force is doing, the government has continued to deliver on its reform agenda to end domestic and family violence here in Queensland. The amendments in this bill are another important step in the reform agenda and are designed to bring benefits to victims and survivors of domestic and family violence as they navigate the criminal justice system.

Allowing victims to give their evidence-in-chief by way of videorecorded evidence taken by police seeks to reduce the trauma associated with victims having to retell their story over and over again. It may also help reduce the ability of the alleged perpetrator to intimidate their victim. While videorecorded evidence reforms for domestic violence proceedings have been introduced in other jurisdictions and are currently used in Queensland for certain witnesses, the evidence base relating to the use of videorecorded evidence-in-chief in domestic and family violence prosecutions is continuing to emerge. Allowing an out-of-court statement to be used as evidence-in-chief also represents a significant departure from the usual rules of evidence that apply in criminal proceedings, so we do need to be careful there are no unintended consequences for both victims and the accused. The provisions in the

bill therefore set up a framework for a pilot which will be time limited and subject to an independent evaluation. This evaluation will be used to inform any future extension or expansion of the use of the videorecorded evidence provisions. This approach will also ensure that the government can consider any relevant recommendations made by the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce.

The pilot will be established under a future regulation. I cannot pre-empt any ultimate decisions in relation to the making of the regulation; however, I can inform members that consideration is being given to the operation of a 12-month pilot which will run simultaneously in two Magistrates Court locations: Ipswich and Southport. Further consultation will occur as part of the operationalisation of the pilot by the Queensland Police Service and Department of Justice and Attorney-General. The provisions in the bill apply to criminal proceedings for a domestic violence offence, which is defined to include breaches of domestic violence orders as well as other criminal offences such as assault committed in a domestic violence context.

A recorded statement must be taken by a police officer who has been trained for the specific purpose of taking recorded statements and must be taken as soon as practicable after the alleged domestic violence offence. In practice, this will usually occur via a police body worn camera placed on a tripod. To be admissible as a complainant's evidence-in-chief in a domestic violence proceeding certain requirements will also need to be met, including that the complainant has given their informed consent to the making of the statement.

The bill also includes a range of other safeguards intended to limit trauma and protect the privacy of complainants, including restrictions on the disclosure of recorded statements and offences for unauthorised possession, use and publication of recorded statements. The court will also retain the power to close the court or exclude persons from the court while a recorded statement is being played. While a complainant is required under the provisions to be available for cross-examination for a recorded statement to be admissible, these provisions will operate alongside existing protections and special measures—including, for example, permitting a support person to be present while the person is giving evidence. The bill also allows the parties to consent to the complainant not having to comply with this requirement.

It is also important to note that the bill will not override the usual rules of admissibility or the court's overriding discretion to exclude evidence. The introduction of these amendments ahead of White Ribbon Day is an important reminder of how much more we need to do to prevent and respond to domestic and family violence and keep Queenslanders safe.

The bill also contains a technical amendment to the Bail Act 1980 to support the operation of a scheme to allow the electronic transfer of warrants. Recent information technology enhancements have placed a stronger emphasis on electronically transferring warrants between the Queensland courts and the Queensland Police Service, and a new eWarrants scheme was introduced through regulation amendments last year. The amendments in the bill will clarify the relationship with provisions in the Justices Act 1886 enabling the use of computer warrants and Bail Act by making it clear there is no requirement for a judicial officer to consider the signature of the person who issued a computer warrant in the context of dealing with a defendant who fails to surrender into custody in accordance with their bail undertaking and who is apprehended under a warrant issued in relation to that failure, commits an offence.

Finally, the bill makes a minor amendment to the Magistrates Act 1991 to ensure that service as a magistrate in Toowoomba constitutes regional experience for the purpose of a transfer decision. This amendment is in response to a request made by the Chief Magistrate.

This bill delivers a number of important justice related reforms for Queensland and reflects this government's ongoing and unwavering commitment to ensure Queensland's laws and justice system remain contemporary, efficient and fair for all of the community. 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) (11.41 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

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee.

**POLICE SERVICE ADMINISTRATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT
BILL****Introduction**

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (11.41 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Forestry Act 1959, the Marine Parks Act 2004, the Nature Conservation Act 1992, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Regulation 2012, the Police Service Administration Act 1990, the Police Service Administration Regulation 2016, the Recreation Areas Management Act 2006 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes, and to repeal the State Buildings Protective Security Act 1983. 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: Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 [\[1935\]](#).

Tabled paper: Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021, explanatory notes [\[1936\]](#).

Tabled paper: Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[1937\]](#).

This bill has two objectives. The first objective involves modernising the legislative framework that underpins the Protective Services Group within the Queensland Police Service. The second objective is to improve provisions relating to identity cards issued under legislation administered by the Department of Environment and Science to support the operations of the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

Although these amendments seem divergent, they have a commonality. These amendments improve the efficiency of the processes associated with the Queensland Police Service or with services it provides. For example, the amendments about identity cards dispense with requirements under Department of Environment and Science legislation that police officers must produce an identity card issued under that particular legislation when exercising a power. Such a requirement is superfluous as uniformed officers are readily identifiable and plain-clothes police officers are already required under police legislation to show their police identification when exercising powers as a public official. These amendments improve efficiencies through eliminating the administrative burden caused through issuing multiple identity cards to police officers and organising for the return of these cards once police officers cease to act as a public official under this legislation. The bill will make a similar efficiency amendment for other state government employees by allowing a single identity card to list the appointments the person has under Department of Environment and Science administered legislation.

Modernising the legislation governing Protective Services will also lead to improvements. Protective Services has grown since its inception. It now comprises over 400 dedicated staff. However, its core function of providing security services has never changed. Protective Services is responsible for the management of security services for over 400 educational facilities and 80 Queensland government buildings, including the provision of static security at 38 courts. Protective Services provides building services coordinators who manage security procedures in 47 major government owned or leased buildings.

The Protective Services' operations centre monitors over 2,500 alarms within Queensland for government and over 5,500 duress alarms across Queensland, including for electorate offices. It also monitors about 700 fire control panels as well as facilities alarms—for example, power and air conditioning—for critical government buildings, such as the Queensland State Archives and the Queensland radioactive waste storage. Protective Services also conducts mobile patrols of state buildings, such as schools within the Brisbane, Logan and Moreton Bay regions, and produces the government identification cards used by public service employees.

To understand these amendments, it is necessary to reflect on the very proud history of Protective Services here in Queensland. Protective Services was formerly recognised through the State Buildings Protective Security Act 1983 which established the then State Government Protective Security Service, which later became known as State Government Security. In recent history, Protective Services was subject to consideration in a review of the Public Safety Business Agency. Recommendations made in this review were accepted, culminating in Protective Services being integrated into the Queensland Police Service in 2016.

I consider this integration to be a watershed moment that has realised benefits for Protective Services and the Queensland Police Service as a whole. These benefits have been achieved through the positive approach and professional attitudes that have supported this merger. In fact, former police deputy commissioner and former Queensland Corrective Services commissioner Peter Martin perfectly illustrated this when briefing the then Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee about this transition. He commented—

Our intention as an employer is to actually upskill the officers.

that is, the protective services officers. He continued—

In the consultation we have undertaken with the protective security officers they have been very welcoming of that. They are very much looking forward to migrating across to the Queensland Police Service—maybe not universally, but certainly there is a very positive feeling there and they see this as being a very positive move to be aligned to an agency that fundamentally, like them, is about safety and security. They are very warmly receiving the notion of equipment, technology and upskilling generally as a very positive signal. That is our commitment to them as an employee group.

Protective Services has moved from strength to strength within the Queensland Police Service while continually looking for areas of improvement. The Queensland Police Service has reviewed Protective Services' governing legislation and has identified a number of amendments that will increase efficiencies, further promote the integration of Protective Services into the Queensland Police Service and ensure Protective Services has an appropriate legislative framework so that the government can continue to meet its obligation to provide safe and secure workplaces.

Protective Services' governing legislation applies similar security measures to government buildings as those adopted in other Australian jurisdictions. As a generalisation, these measures include: screening a person entering or in the protected area by either electronic screening and/or inspection; inspecting a vehicle and its contents entering or in the protected area; demanding name and address details of an entrant and their reason for entry; seizing contraband; directing a person to leave the protected area if the person does not comply with security arrangements; and removing a person who has failed to comply with directions from the protected area.

In addition to this, the State Buildings Protective Security Act currently authorises senior protective security officers to exercise all the powers of a police officer, except for the power of arrest, in state buildings. Rather than relying on the use of general police powers, this bill identifies and authorises the use of the specific powers needed to provide security to state buildings and introduces a range of safeguards that will assist officers in maintaining their professionalism.

There are a suite of legislative amendments which I will address in turn. Of fundamental importance are amendments which consolidate the security powers that may be exercised in state buildings by police officers and security officers. This will be achieved by repealing the State Buildings Protective Security Act and regulation and relocating relevant provisions into the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act and the Police Service Administration Act. This will be more efficient than the current state where multiple acts provide security powers for a variety of officers. Instead, the bill will relocate all security powers to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act, providing a single point of truth about the exercise of these powers. This will reduce duplication and eliminate any concerns about inconsistencies arising through housing powers in different acts.

Additionally, savings will be achieved as this will allow policy to be developed and training to be delivered that will meet the needs of both police officers and security officers. Further amendments in the bill will address a unique challenge for Queensland. Queensland is the only jurisdiction that differentiates between security officers on the basis of the powers that these officers may exercise. Currently, the State Buildings Protective Security Act provides for two types of security officer, namely protective security officer and a senior protective security officer. Protective security officers may only ask a person entering a state building if they will participate in electronic screening and allow their belongings, including their vehicle where appropriate, to be inspected for items that may compromise the security or safety of the particular place. However, a protective security officer is not authorised to seize any proscribed matter that may be found as a consequence of this screening. Additionally, protective security officers are not authorised to demand the entrant provide their name and reason for being present in a state building or direct a person to leave if they decline to be screened.

In contrast, senior protective security officers have the full range of security powers under the State Buildings Protective Security Act. This has the potential to lead to unnecessary risks for protective security officers. Some state buildings precincts are large and as protective security officers may need to rely on a senior protective security officer to exercise their powers to resolve an incident, adverse situations could arise as there may be some delay before this assistance may be provided.

This bill will address this by amalgamating protective security officers and senior protective security officers into one group called protective services officers. This will allow more efficient rostering practices to be adopted and will make Queensland more consistent with other jurisdictions. It should be noted that these amendments will not change the existing industrial arrangements for these officers and the bill will allow for the existing rank structure to continue by recognising seniority and expertise through the rank of senior protective services officer. However, regardless of rank, protective services officers will be able to independently exercise the same security powers in a state building.

Another major component of this bill addresses the exact nature of the security powers that police officers and protective services officers may exercise in state buildings. These amendments will consolidate, where appropriate, security powers so that they may be consistently applied whether by a police officer or a protective services officer. The bill will allow for screening in line with community expectations. Members of the public understand that people entering into secured areas such as government buildings or courts may be called upon to be screened or have their belongings inspected. They acknowledge that if a member of the public refuses to comply with these security measures, one outcome may be that that person is denied entry to the place. The bill meets these expectations through affording security powers to protective services officers that mirror the powers that police officers currently employ to secure state buildings.

If an entrant to a state building refuses to be screened, the person may be immediately directed to leave the state building. Consistent with existing legislative safeguards, prior to giving this direction a protective services officer must advise a person who does not want to be screened that they may leave the state building and take their belongings with them. A protective services officer is not to give a direction if the entrant tells that protective services officer they do not want to be screened and they are prepared to leave the state building immediately; or if the protective services officer has started to screen the entrant, the entrant does not want to be screened any further and is prepared to leave the state building immediately and take their belongings; and the person then leaves the state building immediately with their belongings.

The bill will introduce important safeguards that will enhance the professionalism and accountability of protective services officers. For example, the bill provides that when giving a direction a protective services officer or police officer must warn the subject person that failing to comply with the direction is an offence and give the person a reasonable opportunity to comply with the direction. Further, giving the direction will be considered to be an enforcement act under the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act requiring the protective services officer or the police officer to record the circumstance about giving the direction in a register.

The bill will also address a current inconsistency with the application of security powers. Currently, only senior protective security officers may demand name and address details from a person who wants to enter a state building. To ensure that this power can be exercised consistently, the bill authorises both police officers and protective services officers to demand personal details from persons entering state buildings. This power will be qualified. A person may only be required to provide their name and address if the officer reasonably suspects it is necessary to do so to maintain the security of a state building. This is consistent with directions given by police officers at other locations such as major airports at Brisbane, Cairns and the Gold Coast.

The bill will also expand on current security powers through clarifying that a protective services officer or police officer may give a direction to a person to leave a state building if the person is trespassing or is disorderly at the state building. Currently, a senior protective security officer and a police officer may use force to remove from a state building a person who has no good and lawful reason for being there. However, although a police officer or senior protective security officer may rely on move-on powers under the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act to give directions to a person who is in a public area of a state building if the person is disorderly or disruptive, there is no current express power to direct a trespasser to leave. Rather than relying on force to remove trespassers, this amendment will equip police officers and protective services officers with a less confrontational enforcement option as these officers will be authorised to simply direct a person who is trespassing or acting disorderly in a state building to leave that place. Contravention of the direction will be an offence making the person liable, in relation to a direction given by a protective services officer, to a maximum penalty of 20 penalty units. A person who contravenes a direction given by a police officer will continue to be liable to a maximum penalty of 40 penalty units.

Safeguards will apply to the giving of these directions. A direction may only be given if a protective services officer or police officer reasonably suspects it is necessary to do so to maintain the security of a state building. Additionally, a protective services officer or a police officer will be required to enter

information onto the enforcement register about the exercise of this power. This amendment is a reasonable measure, designed to give our officers more enforcement options when dealing with trespassers and disorderly subjects and is consistent with other security measures already in use in Queensland and in other Australian jurisdictions.

The State Buildings Protective Security Act currently authorises senior protective security officers to seize proscribed matter found in state buildings. Proscribed matter is defined by this act to mean an explosive substance, a firearm, a noxious or offensive substance, or an offensive weapon. This list does not cover the field of all items of concern that may be located through screening an entrant of a state building. Notable examples that do not fit into the current definition of 'proscribed matter' include dangerous drugs or replicas of weapons. The bill will expand the definition of 'proscribed matter' to cover this deficiency.

Another security measure outlined in the bill is the introduction of a new offence provision that will prohibit the impersonation of a protective services officer. Protective services officers hold a unique position in our society as they are part of a small group of public officials that are authorised to use force in the performance of their duties. Members of the public should be able to trust that any protective services officer using force when exercising his or her powers is entitled to do so.

Consequently, an offence prohibiting the impersonation of a protective services officer is warranted. This offence provision would also deter an offender from disguising themselves as a protective services officer to gain access to restricted areas within state buildings. This new offence provision will carry a maximum penalty of 100 penalty units, which is comparable with the penalty associated with the offence of impersonating a police officer under the Police Service Administration Act or a security officer under the Hospital and Health Boards Act.

Finally, the bill will apply the Queensland Police Service alcohol and drug testing regime to protective services officers. This regime allows for random alcohol testing and targeted alcohol and drug testing of police officers, watch house officers and staff who work in a critical area. These relevant persons may be tested in various circumstances including if they are involved in a critical incident such as a death in custody. As protective services officers are authorised, in certain circumstances, to apply force to another, it is appropriate that they are similarly subject to the Queensland Police Service alcohol and drug testing regime.

I am confident that this bill achieves its objective of modernising the legislation framework for Protective Services. Our community calls upon protective services officers and police officers every day to ensure government spaces are safe places for everyone. This bill will introduce amendments that will assist these officers in the performance of their duties and will support Protective Services now and into the future. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. MT RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (12.01 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.


Referral to Legal Affairs and Safety Committee

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

QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 1 September (see p. 2344).

Second Reading

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (12.02 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of the bill before the House is to streamline the governance of the Queensland University of Technology, QUT, by reducing the size of its council from 22 to 15 members. The amendments support effective governance while maintaining an appropriate balance of skills and experience on the council. After a two-year consultation process with its university community, QUT requested the government consider a proposal to reduce the size of its council. The bill implements QUT's proposal and amends the Queensland University of Technology Act 1998, QUT Act, by reducing the size of the QUT Council from 22 to 15 members. The bill also includes consequential amendments to the QUT Act as a result of the reduction in council membership as well as transitional provisions to enable an ordered and timely transition from the current structure to the proposed new council structure.

The committee report states—

The bill proposes to reduce the size of the QUT Council from 22 to 15 members and to change its composition to:

- 3 official members—the chancellor, the vice chancellor, and the chairperson of the academic committee
- 3 appointed members, appointed by the Governor in Council
- 5 elected members, consisting of
 - o 2 members of the full time and part time academic staff
 - o 1 member of the full time and part time professional staff
 - o 1 undergraduate student
 - o 1 postgraduate student
- 4 additional members—at least 2 of whom must be alumni of QUT.

The bill does not change the terms of office of members of any category. While the bill replaces the category of 'student' elected members with 'undergraduate student' and 'postgraduate student', the term of office for the new student member categories remains the same as previously applied to student members, ie 2 years.

The bill was referred to the Education, Employment and Training Committee for consideration on 1 September 2021. The committee then tabled its report on 15 October 2021. I would like to thank the committee for their detailed and thorough consideration of the bill. I especially want to thank the committee chair, the member for Redlands, Kim Richards, for all the work that she has done.

The committee's inquiry into the bill included a call for public submissions, a public hearing and a public briefing. I take this opportunity to thank all the stakeholders who provided submissions to the committee and those who took the time to appear before the committee to brief them on the various aspects arising from the bill.

The committee has prepared a comprehensive report on the bill, which includes two recommendations: first, that the bill be passed—and thanks for that—and, second, that an amendment be made to clarify the effect of two of the transitional provisions in the bill. I would like to thank the committee for its bipartisan support of the bill. I table a copy of the government's response to the report, which supports the recommendations made by the committee.

Tabled paper: Education, Employment and Training Committee: Report No. 11, 57th Parliament—Queensland University of Technology Amendment Bill 2021, government response [\[1939\]](#).

I would like to talk briefly about the recommendation that the committee has made to amend the bill. The committee recommended the bill be amended to clarify that an elected academic staff member or an elected professional staff member of the council who ceases to be a member under new sections 77 and 78 of the bill will continue to be eligible to fill a casual vacancy under section 20A of the QUT Act during the current council term. As I mentioned previously, the government accepts this recommendation. The recommendation seeks to address a possible unintended consequence of the transitional provisions for an elected professional or academic staff member.

The current drafting of these provisions may result in an elected professional or academic staff member becoming ineligible to be later appointed to fill a casual vacancy in the council should this arise. It is not—and I repeat it is not—the intention of the bill to preclude members who cease to be an elected member under these transitional provisions of the bill from being eligible to be appointed to fill the casual vacancy during the current council term. I propose to move an amendment during consideration in detail that will clarify that an elected member removed from the council under the new sections 77 and 78 who is an academic staff or professional staff member of QUT may continue to be eligible under the QUT Act to fill a casual vacancy arising during the current council term as if the person had not been elected.

It was always the intention that this would occur. I think the committee had before it some evidence that there may be something unintended in the wording. As we know, the role of the committee is to tease this wording out to make sure that it is clear. We are happy to go by what some people may have interpreted that section as meaning. As I said, it was not an intention in the legislation.

I really welcome when these matters are discussed because sometimes outside bodies read the words and they can interpret them a different way. Then obviously the Office of Parliamentary Counsel, which drafts this legislation, can have a look at that and make it a bit clearer. I welcome the committee's work because this is what they are really set up to do: to scrutinise the legislation for unintended consequences. It is a very sensible approach. Sometimes words mean one thing to the people writing them and it is always good to have fresh eyes looking at these things.

It is great to see that our committee system is working very well. If we can iron out any wrinkles about unintended consequences or misinterpretation of some words, we are more than happy to do it as a government. Mr Deputy Speaker, as you will see in our response, we are more than happy to clarify that and I am more than happy to move those amendments. I say thank you to the committee. It is great to see them doing their work. It is great to see people coming forward. It is great to see those stakeholders with an interest in this area ensuring the wording is something they understand and that we get it right the first time. I thank them for that recommendation. We will be more than happy to move those amendments during consideration in detail.

I note that three submissions were received by the committee on the bill. Let's be frank: this is a bill about the size of the council. With 22 members, it is even bigger than the cabinet, which runs the whole of the Queensland government, and the shadow cabinet. Twenty-two members is a lot of members. I think it makes sense to reduce membership to 15.

There has been a lot of consultation on this proposal. I mentioned that there was two years of consultation. It is never easy to reduce a council of 22 people to 15. Inevitably, someone will miss out. Obviously no-one wants to miss out on being on the council. I have been on a number of boards throughout my career. I have never been on one that had 22 people. Sometimes I think that a committee of more than one is a bit too big! I jest, of course. When I consider the size of some boards—Energen, Sunsuper, South Bank Corporation, Easy Super, QSuper—and some of the boards on which I have been a member, for example the health and safety board and the reconciliation committee, I think 22 people is a lot. I think this is a very sensible step in the right direction.


I note that three submissions were received by the committee—we cannot make everybody happy—and that the submission by the NTEU did not support the bill. The NTEU raised some concerns in its submission. The first was that the bill did not represent the views and preferences of the broad QUT community but those of QUT management. QUT has consulted on this for two years. The NTEU also said that there is no evidence to support the policy rationale for the bill that smaller councils are more effective and that the proposed structure of the council will lead to reduced public transparency and accountability. My department—I thank it—has provided a thorough written response to each of the concerns raised with the committee. It is important to note that all four membership categories—official, appointed, elected and additional—will remain represented on the QUT Council.

When you compare this model to the model of other Queensland public universities, you see that QUT has the second highest percentage of elected members, at 33 per cent of the total council membership. This is just behind the University of Queensland, which has 36 per cent elected members. The number of academic and professional staff as well as students on the council is also comparable to other universities in Queensland. The reduction in the number of QUT Council members is in line with the Universities Australia 2018 voluntary code of best practice for the governance of Australian universities, which states that a university governing body would desirably be no more than 15 members. QUT will be in line with the code. I understand that some people may not support a reduction in membership, but 15 is the desirable number according to the code and this bill reflects that. Further, the bill does not affect the existing public reporting, audit and accountability requirements placed on universities as statutory bodies.

In summary, QUT's 22-member council is one of the largest governing bodies of Queensland's public universities. It is the view of the QUT Council that reducing its membership from 22—I think the Queensland cabinet has 18—to 15 will achieve a well-balanced membership in terms of skill, experience, gender and diversity. It is also the view of the council that a smaller council will allow greater participation, effectiveness and agility in council meetings and operations, including streamlined decision-making. As I said, having been a member of many boards during my career, I cannot imagine how you would get around the whole 22 on issues. I think 15 is actually not a bad size. I can understand that it will streamline decision-making while still having the representation we need for a university to operate effectively. QUT also believes that the proposed structure will ensure appropriate representation for the entire university community, importantly including students. I endorse my department's response and the rationale for a reduction in the size of the QUT Council as proposed in the bill.

The bill will provide a contemporary governance structure for QUT as it looks to continue in its goal of providing quality higher education in an increasingly challenging and complex environment. COVID has not been kind to universities, particularly with the reduction in the number of international students because the international borders have been closed. International students have been a big part of universities. I do not think QUT is immune to the effects of their absence. The university needs to get back on its feet. I am really happy that the reduction in the council is happening now and that it has bipartisan support. I think it needs streamlined and effective decision-making. It has a lot of challenges ahead. Our international borders will hopefully open soon, when we get to the vaccination rate of 90 per cent. It will obviously need to rebuild in a world that has changed since the start of the COVID-19 world health pandemic.

QUT does an excellent job. It would be remiss of me to not take the opportunity to commend QUT, which has partnered with Fortitude Valley State Secondary College. It is a lovely partnership. They are really evolving what that partnership means—how the two can work together for the benefit of not only the students at Fortitude Valley but also the students at QUT. We want to make sure that the pedagogy at Fortitude Valley is world class, as we want it to be at all schools. This partnership between this brand new school and the modern, inner-city university of QUT—the university and school sectors working together to get the best out of both school students and university students—is a partnership I enjoy watching evolve. I commend both parties, which are working well together to ensure that both entities get the best out of that relationship. I thank the QUT vice-chancellor and the whole council board for their commitment to the Fortitude Valley State Secondary College. I also thank the Fortitude Valley State Secondary College principal and staff, who are also committed to enhancing the relationship. With those few words, I commend the bill to the House.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (12.17 pm): As the Liberal National Party's shadow minister for education, I rise to address the Queensland University of Technology Amendment Bill 2021. This bill was introduced into the Queensland parliament by the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing, Hon. Grace Grace MP, on 1 September 2021. On 15 October 2021 the Queensland parliament's Education, Employment and Training Committee tabled its report into the Queensland University of Technology Amendment Bill 2021. The committee made two recommendations. The committee recommended, firstly, that the Queensland University of Technology Amendment Bill 2021 be passed with amendment; and, secondly, 'that the minister amends the bill to clarify that an elected academic staff member or an elected professional staff member of the QUT Council who ceases to be a member under new sections 77 and 78 of the bill continues to be eligible to fill a casual vacancy under section 20A of the Queensland University of Technology Act 1998, during the current QUT Council term'.

I acknowledge that it was a unanimous recommendation of the committee that the bill be passed, noting the advice of the Department of Education, which supported such a clarifying statement. The Liberal National Party will not be opposing this legislation. I acknowledge the bipartisanship of the parliamentary committee with respect to its recommendation, the minister's earlier contribution in relation to the government's response and those amendments which have been foreshadowed and which will be moved in consideration in detail.

In turning to the specifics of the proposed legislation, the primary objective of the bill is to implement governance reforms within the Queensland University of Technology and to enable an appropriate balance between the number of QUT Council members and the necessary skills mix and expertise that is required for effective governance of the Queensland University of Technology Council. It should be noted that the Queensland University of Technology is a statutory body established under the Queensland University of Technology Act 1998. The QUT Act establishes the council as QUT's governing body and gives the council overall responsibility to ensure sound and effective governance of QUT. The Queensland University of Technology Act confers powers on the council, including to, firstly, appoint QUT staff; secondly, manage and control QUT's affairs and property; and, thirdly, manage and control QUT's finances.

The Queensland University of Technology Amendment Bill 2021 proposes to reduce the size of the QUT Council from 22 to 15 members, with the composition of the council to be as follows: three official members—the chancellor, the vice-chancellor and the chairperson of the academic committee, and this composition remains the same; three members appointed by the Governor in Council, and this has been reduced from eight members to three; five elected members, which is reduced from nine, comprising of two members of the academic staff, one member of the professional staff, one undergraduate student and one postgraduate student; and, finally, four additional members, which is increased from two, with at least two of these four members having to be an alumni of the Queensland University of Technology.

As the minister outlined, this streamlining of those governance processes and that reduction to 15—having also served on many professional and corporate boards myself including the Australian Medical Association of Queensland and the Rural Doctors Association of Queensland and other entities—will enhance the functions and the operations with respect to the number of people who will be on the QUT Council. As per the legislation's explanatory notes, the changes to the membership, as I have just outlined, will increase efficiency whilst also providing for an appropriate mix of skills and experience for the purposes of effective governance. It is important to note that the reduction in the number of council members is in accordance with best governance practice and that these changes are also in line with Universities Australia's voluntary code of best practice for the governance of Australian universities.

Following the introduction of the Queensland University of Technology Amendment Bill 2021, the Minister for Education nominated the Education, Employment and Training Committee to further examine and consider the bill and on 3 September this committee invited stakeholders and submitters to make written submissions on the bill, with those submissions closing on 21 September. Three submissions were received by the committee. In addition to the written submissions, the committee received a public briefing about the legislation from the Department of Education on 13 September, with a public hearing and further public briefing held on 30 September 2021.

In relation to the three written submissions received, two of these submissions were in support of the bill and one was against the proposed legislation. The Vice-Chancellor and President of QUT, Professor Margaret Sheil AO, and Ms Leanne Harvey, Vice-President (Administration) and Registrar of QUT, provided a submission in support of the legislation, as did Griffith University's Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Carolyn Evans. Both of these submissions stated that the proposed model brings the Queensland University of Technology into alignment with other modern university councils and allows for more efficient and effective governance. In contrast, the National Tertiary Education Union provided a submission which rejected the proposed bill, with the main concerns being that the proposed legislation in its view favoured the preferences of QUT management and that the proposals did not have broad community support, with the legislation also diminishing transparency and accountability.

I would like to note some points of difference and concerns which were raised in relation to the consultation process. As per the Queensland University of Technology's own consultation process, the first consultation round took place between June and August 2019, with the second round of consultation occurring between August and October 2020 and a third consultation round taking place in July 2021. Concerns were raised that the number of responses appeared to be low, with only 11 written responses from the nearly 65,000 emails which were distributed by QUT seeking feedback. On this point, the National Tertiary Education Union noted in its submission the low response rate and suggested that, with no changes being made to the bill based on the responses received, the bill was, in essence, representing the preferences and views of QUT management and not the broader community. Whilst I note that the Department of Education offered a response to the concerns raised by the National Tertiary Education Union through the committee's examination of the legislation, as we heard before from the minister a detailed response has been tabled by the government in relation to those concerns which were raised.


I also take this opportunity, as the minister has done, to acknowledge the work of QUT, because it is one of Queensland's and Australia's most esteemed universities with approximately 50,000 registered students. Work has occurred between QUT and many of our secondary schools in relation to fostering combined vocational education and training and to assist with students as they transition from high school education into the tertiary sector. In my own electorate of Moggill, students from Kenmore State High School attend QUT to undertake a number of different courses. Importantly as well with QUT, it has many distinguished researchers who are contributing vital work not only here in Queensland but across Australia.

Recently I had the opportunity to meet with the Queensland University of Technology's distinguished professor Lidia Morawska, who has been named on the TIME100 annual list as one of the most influential people in the world. In the innovation category she was recognised alongside other visionaries and world leaders including Elon Musk. She was recognised for her groundbreaking research in relation to air quality as a means of preventing the airborne transmission of COVID-19 and other similar airborne viruses. I know that she has been in discussions with various state jurisdictions about some of those matters and also the work that is being progressed by the government here in Queensland. As the Liberal National Party's shadow minister for education, I want to acknowledge her work as a researcher at QUT.

The other group that I want to quickly recognise in relation to QUT is the Australian Centre for Health Services Innovation, which is also achieving world-leading translational research to improve the quality and value of healthcare service delivery. In fact, on 3 November this year the Australian Centre for Health Services Innovation celebrated its 10-year anniversary. It began as a partnership between Queensland Health, the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, QUT as well as the University of Queensland. Its work has significantly grown over the years. It is certainly an important research centre based within QUT's Faculty of Health. By celebrating that milestone and working on various research projects and partnerships with various health services, it is delivering positive and significant impacts in the way in which health services are delivered. I want to offer my congratulations to that centre and acknowledge Professor Steven McPhail, the Academic Director, at AusHSI as well as all staff who contribute to various programs and research and also the internationally renowned health economist and founding academic director of AusHSI, Adjunct Professor Nicholas Graves.

In returning to the bill, in Queensland we are very fortunate to have many higher education institutions. Again echoing the words of the minister, it has been an incredibly tough time for our higher education institutions given what we have had to deal with in terms of COVID-19 and border closures, as many students have not been able to come here to study various courses. That has certainly had an impact on all universities, including QUT. As we continue to recover from the pandemic, it is important that higher education remains available to all Australians and that both the federal and state governments continue to work cooperatively to rebuild the sector and provide the necessary supports to ensure that those students return to Australia at the most appropriate and available opportunity when it is safe to do so. There are now more than 800,000 students studying at Australian universities compared to over 763,000 the year before. There has been an increase, but more needs to be done given the disruptions that have taken place.

With those words, as I have said before, the Liberal National Party will not be opposing the bill. We acknowledge the work of the committee. I would like to thank all members of the Education, Employment and Training Committee of the 57th Parliament, including the deputy chair, the member for Southern Downs, as well as the member for Theodore, for their examination of the bill and the committee staff and the committee secretariat for their assistance. The work that our committees do is extremely important in scrutinising legislation and certainly in this case coming to a conclusion in a spirit of bipartisanship of how important this process will be in streamlining the QUT Council, reducing its members from 22 to 15 and what that will mean for enhancing and strengthening the governance of the university while also being in line with best practice.

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (12.30 pm): I rise to support the Queensland University of Technology Amendment Bill 2021. I acknowledge the very hard work of our secretariat. They do a fantastic job supporting our committee. I thank the minister for referring the bill to our committee. I say on the record that our committee works very well together and it is pleasing to see bipartisan support. Thank you to the deputy chair, the member for Southern Downs, and the members for Rockhampton, Stafford, Hinchinbrook and Theodore. We do have a very hardworking parliamentary committee that works well together.

The policy objective of this bill is to streamline QUT's council and to adopt best practice under the university's voluntary code. The QUT Council is established under the Queensland University of Technology Act 1998 and it functions as QUT's governing body. The council has powers to do those things necessary with the functions as a governing body, including to appoint university staff, to manage and control the university's properties and facilities and to manage their finances.

The bill, as has been previously outlined, proposes to change the composition of the council from a membership of 22 to 15, with three official members, the chancellor, vice chancellor and chairperson of the academic committee; three appointed members appointed by the Governor in Council; five elected members consisting of two members of the full-time and part-time academic staff, one member of the full-time and part-time professional staff, one undergraduate student and one postgraduate student; and four additional members, at least two who must be alumni of QUT. The bill does not change the terms of office for those members of any category. While the bill replaces the category of student, as I said, it replaces that to provide more diversity in that student representation with one being an undergraduate student and one being a postgraduate student.


The inquiry process was rigorous in its approach. We had three submissions, one from Griffith University that supported the bill; we had one from the National Tertiary Education Union which raised some issues both in their submission and in the inquiry process; and then the QUT submission. I thank the department for its very comprehensive briefing and for attending the public hearing. I think their

responses to the concerns raised were very detailed and well formed. I thank QUT Professor Margaret Sheil, vice chancellor and president, who attended our public hearing and Leanne Harvey, the vice president, administration, and university registrar. From the National Tertiary Education Union we had Michael McNally, the secretary, Dave Nielson, the QUT branch president and current QUT councillor, and Graham Dawson, the QUT branch committee member and QUT councillor elect.

There were some concerns raised by the NTEU in terms of consultation. We were informed that throughout the process there were limited responses, but I think that was because the bill is not controversial at all in nature. The broader QUT community was engaged with on three occasions over a substantial period of time: two years. Initially the proposal was that the council be brought down to a 13-member council. In the initial consultation with the QUT community in 2019 feedback was provided, which included a petition, and as a result of that feedback received in that initial consultation, when the draft was refined it was increased to a proposed 15-member council. There was a third consultation with stakeholders on the draft bill in 2021. Eleven responses in total were received, which included two from staff and four from students. The department also undertook targeted consultation for the development of the bill with QUT and all other Queensland public universities and the NTEU on the exposure of the draft bill and no changes were made to the bill as a result of that consultation.

Our committee made two recommendations: that the bill be passed and that there be a minor amendment to clarify that transition process. Our recommendation was that the minister amends the bill to clarify that an elected academic staff member or an elected professional member of the QUT Council who ceases to be a member under the new sections 77 and 78 of the bill continues to be eligible to fill a casual vacancy under section 20A of the Queensland University of Technology Act 1998 during the current QUT Council term. The recommendation is to clarify the eligibility of elected academic and professional staff members.

While I am on my feet I too commend QUT for the resilience it has shown throughout this pandemic. I really hope that brighter days are ahead as we continue to journey through this COVID pandemic. In particular I want to single out the QUT facility operating in my patch out in the Redlands. Professor Ian McKinnon and Michelle Gane are doing incredible work in our Redlands research facility in the hydrogen movement. As was noted by the member for Moggill, QUT is doing amazing work in research, particularly out our way, in the renewable sector. I know how important its contribution is beyond its campus next door. Its contribution to communities is incredible. I thank QUT for its work and I really hope that brighter days are ahead and that we can all support QUT and other universities here in Queensland to keep creating the brightest minds for future generations. On that note, I support the QUT Amendment Bill and I commend it to the House.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (12.36 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Queensland University of Technology Amendment Bill 2021. I thank my honourable friend, the member for Redlands, for her observations about the committee. I wholeheartedly endorse them. We are a happy committee. We get on well. I would like to thank her for the fairness with which she chairs our meetings. I would also like to say how important it is that we have good committee staff. We have excellent committee staff. They put their shoulder to the wheel every day. Nothing is ever too much trouble for them. In particular I would like to thank Rob, Rhyll and Carolyn for the work they do to support us. We are travelling to North Queensland on another bill which has created a lot of extra work for them along with the normal pattern of activity that the committee undertakes. I thank them very much. I thank the members for Redlands, Rockhampton, Stafford, Hinchinbrook and Theodore for their work on this particular bill.

Fundamentally this bill is about efficiency. It is about two broad themes: reducing the size of the QUT Council from 22 to 15 members with an eye to best practice in terms of governance and skills and getting the right balance to achieve that. As was mentioned by the minister, we will see a reduction in the size of the QUT Council, which was recommended by the university itself, from 22 to 15. The official members remain the same. The previously eight appointed members will be reduced to three, the previous nine elected members will be reduced to five and there will be four additional members, two of whom must be members of the QUT alumni.

It is noteworthy that the university has asked for these changes in order to be compliant with what the university sector sees as best practice in terms of its management. The Voluntary Code of Best Practice for the Governance of Australian Public Universities was mentioned. The themes that are addressed in the code to ensure universities are as agile and adaptive and efficient as they can be are strategic oversight, overall management of the university on a day-to-day basis and responsible financial and risk management. That last theme is no small thing, because universities, like all organisations, have to manage the risks that they face, be it the risk of loss of assets or loss of income

from various changes. The minister mentioned the COVID pandemic and how that has been particularly hard on universities. Any organisation that wants to deal with curve balls like that needs to be focused and lean so I can understand the reasoning behind the reduction in the size of the QUT Council.

I should disclose to the House that I am a graduate of the Queensland University of Technology. I certainly enjoyed my time there doing a Bachelor of Applied Science. I remember mischievously choosing my subjects in such a way that it would maximise my opportunity to come here, sit in the gallery and watch the goings-on on the floor of this House in the nineties.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mr LISTER: I thought that the member for Clayfield might have been a political tragic himself, but obviously I eclipse him in that regard.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mr LISTER: I take that interjection; yes. The QUT is a fine university. Like many universities it has been hit very hard by the COVID pandemic. In Australia our university sector depends very heavily on foreign enrolments. That has been one of the greatest success stories in terms of exports for our nation. It has also served to expose Australia to our region. I am sure those who study here return to their homes with positive feelings about Australia and will be ambassadors for us in their countries, which is great for our region.

I see great potential for QUT in the research space because we have a booming defence industry in our country. The federal government is increasing spending on the acquisition of defence capability in the order of hundreds of billions of dollars. Universities such as the Queensland University of Technology will be essential in collaborating with industry and government to do the research necessary for us to have the technology and sovereign defence capability, such as missiles and information warfare capabilities, that we will need. In order to capitalise on those things, universities such as QUT need to be lean, agile and focussed on that business.

As the minister said, the current council composition of 22 members does seem a bit unwieldy. Her comparison with the cabinet of Queensland was a worthy one because obviously there is a very onerous responsibility upon those 18 members. With the reduction in the numbers here I cannot see that there will be any relative changes in the representation of the various classes of members so I do not share the concerns expressed by the National Tertiary Education Union. The university will manage fine and the various interest groups within the university will continue to be represented. I have every faith that the Queensland University of Technology will continue on to great things.

However, in this particular regard it was fascinating for me as a conservative politician to sit in the public hearing and listen to the contribution of the National Tertiary Education Union. To be sure, they laid into our side of politics. They made plain their views about the management and current state of the university sector. That is not unexpected when a union is talking about a conservative federal government. However, it was interesting that the union also laid into the current government. I believe they did so in the sincere belief that they were standing up for their members who work at the Queensland University of Technology. They said—

In the midst of this crisis we are now dealing with an ALP state government that is set on continuing the work of the Newman government in undermining industrial democracy. Industrial democracy is the concept that workers who work somewhere have a knowledge of, a direct interest in and a right to contribute to the direction of their employer.

In isolation that is quite a noble aspiration. It amused me a bit because it seems that you cannot choose your family.

With your indulgence, Mr Deputy Speaker, I will give a plug to the University of Southern Queensland. Shortly I will be meeting with the vice-chancellor and the Minister for Training and Skills Development, and I thank the minister very much for that opportunity. I thank the government and the University of Southern Queensland for their investment in the Queensland College of Wine Tourism in my electorate. It is a very important facility. It has a great future. It is important that we have an entity such as that to train tomorrow's winemakers, to train people to provide the first-class hospitality that we have in Southern Downs and to train people to do the research that is necessary to make sure that our wine industry continues to progress and is able to deal with difficulties in terms of pests and diseases and also emerging trends in the wine market. I thank the government for that and I acknowledge Professor Geraldine Mackenzie, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Southern Queensland, for the university's partnership with the state government in providing that facility. The amount of money involved is not small. I will always be thankful when governments provide for that particular facility in my electorate. Thank you very much for your forbearance, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): It is an issue close to my heart, member for Southern Downs.



Mr O'ROURKE (Rockhampton—ALP) (12.45 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Queensland University of Technology Amendment Bill 2021. This bill recommends changes to the composition of the Queensland University of Technology—QUT—Council, which has responsibility for ensuring the effective management of the facility. The QUT Council is established under the Queensland University of Technology Act 1998 to operate as QUT's governing body. The QUT Council has powers to do anything necessary in connection with its functions as the governing body, including the appointment of university staff to manage and control the university's affairs and properties, and to manage and control the university's finances.

The current QUT Act provides for the governing council to have 22 members. This amendment bill proposes to reduce the size of the QUT Council from 22 to 15 members with the following changes to the composition: three members appointed by the Governor in Council, reduced from eight; five elected members, reduced from nine, comprising two members of the academic staff, one member of the professional staff, one undergraduate student and one postgraduate student; and four additional members, increased from two, and at least two of them must be former students of QUT.

The committee called for written submissions and received three in total, being from Griffith University; the National Tertiary Education Union, Queensland division; and Queensland University of Technology, Chancellery Division. We also held a public hearing and two department briefings. The submissions from Griffith University and QUT supported the proposed amendments. They considered that a smaller governing body will ensure the appropriate representation for the university and improve the effectiveness, participation and responsiveness in council meetings and operations. The National Tertiary Education Union did not support the bill as they believe the changes to the governing council membership were not required and believe that the current governing council continues to serve the university well. The Department of Education consulted with QUT, all other Queensland public universities and the National Tertiary Education Union, Queensland branch, on the proposed draft of the bill. No changes were made to the bill as a result of that consultation.

The committee made two recommendations, both unanimously supported, that the bill be passed and that the minister amend the bill to clarify that an elected academic staff member or an elected professional staff member of the QUT Council who ceases to be a member under sections 77 and 78 of the bill continues to be eligible to fill casual vacancies under section 20A of the Queensland University of Technology Act 1998 during the current QUT Council term. The recommendation is to clarify the eligibility of elected academic and professional staff members whose terms end under the transition provisions to be appointed in the event of a casual vacancy. The committee noted the advice of the department that it supported a clarifying amendment. I acknowledge my fellow committee members, the secretariat and all the staff involved. I commend the bill to the House.



Mr DAMETTO (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (12.49 pm): From the outset, I say that the KAP will not be opposing the Queensland University of Technology Amendment Bill. I acknowledge the Education, Employment and Training Committee on which I sit that scrutinised this bill. It was great to see that through the committee process we picked up on a couple of issues. I acknowledge: the deputy chair, the member for Southern Downs; the chair, the member for Redlands; the members for Theodore, Rockhampton and Stafford; and also the member for Stretton who at one stage stood in for the member for Rockhampton during our committee hearings. Thank you very much to the member for Stretton for being part of the process of democracy in scrutinising this bill. In all fairness, this bill is pretty dry stuff—drier than a piece of toast without any butter that has gone cold on the table—but it is an important bill that ensures that the function of QUT continues into the future.


I read some of the earlier commentary concerning the hardship that has fallen on universities over the past couple of years with borders being shut because of the COVID pandemic. Unfortunately, the financial status of a lot of our universities has hinged on the fact that they need these international students. Although we love having international students here in that they add a beautiful colour and fabric to our universities, some of our universities have put some of their eggs—not all—in one basket. The reality is that, without those international students, some of our universities can suffer quite significantly financially.

This bill coincides quite nicely with what has happened over the past couple of years in terms of trying to reduce the number of members of the QUT Council from 22. It would be an absolute nightmare to manage the 22 opinions of university trained and educated people! They are very smart and very intelligent, but I bet they are very opinionated as well. I imagine that managing all those people on the council would be quite fun! It is about reducing that number to 15 and ensuring that the council still has the right people with the correct skill set to ensure that they manage not only the appointment of QUT staff with the control of QUT affairs and property but also QUT finances.

This is a publicly owned university set up as a statutory body. It is important to ensure that this council manages what I see essentially as a public asset to the best of its ability. Everyone back home might ask, 'Why am I speaking on this bill?' Firstly, yes, I am on the committee that scrutinised this legislation but a lot of North Queensland children—some of our best exports—come to Brisbane to study at university. My son is across the river at UQ at the moment. This bill is about QUT's council and its restructure.

There was only three submitters to the bill. One was Griffith University, and they were supportive of the bill. The Queensland University of Technology also supported the bill. The only group which made a submission—and I can understand why because I believe now they have missed out on a spot on the council—was the National Tertiary Education Training Queensland Division. Unfortunately its representatives were not overly impressed that they have lost their spot on the council, but with any restructure—and I think the minister mentioned this in her speech—some people will miss out. Unfortunately this is the group that missed out this time.

Once again, I say that the KAP will not oppose this bill. I appreciate the work of the committee and my fellow committee members. I appreciate the minister working with QUT in the consultation process to ensure this bill being put together properly. It was great to see the committee process come up with some recommendations that have been adopted through the amendments that I know the minister will table during consideration in detail. Thank you very much to everyone who has worked on this. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—ALP) (12.53 pm): I rise in support of the Queensland University of Technology Amendment Bill 2021. I thank the minister for bringing this bill to the House and I thank the chair and fellow committee members for recommending that the bill be passed. This is an example, perhaps as the member for Hinchinbrook just reflected, of a more technical bill but an important one just the same, because Queensland public universities, the great places of learning and research that they are, are at their core foundation statutory bodies established by the respective act of this parliament. It is important that we provide the best support we can, in this case through reasonable governance reform. Dare I say it, in my humble experience in this House this inquiry for the bill has not been the longest or the most content-heavy that I have faced—and that is no criticism—because we as parliamentarians should rightfully acknowledge our role in oversight and as legislators for institutions whose existence sits in state legislation. It is important that we recognise our collective role to support important institutions including our public universities.

As has been set out by the minister and the chair, each of Queensland's public universities find their foundation in a state act. It is rewarding as a legislator that we can make what could be called technical changes to make those important public institutions of learning just that little bit better.

QUT is almost co-located with us on our parliamentary precinct, but it is an institution that serves the entire state and also attracts students, staff and researchers from across Australia and ordinarily from around the world. The genesis of this bill is based on the 2017 reforms to the governance structures of James Cook University through the university legislation amendment acts. In that spirit, QUT has considered its own governance structures and has consulted with the broader QUT community to that end.

It is fair to say that the council or senate of any given university is not necessarily on the mind of students and staff each and every day, but governance matters, especially for statutory bodies and effective university administration, matters in the long-term future of our important institutions of higher learning. I support these reforms to try to provide a more effective governance structure for QUT, a real icon of Queensland's university fabric.

I take the chance to reflect that QUT, like all Queensland universities, is going through a very challenging time because of the very obvious and significant effects of COVID on our student population. Personally, I am not just talking about the students who may be stuck overseas or even prospective students we would have otherwise welcomed over the past 18 months or two years; I also talk about some of the local charities in my area that I work with in partnership that work hard to care for international students, perhaps former international students, who found themselves stuck in a very difficult gap. Some faced job losses. They were unsure of their future as an ongoing student in this country. I thank those local Stafford charities that did so much in outreach in that regard.

From a university perspective, I get that these are unprecedented times and am sympathetic to the matrix of challenges university administrators face right across Queensland. I wish them the best for the end of 2021 and look forward hopefully to a brighter future in 2022.

Briefly, I turn to the proposed government amendment as flagged by the minister and for which I thank her. This is in relation to transitional provisions, what would happen to an individual currently—if we could call them council-elect perhaps—and whether they would be eligible for an effective countback appointment to fill any casual vacancies should that arise in this council term. I thank the minister for taking that step. As the department submitted, the bill as already drafted is intended to do that but, from the perspective of those individuals placed in those circumstances, I get it. We do not want this to be a grey area. We do not want any questions over it in years to come. I thank the department for drafting the amendment to clarify—not reverse—the drafting because we want people to be clear about the intentions of the bill. We want those impacted directly to have some comfort as to what structures are in place, especially in these transitional periods.

Finally, I thank the Department of Education officials for their dedicated work on this bill. Thank you to those who briefed us and those behind the scenes who delivered what I think is a pretty seamless reform. I also thank those who made submissions and appeared before the committee. I thank our committee staff for their terrific service to us as members. We have a few things on the go in our committee at the moment. They provide great support across the board. I thank the committee, not just the chair—as good as she is—but also fellow government members as well as opposition and crossbench members. As others have reflected, we work in a pretty collegiate fashion and I hope that it provides good outcomes for an important public institution, the Queensland University of Technology. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Sullivan, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 12.58 pm to 2.00 pm.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Integrity in Government; Journalists, Shield Laws



Mr CRISAFULLI (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): Transparency and integrity matter. In the third term this government has given up on openness and accountability. Seven years ago when this Premier was elected she was quoted as saying that she would be restoring integrity and accountability in government. I intend to inform this House today of what has happened in the past 12 months. I will not re-prosecute what happened in the first two terms, because there is a shopping list of misdemeanours, but just what has happened in the last 12 months.

We have had a raid on the Integrity Commissioner. That raid was issued because the Integrity Commissioner blew the whistle on lobbyists who operate out of 1 William Street with absolutely no sense whatsoever of decency and separation in this state. They use car parks and desks and treat them as though they are their own. The estimates process has been so trashed that the ability for ministers to be held to account is next to none.

Mr Power: It's because you're useless. I was fine as chair.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will take the interjection. Chairs are prepared to run a protection racket to stop ministers being held accountable. RTI officers openly discuss how much information they can withhold above what they should. Reviews are ordered to kill off issues and not to bring justice to brave victims of a health system where they have had their lives turned upside down but where it is ordered to do nothing more than come up with a political fix because this is a government that cares more about how things look than how they are.

In terms of the Office of the Independent Assessor—the local government hit squad—if people question vaccine rollout strategies in their community, if they look a little disinterested on a council floor or even if they might want to block someone from making a comment on their Facebook page, they can be hauled in front of the Office of the Independent Assessor. Councillors are scared and disempowered from doing their jobs. That is exactly what the government wants.

This is a government that does not like to be held accountable. We are seeing that with the fourth estate where the government finds every opportunity to demonise anyone in the media who dares question anything they do. The government is uncomfortable with accountability. The government would rather people get their news directly from them so that there is no form of critical analysis of what they do. If someone asks questions in this state they are rude. If someone does not accept the narrative they are an outsider who was not there yesterday. If the questions get a little heavy the response is, 'I've gotta go.' There is no respect for the rights of those who hold the government to account.

I have no intention of pre-empting debate on shield laws. I have seen the results of a cabinet that has torn itself apart. What I will not let slide is the opportunity to make some commentary on journalist F. I am not comfortable with our kids growing up in a state that is prepared to allow a journalist to go to jail for doing their job. More than ever it is important we have journalist F and others doing their job because Queensland Health is in crisis.

Where ambulance ramping reaches the point that people die in the arms of their loved ones, where elderly victims lie on the floor in agony waiting for an ambulance to turn up that simply cannot because they are on the end of a ramp, when elective surgery waiting lists spiral out of control and when botched surgeries get covered up, that is why we need journalist F. When infrastructure blowouts like on the M1 and Light Rail—where \$2.5 billion can become \$3.1 billion in the blink of an eye—that is why we need journalist F. When a youth crime crisis sees a tradie lose a week's work because her car with all of her tools got stolen and when kids lose sleep because their bedroom that was once a safe place is no longer, that is why we need journalist F doing their job. When the QBCC becomes the plaything of a minister, where ministerial intervention is the order of the day, when small businesses are thrown to the wolves for a deal for a mate and when home owners are not listened to, that is why we need journalist F.

It is our intention to bring sunlight to this parliament. We are going to keep talking about the economy and service delivery, but without transparency we are not able to bring those things. If we really want an economy for everyone—where those who aspire for more can get it, where those who need a leg up through social enterprise are given that opportunity, where people can work in the city and can work in the country—we need transparency and we need to drive change in the way that we share information. When service delivery matters, when we believe in the people of this state being able to achieve all they want for their family and for a government to serve them in their health system, in education, in providing infrastructure to open up opportunities for housing, we need economies and service delivery but we also need transparency.

The opposition will go to the next election and beyond with portfolios directly targeting openness and transparency. There will be a minister for open data who is chartered with the responsibility of making sure that if we have the information then Queenslanders have the information. That is how we drive change in government. That is how we enable the private sector to come forward with the opportunities using that data to be able to drive economic and social change. I know that at times that will be uncomfortable for us. I know at times we will quite rightly be pointed to failings, but that is a small price to pay for a society that requires openness and transparency.

There will be a minister for customer service who will change the way that government interacts with people—where the customer will be put front and centre of all we do to drive change for this state. There will be a minister for integrity who will set the tone and direction for the way we will respect people, the Public Service and everyone in this state who wants to make a contribution. At the time of the next election, this government will have been in office for a decade.

Government members interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: They crow and the hubris sets in. When I talk about a health crisis and a youth crime crisis and I see housing affordability spiralling out of control it is because of an inability to plan properly and infrastructure blow-outs.

It reminds me of a time around 2011 when a former premier stood up and said, 'Queensland Health is a basket case,' when a government fell so far from its base it went to an election promising one thing and sold out its true believers a moment after, when a government had run out of ideas and when a government was given another term that was not warranted and so we had another three years of misery and turmoil. It feels like that all over again.

This government has given up on respecting the media. This government has given up on parliamentary scrutiny. This government has given up on independent agencies. This government has given up on its promise all those years ago to restore integrity and accountability to government in Queensland, and Queenslanders have given up on this government.

Coronavirus, Vaccination



Hon. G GRACE (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (2.10 pm): I tell you what, Mr Deputy Speaker: it really grates on me when we sit on this side of the House and we are lectured to by those opposite on transparency and integrity!

Opposition members interjected.

Ms GRACE: We listened to the Leader of the Opposition in silence. I demand the same respect from you guys.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order, members! Please put your comments through the chair, member for McConnel.

Ms GRACE: We never interjected until it was absolutely necessary because of the rubbish that we were hearing from those opposite. What do we get from those opposite time and time again? We hear the word 'crisis' and that 'we've given up on this'. Not a shred of evidence is ever given in relation to any of the accusations by those opposite.

They come into this House and they want to lecture us on health—how we turned on the people that we represent. When they were elected, the number of health workers who were dismissed and sacked and the treatment of the Public Service by those opposite will have them sitting opposite on those benches for another 10 years, let me tell you all!

They will never forget the treatment they received. The audacity of the Leader of the Opposition—who remembers a time when he sat around a cabinet table—to come in here and talk about customer and service delivery when thousands upon thousands of public servants were unilaterally sacked by those opposite!

There is one issue that they cannot bring themselves to talk about—one of the most important issues in a world health pandemic.

Ms Bates interjected.

Ms GRACE: I hear the member for Mudgeeraba, who was the first nurse Campbell Newman sacked. He went on to sack many more, but the member for Mudgeeraba was the first nurse he actually sacked.

Ms Bates interjected.

Ms GRACE: We keep hearing from the member for Mudgeeraba. Our economic recovery, as we heard from the Treasurer, has been outstanding. We have been able to create more jobs in this state than in any other state in Australia. Our unemployment rate is the second lowest in the country. We have brought about business confidence. All of those things have been totally ignored using the words 'crisis', 'transparency' and 'integrity' and, oh my goodness, their bleeding heart for the media—the poor media is coping it!

You really have to swallow hard to accept anything that the Leader of the Opposition says because they cannot bring themselves to talk about the one issue that is important at the moment for the safety of Queensland and our economic recovery—and that is vaccination. That is the issue that we need to talk about. They come in here and talk about everything else.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nanango, you are on the speaking list. You will get your chance.

Ms GRACE: When in government they trashed estimates—absolutely trashed it. They held them over two days, yet they come in here and talk about the estimates process. In the middle of the night they sacked their own parliamentary committee chairs because they did not like what they were doing. They came to government with a 66-seat majority, and never in Queensland's history has a government been tossed out after one term. They want to talk about arrogance and they want to talk about culture, yet the manner in which they carried themselves when they were in government was absolutely appalling. I have heard the stories. It was absolutely a disgrace. The Leader of the Opposition was around the cabinet table at that time.

Let us talk about what matters. You do not go to Mackay and have a fundraiser with George Christensen—the fellow who is an anti-vaxxer and peddling misinformation. You go to Mackay and you do not even talk about vaccination. Show some leadership. We have leadership, for example, in the mayor of Goondiwindi. He used to be the leader of the opposition. Mayor Lawrence Springborg talks about having a community 'on board with vaccination', about having a 'good public health program' and about 'council leading the charge', and he says, 'I cannot speak highly enough of our local business community.' What a difference between that leader and the current leader of the LNP! There is absolutely no leadership being shown by those opposite. They come in here and whinge and whine and do nothing but complain. It is a disgrace.

(Time expired)

Sunshine Coast, Youth Crime



Mr BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (2.15 pm): The Sunshine Coast is currently having a youth crime crisis. This is only going to get worse when Labor's planned youth jail gets built in the heart of Caloundra as we will see youth crime rates increase. We will see more car thefts. We will see more break and enters. We will see more people assaulted in the Sunshine Coast community. The only ones standing up for the safety of the Sunshine Coast community are the members for Kawana and Ninderry, not the member for Caloundra. I cannot believe that the member for Caloundra is accepting the fact that he was not even told by his own Labor government they were going to put a youth jail at the entrance to his electorate in the beautiful Caloundra on Bowman Road. He did not know about it. The member for Caloundra said during the election campaign, 'I'm going to get Caloundra a new police station.' What he did not say was that he was going to get Caloundra a new jail. I do not believe that he did not know about it. What I believe is that he knew about it and failed to tell anyone about it. That is what happened and that is shameful.

If the electorate of Caloundra had known that the Labor Party had secret plans for a youth jail, that member would not be sitting in this place now—guaranteed. He would not be there. I table a petition against Caloundra's youth jail, signed by 6,147 residents.

Tabled paper: Nonconforming petition regarding youth detention centre in Caloundra [\[1940\]](#).

That is a huge petition. The majority of people who signed that petition are residents in the Caloundra electorate. I would estimate that that equates to approximately 15 per cent of the voting public in Caloundra who have signed a petition against a youth jail. They do not want it. It is a fantasy to believe that the Labor government and the member for Caloundra are consulting with the community. As I said, the minister was there and the member for Caloundra said, 'We're consulting.' The member for Caloundra took it one step further and said, 'It's no different to what is already there.'

I will tell the member for Caloundra this: there is a difference between an overnight watch house of eight people and a youth jail facility with over 30 young offenders in it! There is a difference. If he only read his government's own documents, he would know that they are going to put a big fence around it. Guess what? The watch house does not have an electric fence around it, so if there is no difference why on earth would they put a big barbed wire fence around a youth jail? It would be to keep the young offenders in jail.

The member for Caloundra should have been up front with the people of Caloundra at the last election. We have been campaigning against this youth jail. Over 6,000 residents have signed a petition. The LNP is listening to the residents of the Sunshine Coast community who take community safety seriously. It is unfortunate that the new member for Caloundra does not take community safety seriously. It is unfortunate that the Labor government do not take community safety seriously.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order, member for McConnel! Order, member for Broadwater!

Mr BLEIJIE: If they did take community safety seriously they would throw this youth jail out the back door and not proceed with it, but they are continuing. Apparently, positions have been advertised. If the member for Caloundra wants another example of how it is different to a police watch house, they are changing it from the police department to the department of youth justice. It is a completely different facility: it is a youth detention centre. Then the member for Caloundra said, 'No, it's okay, because when young people are released from there we're going to take them back to the communities they come from.' The majority of young offenders do not actually live on the Sunshine Coast.

Mr Deputy Speaker, when a young offender gets bail—and the majority get bail under Labor's laws—do you think the relevant government department is waiting out the front of the Caloundra youth jail saying, 'Now that you've got bail and you're a free citizen, hop on the bus and we'll take you back to the community you came from'? As if they are going to do that! They are going to say, 'No, I'm going to stick around in Caloundra. Not only that, I'm going to bring my friends and family here too.'

We do not want it on the Sunshine Coast. We do not want these young offenders on the Sunshine Coast. It is time the Labor Party took the Sunshine Coast seriously and not for granted like the member for Caloundra does. He should stand up for his constituents and say no to Labor's Caloundra youth jail—

(Time expired)


Ms Grace interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order, member for McConnell!

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, member for Kawana! Members, there has been a high level of injection. I have been trying to let the debate flow, but from here on in I will start to warn people.

Queensland Investor Forum

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (2.20 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, don't you love a member who talks about themselves in the third person? But let's be honest: the only person talking about the member for Kawana is the member for Kawana!

Recently I had the pleasure of joining the Queensland Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment and the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries for the agribusiness investor forum. The forum was the first event in the Queensland Investor Forum series which targets specific industry sectors. The forum series is the next phase of our broader investment engagement strategy, which kicked off with industry roundtables and will culminate in an investor summit next year. Working alongside the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment in the earlier roundtable events it has been greatly beneficial to hear directly from the private sector on the challenges they face and where they see future opportunities when it comes to investing in Queensland.

The virtual forum was open to a wider agribusiness audience and attracted participants from government, business and industry, academia and the business and investment advisory sector. The forum featured a strong line-up of presentations from government and industry leaders with agribusiness expertise and interactive panel sessions with audience Q and As. Participants were provided with an update on agriculture investment in Queensland, in-depth discussions on key and emerging investment opportunities, and why our state is a great place to do business.

Agribusiness is one of our leading sectors. We have world-leading technologies and processes and are renowned for our innovation and producing safe, clean, green, fresh and healthy products. Thanks to close consultation with industry and producers, the agribusiness sector has been a mainstay of the Queensland economy throughout the pandemic. The production forecasts are strong for both winter and summer crops, and improved weather conditions have seen cattle prices rise to historic levels. The sector has massive growth potential in both traditional markets including beef, horticulture, grains and food processing, and emerging industries including bioproduct manufacturing, energy generation, biosynthetic product development, aquaculture and value-adding sectors.

Our government's investment support and facilitation has seen many great partnerships formed during the past 18 months, including with Kerry Ingredients, a leading global taste and nutrition company which is setting up a purpose-built food technology and innovation centre of excellence here in Queensland. This centre will also act as the new headquarters for Kerry in Australia and New Zealand, adding to Queensland's food innovation capability. FarmFresh Fine Foods, a Bundaberg fresh food processor, will expand their sweet potato processing lines and their workforce by 45 per cent, with support provided under our \$175 million Jobs and Regional Growth Fund, ensuring FarmFresh can increase automation, reduce costs and run additional production shifts, making it more competitive in the marketplace.

Marquis Macadamias also received support under this fund to expand their Bundaberg processing facility and increase capacity by 25 per cent, creating 40 new jobs and helping local growers take a bigger bite of export opportunities. Hilton Foods Australia have a \$280 million state-of-the-art meat processing and distribution facility in Heathwood which opened with assistance from our government. In fact, I officially opened the facility on behalf of Minister Dick when he was State Development Minister. Hilton Foods supply packaged meat and vegan products to Woolworths and have created more than 650 food industry jobs in Queensland.

We are backing our producers through investment in two regional trade distribution centres in Cairns and in Toowoomba, where I was pleased to attend the official opening. These centres will supercharge rapid airfreight access for Queensland ag businesses, making it easier to get our world's-best produce on plates in key international markets. We already have a strong industry pedigree and abundant natural resources and capabilities. To take our agribusiness sector to the next level we need to leverage our past investments, keep innovating and further build our growing reputation as a world leader. We know that sustainability needs to be at the forefront of all our investment projects. With our economy rebounding strongly from the effects of the pandemic, we are firmly focused on the future and continuing to grow our economy.

Over the past four years the government's investment incentives programs helped unlock more than \$2.5 billion in capital expenditure and created 4,000 new jobs. This is a great foundation for the opportunities that are to come in this new era of growth. Our next investor forum, focussed on health technology, will be held later this month. Through our \$3.34 billion Queensland Jobs Fund we are ready to partner with business to encourage even more major private sector investment projects that deliver jobs and opportunities for all Queenslanders.

Water Infrastructure



Mrs FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (2.26 pm): I would say to the member for Jordan that if you want to give the agribusiness sector across Queensland some confidence you need to give them water security, because that is exactly what that sector wants. The agribusiness sector wants security. They want government to get out of the way so they can do what they do best, and that is deliver food and fibre for this great state of ours. They want water.

I want to talk about the latest debacle that is Labor's water scheme. Right now as I deliver this speech 20,000 megalitres a day is being wasted because of the incompetence of this Palaszczuk government and its reckless failure to plan. For those opposite who do not understand the importance of water or the confidence it provides to our regional communities, let me enlighten them. To put it simply, 20,000 megalitres a day equates to 8,000 Olympic-sized swimming pools every day. That is the amount of water that is being spilled over the reduced size of Paradise Dam right now because of the incompetence of those opposite and the fact that the member for Bundaberg does not have a clue about what is actually happening in the Burnett and Wide Bay. These farmers deserve the certainty of—

Mr SMITH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I could read my comments in *Queensland Country Life*, but I will simply say that I take offence and ask that the member withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member, in future if you are taking a point of order, just take the point of order. We do not need the commentary. The member has taken personal offence and asked that you withdraw. Will you withdraw?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw. What I will say is that we on this side of the House understand about planning for the future. We understand about the need for infrastructure. We understand the need for water infrastructure and the opportunities it provides for regional Queensland. We know that it is meant to be the government's job to plan for infrastructure, but those opposite are too incompetent to even look at the current infrastructure we have and give the communities that surround that dam the confidence to plan for the future.

This side of the House will not forget those farmers who have had to doze in their tree crops, like Bundaberg avocado grower Matthew Kingston, because of significantly reduced water allocations. This farmer had to wake up today and see thousands of megalitres flowing down the Burnett River out into the ocean, and that is not going to benefit anyone. It is not going to allow more trees to be planted or more tomatoes or chilies to be grown. These are the crops that the former member tries to take credit for exporting to the rest of the world. I can tell you what those farmers want: they want a government that supports this industry. The agricultural industry is the lifeblood of the Queensland economy, and the only time the Palaszczuk government decides to support that industry is when it is a good season.

What is the water minister's plan? The water minister's plan is to pray for rain. Do you know what I pray for? I pray for a change of government. I pray for that so we can actually get to work in Queensland and make sure this vital industry of ours is supported. When it is dry and when it is not a good season, we are still proud to talk about the agricultural industry because we should be leading in the trade of our good produce to all of these international countries. Members of the Palaszczuk Labor government only talk about this industry when it rains, but I have news for them. Unfortunately, this great state of ours is a very dry state, so we need to plan for the infrastructure to make sure when it does not rain we have good solid water infrastructure projects.

Let me get to the member for Bundaberg because I think this is really important. I call on the Palaszczuk government to explain the member for Bundaberg's statement when he said that we will have 'another form of infrastructure' to cater for water storage in the Bundaberg-Burnett region. What does the Palaszczuk government plan to do with that statement? The member for Bundaberg has committed to another water infrastructure project. What is it? Where is it? When is it going to be announced? Or is this just another absolute falsity by the Labor government to delay a project that could actually give some certainty to the fruit and vegetable growers around Bundaberg?

Redlands Electorate, Hospital and Health Services



Ms RICHARDS (Redlands—ALP) (2.31 pm): There is always so much going on in the Redlands, and it was a privilege last week to shout our doctors, nurses and hospital staff at the Redlands a coffee with my good friend the member for Capalaba. At the very same time we were there shouting and thanking all of our hardworking staff, those on the other side were out there knocking our hospital and health services.

I want to talk about what we have done and be very clear about that, and then I want to give those on the other side a bit of a history lesson on what they did and what their track record looks like. We have employed more doctors, more nurses and more paramedics. I thank the health minister for her recent announcement of a record investment in paramedics, with 11 new paramedics set to service our Southern Moreton Bay Islands. We also have a new Kitty Kat ambulance ferry on the drawing board.

Since being elected, I have had the opportunity of seeing our emergency department expanded—a promise taken to the 2017 election—and world-class birthing options being offered to mums in the Redlands so they now no longer need to travel to the Gold Coast to choose to have a water birth. The suites are really beautiful. We have completed a master plan and preliminary business case study for the full expansion of a hospital that pulls out two stages. That is in addition to our \$50 million hospital car park that unlocks the ability to deliver the \$62 million stage 1. This includes about 50 new beds and, importantly, an intensive care unit to service our Redlands community. There is also our \$40 million Redlands satellite hospital that is set on a 1.4-hectare parcel of land. We have completed the land negotiations with Redland City Council at Meissner Street. The satellite hospital will ease pressure on the Redland Hospital and will bring services closer to locals, particularly residents of our Southern Moreton Bay Islands.

Last week, they used the phrase that they will shine a spotlight on health. I think the Leader of the Opposition said that he would bring some sunlight to the conversation. Let me bring some sunlight to the LNP track record. While the Leader of the Opposition sat around that cabinet table with the Newman government, they sacked nurses, they sacked doctors and they closed the Wynnum Hospital with no regard for the impact that would have on the Redland Hospital. They had no regard whatsoever, not an iota of concern. They closed the Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit, with 84 residents being dislocated, and let me talk about the job losses there. The member for Lytton knows all too well the impact that had on our community.

Last week, when the Leader of the Opposition talked about health services saying that he will keep fighting for change, we all know what change looks like to the LNP. When he said that he will provide better resourcing, we all know what that looks like for the LNP. When he said that he will help people get a bed, we all know what that looks like for the LNP. When he talks about driving cultural change, well, on this side of the House we all know what that looks like for the LNP. Their track record is everything, and you cannot rewrite the history of the LNP when it comes to health services in our Redlands community.

Leader of the Opposition, if you really wanted to help, if you were genuine about helping, you would pick up the phone to the Prime Minister and you would ask him to fix the mess that is in aged care. I will talk about the Macleay ward at the Redland Hospital, where nine beds were converted into a locked dementia care facility. You tell me what is wrong with that.

Mr LANGBROEK: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I ask you to rule about speaking directly to members.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member for Redlands, I ask you to direct all of your comments through the chair and use the correct and appropriate parliamentary titles.

Ms RICHARDS: Mr Deputy Speaker, through you, I request that the member for Broadwater pick up the phone to the Prime Minister and ask him to fix the mess that is in aged care which is impacting on the health services of Redland Hospital. I ask him to pick up the phone and call the Prime Minister and talk about the GPs and the mess there is with getting access to a GP. I was provided with a letter of support from one of our local GP clinics. They have made special application to the DPA to get more GPs out servicing. When the community cannot access GPs, that is putting pressure on our public hospital system. Quite frankly, to say that there is a health crisis and not be genuine about trying to get to the causes of that is disingenuous to everybody.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Ms RICHARDS: I think I just rattled off quite a long list of what the Palaszczuk government is doing to deliver better health services for our Redlands community. That was a very long list, and I do not recall the LNP coming to the election with any sort of promises. If you are genuine about helping, I ask you to pick up the phone to the Prime Minister, support our local GPs and support our ageing community. It is only the Palaszczuk government that will support healthcare services in the Redlands.

Hinchinbrook Electorate, Coronavirus Vaccination; Port Hinchinbrook

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (2.36 pm): I stand this afternoon to speak on the topic of vaccinations across Queensland, in particular in the Hinchinbrook electorate. From the very outset, the KAP has had the stance of having choice around vaccinations. We have encouraged people to talk to a medical practitioner, a GP or a medical professional and have that conversation about what is best for them regarding their previous medical history and how it would affect their family and the community. I am proud to say that, after they have had those difficult and honest conversations with their GPs, 80 per cent of residents in the Townsville local government area have had their first vaccination, 79 per cent of residents in the Cassowary Coast Regional Council have decided to have their first vaccination and 87.1 per cent of those in the Hinchinbrook local government footprint have had their first vaccination.

These are great numbers when it comes to the government's road map of opening up the state and opening up the borders. However, the fact is that there are people out there who have had that difficult conversation with their GP and have come away with advice that perhaps the vaccination is not right for them. They have done their own research and they feel the vaccination is not right for them, perhaps based on their previous medical history. The fact is that these people are about to be locked out of society. On 17 December we are going to introduce segregation in this state once again. We are going to effectively see the sacking of 10 to 15 per cent of Queensland workers a week before Christmas. How the hell are we supposed to deal with this as a state when we are already—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Member, I find that comment to be unparliamentary and I ask that you withdraw.

Mr DAMETTO: I withdraw. The Queensland police across the state are being stretched at the moment. They are going to be expected to police this in our cafes, bars, restaurants, hospitals, museums, you name it. The reality is that they will be called up when there is unrest in these businesses. I do not understand how we can expect small business owners to become the police officers on this.

There are other options. This is the line I would encourage the government to go down—rapid testing kits. They have been adopted by the EU. COVID certificates adopted in the EU are accepted by 27 EU member states. Twelve other countries, including Switzerland, have accepted rapid testing to identify that 72 hours after the test you still have no COVID symptoms or you are COVID-free.

There are a number of people who will make this decision who cannot get a doctor's certificate to say they are exempt from this. What are we going to do with these people? Will they be on the dole for the rest of their lives? Will they have to change the way they earn their living? That is a question we should be asking. We will get to the point where the big-stick approach will not work anymore and we are going to have to—

A government member interjected.

Mr DAMETTO: Well, if you are going to mandate it, mandate it across the whole state. Don't turn to cafes, bars and police officers to implement your policy; that is what I am saying.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Through the chair.


Mr DAMETTO: Thank you. While I am on my feet, I will raise the issue which is of great importance as well to the Hinchinbrook electorate, which is that of the Port Hinchinbrook scenario which has played out over the last 10 years.

Port Hinchinbrook was ravaged by Cyclone Yasi over 10 years ago and has been in disrepair ever since. We have had great support from both the state and local government—the Cassowary Coast Regional Council—and, along with the funding from the federal government, just over \$12 million in total has been committed to fix some of these problems. It is a great demonstration of three levels of government working together.

The only matter holding progress back at the moment is negotiations, I understand, with the current liquidator or the properties. I would ask the government to do everything in their power to expedite this process to ensure that we stop having the environmental breaches we are having right now where effluent is overflowing from pump stations at Port Hinchinbrook. This just happened on the weekend. I know the Department of Environment and Science has been notified of this. I know that the

Cassowary Coast Regional Council has been notified of this. They have worked tirelessly to help clean this mess up, but it needs to be resolved quickly before more environmental breaches happen to ensure that not only can Port Hinchinbrook rebuild as a development but also the people who reside in Cardwell can have some sort of certainty about their future. Port Hinchinbrook needs to be fixed. I applaud, like I said, all three levels of government working on this, but we need to expedite the process with the liquidator or figure out what we are going to do next.

Bundaberg Electorate

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (2.41 pm): I am very happy to report to the House that next year Bundy will be the home of the Canterbury Bulldogs. That's right, the Doggies and the Cowboys will be doing battle in round 21 on 7 August at the iconic Salter Oval. I reckon on that day we might even call it 'the kennel' because we will be home to the Doggies. How fantastic it will be because it will be the first ever NRL premiership match played in the Wide Bay region and held in the capital of the Wide Bay region, Bundaberg. Sorry, member for Hervey Bay. This is exciting because it is about bringing a stronger economy back to Wide Bay. We will have visitors from all over Wide Bay, from all over Queensland and from interstate, including New South Wales, coming up to watch the Doggies and the Cowboys do battle.

We will also have the eyes of the world on Bundaberg. We know that in North America the American sports channels play the NRL on TV and throughout northern Europe as well. What a fantastic way to celebrate and promote the best regional town in Queensland, in Australia, that is the mighty Bundaberg. Absolutely! We cannot wait to have the Doggies there.

I really want to thank a couple of people. I want to thank Bulldogs board director Andrew Gifford who now calls Bundy home for being a big player in making sure that we get the Doggies here. Aaron Warburton, the CEO, whom I have met with a couple of times via Zoom—we have had some really good meetings—is keen to invest in the Bundaberg region for years to come. I wish to thank, of course, the council as well. Through the efforts of Mayor Jack Dempsey, we have had meetings with the Doggies and brought them here. I also have to say a big thank you to Minister Hinchliffe and his team, however I also have to say a couple of apologies for the 10 months of constant phone calls, knocking on doors and just being a general nuisance. Thank you, Minister, and apologies at the same time, but it is fantastic for the Bundaberg region.

As well as the Doggies, we also have another big win which I am very proud to report to the House. It is a win against MDL 3040 which is a mineral development licence that was threatening prime agricultural land in the Bundaberg region. I am so glad that I was able to stand up with people like Alan Corbett and the Moore Park Action Group with growers such as Geoff Chivers, great advocates such as Tony Russo, Dean Akers and Judy Plath as well. I have seen Judy's comments in the news today saying, 'Our community will continue to fight Fox Resources if they want to push through and challenge.' Absolutely, Judy, I will be standing there with you, you know that, well and truly.

It is a fantastic thing that an entire council can come together. I thank Jason Bartels, while I am at it, and I acknowledge the member for Burnett in making sure that our community was strong and one in pushing this through.

Thank you also to the Minister for Resources, Scott Stewart. It is a big thing for a minister to take on board and listen to what a community has said. We are very strong and determined in this to make sure that prime agricultural land does not turn into a bord-and-pillar coking coalmine. That is absolutely important.


Also, our tourism industry in Bundaberg relies on protecting the pristine image of the Great Barrier Reef and the pristine image of Mon Repos Turtle Centre. This is a fantastic community effort that has delivered a win in the preliminary view that that particular MDL does not meet the public interest of Bundaberg. I really thank the minister for his efforts there.

From 29 October to 7 November in Bundaberg, we had the wonderful Milbi Festival. 'Milbi' is a Gurang word for 'turtle'. Turtles in the Bundaberg region are a huge part of not only our environment but also our economy. It was wonderful to represent Minister Hinchliffe at the closing of the Milbi Festival where we celebrated wonderful Indigenous culture and made strong connections with our First Nations people. The only way that we really heal the wounds of the past is by having a strong connection between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people moving forward. Hats off to the council and all those who were a part of the Milbi Festival in recognising that and helping to carry that forward.

Well done to the Gidarjil Development Corporation as well. The Gidji Cafe is the newest addition to the Mon Repos Turtle Centre, promoting First Nations people into work and also promoting First Nations culture at the turtle centre. We will see 12,000 visitors go through during this turtle season who

will be able to access the Gidji Cafe and 30,000 visitors across the year in general—a fantastic effort. That is a \$490,000 commitment by the Palaszczuk government to the Gidji Cafe with extra money from Gidarjil, bringing it up to a \$700,000 investment. Go, Bundaberg, you can't be stopped!

Queensland Building and Construction Commission, Review

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (2.46 pm): It has finally happened. After relentless pressure from the opposition and the media, the Minister for Public Works has been dragged kicking and screaming and has announced an inquiry into the QBCC. He has finally acknowledged there is something wrong. Although that sounds like a very encouraging move, I have very grave doubts about the inquiry which has been announced. Of course we have not seen any terms of reference.

If the inquiry is not fully independent, if the inquiry does not protect whistleblowers, both past employees and current employees, if the inquiry does not look at conflicts of interest amongst the board, if the inquiry does not look at what interventions the minister or his staff have made with the QBCC, it is a Mickey Mouse inquiry. It is a Clayton's inquiry, an inquiry you have when not having an inquiry.

We have seen this government before with its record of inquiries and seeing that they go nowhere; they are simply about carrying out a process, making it look like something is happening. This is too serious to be treated with that disrespect.

We have already tabled in the parliament what those terms of reference should look like. The minister would be doing himself a favour if he looked up *Hansard*, saw the terms of reference that we have already tabled, and simply tabled the same terms of reference, because it is only if we cover those aspects that I have mentioned that builders and home owners alike will have some sort of confidence that this is an inquiry that will get somewhere.


If honourable members want further evidence of why we need an inquiry, they only need to look at the correspondence that the chairman of the board of the QBCC, Dick Williams, recently sent to his staff. He has obviously realised that they are under siege and felt that he needed to encourage the employees, so he wrote a three-page missive to try to encourage them. The first thing I want to say about this message from Mr Williams is that we are not attacking the employees of the QBCC. Our criticism is of the leadership, the board of the QBCC, the chair and other certain members where there are allegations of conflict of interest, and our attack is on the person who appoints those board members. That is the Minister for Public Works, not the hardworking members of the QBCC who themselves have had enough of the interference, the conflicts of interest and not being able to do their job unhindered.

Look at some of the comments that Mr Williams made to the staff. He said at one time, 'We are fighting with one arm behind our back,' and that is the QBCC. The QBCC are the victims, yet they are the ones saying they are the underdogs with all the resources they have such as increased staff of 40 per cent over the last five years. Their key performance indicator in the 2020-21 financial year: 17 contentious issues received media coverage. That means that 99 per cent of the finalised claims did not end up in the media. So their KPI is not whether they make the right decision but whether or not it gets in the media. What sort of KPI is that?

The other thing he said which is of grave concern is, 'As we have seen in the media, unfortunately, a small cohort of disgruntled former employees of this organisation have been making public statements.' These are the brave, hardworking former members of the QBCC who in the end said, 'We aren't taking this anymore. We are not going to accept this board interference or these conflicts of interest. We're not going to be instructed to sack staff who do not deserve to be sacked.' They are not going to carry out those things that were simply unjust. He then encouraged people to use the internal channels to appropriately look at these allegations. That is the problem: Caesar judging Caesar.

This inquiry is essential. There is no use having an inquiry unless it is suitably equipped. A commission of inquiry, a judicial commission of inquiry, is the only option that will ensure this is a fair dinkum review.

Health System; National Asbestos Awareness Week; Movember; Comments by Member for Bancroft, Withdrawal and Apology

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (2.52 pm): I stand today to talk about how the Palaszczuk government is transforming our health system in Queensland. We are rebuilding hospitals, we are building new ones, we are building a strong system by employing more Queenslanders to deliver health services and we are building new and better ways to meet the needs of a growing Queensland population.

An important anchor for building and rebuilding a better health system is the infrastructure. The Palaszczuk government continues that fine Labor tradition of transformative investment in the physical part of our system. We are delivering around \$1 billion annual program of works made up of new and sustaining built infrastructure, technology, equipment renewal, programs and projects. That includes over 500 projects and programs underway across the state at any time.

There is another building initiative that shows our dedication to a better health system. The 2021 budget established a \$2 billion Hospital Building Fund to ease growth pressures across the health system. I am especially proud of the seven satellite hospitals that we will build. These are masterful and wonderful innovations. They include ones at Pine Rivers, Caboolture and Bribie Island in my area. They will increase the capacity in our health and take pressure off other parts of our health system.

Other examples of innovative building projects that will help deliver a modern service include the Gold Coast mental health project of \$105 million, an energy efficiency program worth \$30 million, and a rebuild of the Caboolture emergency department—love that one—will double its capacity. We are not just building new infrastructure and building new programs for a modern Queensland health system; we are investing in the Queenslanders who will deliver the health care and health services needed by Queenslanders. Queensland Health staffing is projected to increase by over 2,300 between June 2021 and 30 June 2022. The LNP may whinge and whine continuously about how the health system is going, but they can never match our record in building and rebuilding our health system.

There are two other health related issues I would like to speak about. National Asbestos Awareness Week is 22 to 28 November. I want to commend the work of the Asbestos Disease Support Society. Asbestos related diseases are not a thing of the past. This year the society supported 65 people who passed away from asbestos related diseases. It is estimated that some 4,000 Australians die each year from exposure to asbestos, and that is double the annual national road toll. These people did nothing more than turn up to work to make a living or simply wash the clothes of a family member who worked with asbestos. The message from me and the asbestos society is that Queenslanders need to take so much more care around asbestos. It is in all homes built before 1990; it is in one in three Queensland homes. There is no safe level of exposure to asbestos fibres and they are 200 times smaller than a human hair. This week the lights at Parliament House will be lit in the colours of the society—blue and white—in recognition of asbestos week. Ribbons will also be distributed for members to wear on Thursday.

I am also asking everyone here to support my fundraising effort for Movember. Movember is the leading charity in the areas of men's health and I am focusing on mental health and suicide prevention. I am fundraising as a tribute to my late mate Finn Dahlerup Scott. We worked together for many years and cycled together for many years. He worked in Mates in Construction and he had special expertise in talking to men about suicide prevention. I have a link on my Facebook page, so please make a difference and make a contribution—or the moustache stays!

During my contribution to the private member's motion on Wednesday, 13 October 2021 I made a statement asserting that several members of this House did not accept the science of COVID vaccinations and were not pushing for vaccinations. I am now aware that the said members have posted on social media and communicated in other forums their support for COVID-19 vaccinations. Accordingly, I wish to correct the record and withdraw my statement of 13 October. I also wish to apologise unreservedly to the House and specifically to each of the members whom I identified in my contribution: the members for Surfers Paradise, Burleigh, Currumbin, Mermaid Beach, Southport, Kawana, Maroochydore, Glass House and Mudgeraba.

QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 3495, on motion of Ms Grace—

That the bill be now read a second time.



Mr BOOTHMAN (Theodore—LNP) (2.57 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Queensland University of Technology Amendment Bill 2021. From the outset I would like to thank my fellow committee members and all those individuals who made submissions to the inquiry, which was a total of three. The bill is quite straightforward. There were two recommendations. Of those recommendations I am pleased that the minister has said the government is going to accept the second recommendation, which we felt was pretty important to look into. That recommendation was—

The committee recommends that the Minister amends the Bill to clarify that an elected academic staff member or an elected professional staff member of the QUT Council who ceases to be a member under new sections 77 and 78 of the Bill continues to be eligible to fill a casual vacancy under section 20A ...


We thank the minister for listening to the concerns of the committee. As I said, it is a pretty straightforward bill. It reduces the number of members on the QUT Council, which currently has 22 comprising three official members—the chancellor, the vice-chancellor and chairperson. The former one appointed eight members, nine elected members et cetera. The new legislation decreases the number to 15. I found it quite interesting that the chancellor would be considered an external member.

One thing I am concerned about when it comes to the university sector is the loss of international students. That is a major issue for all universities and certainly for the Gold Coast. International education is a multibillion dollar industry for the Gold Coast in that people come here and contribute to the local economy. All layers of government need to focus on getting those students to come back. I know there are a lot of students coming from overseas—from Japan, China, India and even Colombia. It appears there are new markets for students from those areas. Getting international students back will certainly help the Gold Coast economy. My wife was a student when she first came to Australia. She loved it so much that she never left.

Mr Perrett: It must have been you!

Mr BOOTHMAN: I would not say that! I do not think it was me.

The good thing about this bill is that in the long run it will create efficiencies in the governance processes of the university. One of the submitters—the union—did speak against the changes. Having said that, though, the changes will create a layer of efficiency in the running of the university. The university put out information on the proposed changes over a period of two years. Some 65,000 emails were sent out seeking input. While there was only a very small amount of input from people in the university, I think the university adequately asked for input and people's opinions. In spite of the concerns outlined by the union, the university was very proactive in getting people's opinions. This bill is uneventful, but it will have deep ramifications for QUT going forward.

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (3.02 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Queensland University of Technology Amendment Bill 2021. I would like to start by acknowledging and thanking the minister for her good work on this bill. I would like to thank the committee and all of the submitters for the work they have done in relation to this bill.

At the core of this bill is the improvement of governance for universities. Anybody who has done the AICD company directors course, been on a management committee or been a director knows that good governance is a key to success and that getting governance right will mean that your organisation is ultimately very successful. Its importance was probably highlighted during the Financial Services Royal Commission. The commission identified governance issues as the key causes for many of the problems that were occurring in that sector. Average people in the street losing their money, dead people being charged fees and all of the other terrible things we saw happening started with a lack of attention to governance. That is what this bill is really about.

This bill is about trying to ensure that universities, particularly QUT but all universities, have good governance. They are incredibly complex organisations—organisations at their core around research and teaching. It is phenomenal how many different activities the modern university is involved with. In fact, tomorrow morning the partnership of the three great universities in our city will be here talking about future energy. That demonstrates the expanse and the reach of universities. Without good governance, those complex institutions would find themselves flapping around in the breeze and unable to achieve their missions. I put on record that I am in the process of applying for a higher degree by research at QUT, but it does not create a conflict of interest on this bill so I will continue with my contribution.

The electorate of Greenslopes is blessed with close proximity to QUT and UQ, and in fact we are the gateway to Griffith. Many people choose to make the electorate of Greenslopes their home, whether they are working or studying at those institutions. Of course, the great public transport that is available, which is only going to get better with Cross River Rail, and the improvements we are seeing on the veloway only make those universities closer and more accessible.

What this bill demonstrates, in my opinion, is the commitment of the Palaszczuk Labor government to the tertiary education sector. It is a commitment that was once again demonstrated last year, when the Palaszczuk Labor government picked up the slack in terms of supporting the tertiary education sector. Like many other people, they were smashed by the pandemic and the impacts of border closures and abandoned by the federal government. We estimated that there were approximately 45,000 jobs lost across the sector. As I was standing on doorsteps or at bus stops or attending community events, because of the many people who choose to live in the electorate of

Greenslopes and work at those institutions I met many people who had been affected in that way. They were very appreciative of the support given by the Palaszczuk Labor government. Even though it is not the responsibility of our level of government, we are going to be there to support all Queenslanders.

It is exactly these sorts of challenges—the job losses—that require the sort of good governance that this bill will deliver. As I said, I met so many people who were appreciative of the support of the Palaszczuk government—I note the minister nodding her head—but they were confused as to why, on three separate occasions, universities were specifically excluded from JobKeeper payments. I know that they were really unhappy that those opposite sat silently by while this happened.


COVID has absolutely decimated international education, and QUT will need really strong governance to navigate its way out of this situation. I have seen estimates—I believe they are reasonably accurate—that the total contribution of international education to the Australian economy is somewhere in the vicinity of \$48 billion. It is absolutely massive. We have arrived there because over 30 years or more federal governments of all persuasions have encouraged international education, not just as a source of revenue. We get so much more out of having international students come here and sending our young people overseas. The reality is that it is a major contributor to our economy.

Over 2020 and 2021, universities directly lost nearly \$4 billion. The Morrison government's response to that loss of \$4 billion over the last two years was to put up a package of around \$53 million. This only adds to the insult of the \$3.5 billion that has been stripped from the sector since the LNP was elected federally. When you are facing these sorts of challenges—massive losses in revenue as well as your funding body stripping funds away from you—you need really strong governance practices to move forward.

Our state has felt the significant benefits of international education and we are now feeling the pain. As you drive out of my electorate and you go through the roundabout at O'Keefe Street, you will pass student accommodation—quite significant towers. In 2019 the lights were all on. It is really sad to drive by now and see one entire building and about 50 per cent of the other building in darkness. If you want to see an image of the impact of the loss of international students, there it is right in front of your eyes. That has knock-on effects to the businesses in Stones Corner and Coorparoo and further afield, in Buranda and those sorts of areas. It is making it hard for those local employers to find employees as well, because the international students were such a significant contributor when it came to jobs in many industries.

To reverse and get back from that, we need strong and strategic leadership in universities that is only available as a result of the good governance that this bill provides. Anyone involved in this sector knows that universities have invested heavily in attracting students, supporting them while studying and helping them to move back into the workforce. It is no accident that we have international students in such numbers providing such a contribution. Universities have invested heavily in this area.

Sadly, part of those \$3.5 billion worth of cuts that the federal LNP implemented was cutting the Office of Teaching and Learning. This office was driving strategic improvements in teaching quality and ensured that we were competitive on a global field. It is not just enough to have the borders open; students have to want to come here and see the benefit of coming here, and we were able to deliver that. Clearly good governance is absolutely crucial in getting international students back here but, sadly, the federal LNP does not care about this sector and its counterparts here continue to be silent, saying nothing. It is very important that we have really strong local institutions like the Queensland University of Technology having the best possible governance and strategic leadership. That is why I support this bill and would encourage all members to do the same.

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (3.10 pm): I rise to speak on the Queensland University of Technology Amendment Bill 2021. According to the briefing paper and the explanatory notes, the bill's main objectives are to, firstly, reduce the size of the QUT Council from 22 members to 15 members and, secondly, to reduce the number of elected members on the council and replace them with external members who are appointed, not elected. Under the original 1998 act, the QUT Council is invested with significant power over all of the university's affairs, finances and property. That makes it an extremely powerful body with decision-making powers across everything—from where the university sources its funding to how it directs its research activities to which staff it hires and what policies it adopts. The council should therefore be run in a way that maintains public trust, preserves the independence of its research work, advances the cause of academic freedom and avoids conflicts of interest. To achieve this, the composition of the council should be diverse, independent, accountable and transparent.

This bill does nothing in terms of achieving any of these goals. Instead, its provisions will only serve to diminish them, particularly the important principles of independence, accountability and transparency. It represents yet another redistribution of power away from accountable representation

towards unaccountable appointments from government and industry. According to QUT management, the additional external membership will give the university the 'opportunity to bring in the kind of expertise that we may not have achieved through the elected representatives'.

On this theme, specific reference is made in the bill's associated documentation to the need for members with commercial or industry experience, particularly in the area of research and development. In other words, the new external members that the bill provides for are to be drawn from vested interests within the private sector, including large transnational corporations and wealthy foundations. Similar legislation has already passed in relation to Griffith and James Cook universities which has greatly reduced the ability of elected staff and students to have a say on any of the issues affecting their own institution or critical decisions involving finance, research, ethics, teaching and staffing. The NTEU, which submitted a dissenting submission, emphasised the vital importance of—

... well-established international principles that assert higher education staff have a right and a professional responsibility to engage in the governance of their institutions.

UNESCO's recommendation concerning the status of higher education teaching also states—

Higher education teaching personnel should have the right and opportunity, without discrimination of any kind, according to their abilities, to take part in the governing bodies and to criticise the functioning of higher education institutions, including their own, while respecting the right of other sections of the academic community to participate, and they should also have the right to elect a majority of representatives to academic bodies within the higher education institutions.

The bill is a clear breach of those principles. Everything about this bill reflects the prevailing belief of today's leaders that every single governing body in the country must be brought under the direct control of a tiny group of elite technocrats and so-called public-private partnerships. As far as I am concerned, such partnerships are not only deeply undemocratic and secretive; they represent a very real danger for widespread and systemic corruption and collusion in this country. That is why I find the bill's reduction of the council's elected representation extremely concerning. It follows the same relentless drive we are seeing across the political spectrum to eliminate all forms of democratic or accountable representation from positions of power or influence in Australia. If left unchecked, it will end with all power and all authority being exercised by a tiny group of interconnected elites operating completely outside any established principle of participatory or representative democracy.

Appointed external members are accountable to no-one but themselves, their own group interests and those of their government or corporate sponsors. It is a system with no place for the individual citizen or elected representative and contains no mechanism through which leadership can be made responsive to the rights and needs of those they govern. I am amazed that no-one in politics today seems to appreciate just how dangerous this form of governance is to our democratic values and traditions. I may not have much expertise or inside knowledge on the workings of universities, but I know a power grab when I see one, and I definitely see one in this bill.

My other major concern with this bill specifically relates to its unintended consequences and the potential for conflicts of interest to operate in any future decision-making, policies and research activities at QUT. Page 3 of the NTEU's submission states—

Official members of university councils in other state jurisdictions have on occasion committed (or have been alleged to commit) serious offences and breaches of trust against their institutions ...

NTEU cites two such cases, one involving the Murdoch University vice-chancellor who resigned in 2016 amidst corruption charges and the recent allegations against another chancellor arising from certain third-party arrangements he enjoyed with the internet giant Seek Ltd. Conflicts of interest are the big elephant in the room when it comes to our universities today, particularly in the realm of medical research and the highly politicised area of climate change. I know that in the reef regions public trust in the independence of some of the research universities are putting out has been pretty much smashed over the last 10 years. People are not stupid and know what massive conflicts of interest are created when wealthy environmental foundations and others pour billions into a field of research with an outcome that would seem to be predetermined.

Trust is indispensable, especially in the area of clinical research and climate data, and right now that trust is probably lower than it has ever been in this country. It is high time that governments paid attention to the problem, because it is a serious one. Currently, all the legal and ethical frameworks around conflicts of interest are directed towards the individual. I could find almost nothing on the issue at the institutional or government department level. The media also maintain their focus at the level of the individual, with politicians being the easy target for news and stories done on the subject.


Ms KING: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I question whether the current content is of relevance to the long title of the bill.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Gerber): Member for Mirani, I have been listening and there is some latitude in the long title of the bill. I will let you continue to see if you can come back to the long title of the bill when you are making your point.

Mr ANDREW: Okay. The fact is that university councils make decisions and judgements all of the time that impact government decision-making and policy. They also play a major role in forming public opinion across a wide variety of issues. We need to recognise that they are just as financially invested or compromised by profitable partnerships as any politician or minister in government. Since Howard's corporatisation reforms in 2005, universities are now multibillion-dollar corporations. All enjoy highly profitable and cosy relationships within governments and many international entities, and donors fund much of their work. When any of our public leaders talk about universities, it is hardly ever about their vital role as educators. That has all gone. Now it is all about their role as innovators or entrepreneurs and taking their ideas from the lab to the market.

The Australian health minister gave a speech earlier this year in which he spoke about the role universities will play in the new normal world being rolled out between now and 2030. Instead of encouraging universities to improve their standards and access, the minister spoke only of commercialisation and the need for universities to become even more closely involved in government policy making. Not only is university research becoming more commercialised; now it is further co-opted into the political process and can be openly used sometimes as a political weapon.

The current bill represents another troubling step along this road. As the National Tertiary Education Union pointed out, many reports over the years have raised the issue of conflicts of interest and the potential for universities to become controlled entities of government policy. This challenges my view on the whole subject of this bill and I find there are some inadequacies.

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (3.19 pm): I rise this afternoon to speak in support of the Queensland University of Technology Amendment Bill 2021. Reflecting on the previous member's contribution in this place, I say with respect that if you do not have much experience in the inner workings of university then perhaps limit your contribution or perhaps enrol in a degree.

The Queensland University of Technology Amendment Bill 2021 is about the governance of a university. The member for Mirani spent most of his contribution criticising the governance of one of Queensland's largest universities. I would suggest that there are ways in which you can find out more about the inner workings of universities. Having said that, it is the first time I have heard a member from One Nation speak so passionately—well, one might not say passionately—in support of universities particularly given the partnership that they have had with the federal LNP at a federal level in our federal parliament to cut university funding. Perhaps a good place to start would be to look at university funding and the way in which deals have been done at a federal level which result in less funding and more expensive university costs for students across Queensland.

The member outlined what he considers are the policy objectives for this bill, though the explanatory notes make it very clear that the policy objectives of this bill are to implement governance reforms for Queensland University of Technology and to enable an appropriate balance between the number of members and a mix of necessary skills and expertise required for effective governance on the QUT Council.

I rise today proudly as a former member of the QUT Council. Whilst I have sought advice and am not required to declare that today, I think it is important that I was very proud to serve as a member of the QUT Council over several years and to observe the governance structures that are in place in one of Queensland's largest universities. We know our Queensland public universities are statutory bodies and they are each established by a relevant act, collectively the universities acts. The overall management of public universities is the responsibility of their governing body and the composition of the respective governing bodies is prescribed under their relevant university act.

I pay tribute to the members of the QUT Council: Dr Xiaoling Liu, the chancellor and chair of the QUT Council; Professor Margaret Sheil AO, the vice chancellor and president of QUT; Professor Nic Smith, the chair of the University Academic Board; members appointed by the Governor in Council Mr Mick Gooda, Mr Peter Howes, Mr Paul Lindstrom, Mr Dominic McGann, Mrs Jenny Parker, Dr Susan Pond AM, Ms Susan Rix AM and Mrs Karen Spiller OAM; the elected academic staff members, Associate Professor Yvette Miller, Dr David Nielsen and Associate Professor Eric Waclawik; the elected professional staff members, Mr Graham Dawson, Mrs Dianne Nilsson; and the elected student members, Ms Olivia Brumm and Mr Chris Drayton-Dekker.

QUT is a wonderful university and I was very proud to study there. I was excited to see a number of amazing innovations and awards presented to the university over the last couple of weeks, including for something that is quite important in my region. QUT's work involving scientists from QUT and the

Australian Institute of Marine Sciences has actually found that damaged coral reefs show slower than expected recovery for up to six years before switching to a faster phase of regrowth. This kind of research is really innovative and very much leading the way to help save our Great Barrier Reef. This two-phase pattern was observed in 60 per cent of severely disturbed reefs on the Great Barrier Reef, and it is amazing that this kind of research is coming right out of a university just down the road from this place.


I was also really pleased to see that a new QUT program for young aspiring high school students will see eight academics paired up with eight students in a mentoring immersion project. The partnership is between Mabel Park State High School and the School of Mechanical, Medical and Process Engineering in QUT's Faculty of Engineering. It kicked off in September and it is the first of its kind for QUT. The program aims to address the lack of gender equity and social diversity that exists in STEM focused careers and engages female high school students from diverse cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds.

The Queensland University of Technology requires a governance structure with a council that can oversee the university and the work that it is doing to make sure that it is steered in the right direction. I know that over the years the QUT Council has played an important role in helping steer this university into the university that it is today—a university for the real world and a university that is making a big difference to the lives of Queenslanders and, indeed, through their research, people right across the globe.

The composition of the council is defined in part 2 of the QUT Act with four categories of members. Official members are members of the council due to their position at QUT. The council's official members are QUT's chancellor, vice-chancellor and chairperson of the academic committee. Appointed members are appointed by the Governor in Council for a term of not more than four years. Elected members are elected pursuant to the QUT Act. Persons are eligible for election to the council if they are members of QUT's academic or professional staff or if they are QUT students or alumni. Academic and professional staff and alumni elected to the council hold office for four years. Students elected to the council hold office for two years, and additional members are appointed by the council for a term of not more than four years and must not be a QUT student or a member of QUT's academic or professional staff.

Over the years the council has attracted a diverse array of people with all sorts of skills and from all sorts of backgrounds. That diversity in skills and experience really helps make for a strong QUT Council that, as I said, helps steer that ship into the future. The bill achieves the policy objectives by reducing the size of the council from 22 to 15 members and providing for changes in the composition of the council as follows: three Governor in Council appointed members, reduced from eight; five elected members, reduced from nine, including two members of the academic staff of QUT, reduced from three; one member of the professional staff of QUT, reduced from two; no elected QUT alumni members, reduced from two; and four additional members, increased from two. The bill also introduces requirements to assist with the balance of representation on the council: that at least two additional members are alumni of QUT and of the two elected student members, one is to be an undergraduate student and one is to be a postgraduate student.

I thank the members of the Education, Employment and Training Committee who oversaw this bill through the committee process, in particular the chair of the committee, the member for Redlands. I thank them for their work in consulting and seeing this bill through to the second reading debate here in the parliament. I am very pleased to see the QUT Council progress. This bill helps align the QUT Council with other universities in this state. I am looking forward to seeing how QUT progresses into the future as one of the largest universities in Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (3.27 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Queensland University of Technology Amendment Bill. I would like to thank the Education, Employment and Training Committee for its consideration of the bill and also for its report. I acknowledge that there were three submissions on the bill: from Griffith University, the National Tertiary Education Union—Queensland Division and also the Queensland University of Technology Chancellery Division.

QUT was founded in 1989 and it has up to 50,000 students. QUT offers academic programs in fields spanning business, creative industries, education, engineering, health, law, science and social justice across five faculties. It does not take very long when you are out in the professional world to find people who have actually studied at QUT. I know that they are very highly regarded graduates. It has been a huge undertaking for the university during COVID to continue learning and teaching and working with very different delivery models of higher education.

I have no doubt that the challenges during COVID had an impact. We are right next door to QUT and often we see the students streaming down to their lectures. It has been disappointing to see that students were unable to participate in university life during COVID. The council did a very good job during that challenge. QUT did well to ensure that they continued to deliver higher education during that very challenging time and also the subsequent lockdowns that have occurred in the south-east corner. It was a very new model of delivery for higher education for many universities not only right across Queensland but also across our country in the face of the challenge of COVID.


I know many university students. At that time quite a lot of their parents would ring me to tell me that they were very worried that it would take longer for their children to complete their degrees. The students worked very hard to get through their work in a very different environment. The changes to the delivery model have made the students much stronger and more adaptable. I hope that the COVID experience has set them in very good stead for later in their careers.

QUT is one of Australia's major universities. It has a global reputation for a real-world focus. The *Times Higher Education* 2020 ranked QUT in the top 180 universities in the world and the best young university in Australia. I think that is a real credit to QUT.

The policy objectives of the bill are to implement governance reforms for QUT to enable an appropriate balance between the number of members and the mix of necessary skills and expertise required for effective governance by the QUT Council. The LNP supports the bill, as outlined by the shadow minister for education and member for Moggill. The bill proposes to reduce the size of the QUT Council from 22 to 15 members and to change its composition.

Some concerns were raised in the submission of the National Tertiary Education Union. The NTEU rejected the proposal in the bill, which is quite an interesting view. They stated that the bill represents the preferences of the QUT management and does not have broad community support. They drew that information from the response numbers during the consultation process, which they said were low. The NTEU claimed that the consultation process fell well short on the following basis: there were three rounds of nearly 65,000 emails distributed, providing an opportunity for feedback, but only 11 responses were received. They also said that, while opportunity for feedback from the community was provided, the uptake was low. The NTEU stated that they believe that the current council serves the community well and responded to the COVID-19 crisis effectively and that there was no evidential case to reduce the numbers on the council. In response to those concerns, QUT noted that the 22 member council is one of the largest governing bodies in Queensland's public universities. It is proposed that the model will align QUT with other modern university councils and we see that those universities are functioning well.

I commend QUT for providing higher education to the many students who have passed through the university and for their ongoing commitment to higher education. I invite QUT students and graduates to consider job opportunities in regional Queensland and regional Australia. Their skills and their education levels are very highly regarded in the regions. I ask them to consider particularly the south-west region. We would dearly love more QUT graduates. We have good jobs for them. They can have very successful careers in the region. I encourage them to consider job opportunities in the regions.

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (3.33 pm): I rise to make my contribution to the Queensland University of Technology Amendment Bill 2021. Whilst I am not a graduate of the Queensland University of Technology, as are many of my teaching colleagues, I am a proud educator with 24 years experience as both a teacher and school administrator and I am committed to lifelong learning as evidenced by my tertiary education at the University of Queensland, the University of Newcastle and Harvard University, Boston, USA.

The importance of strong leadership and a solid vision driven by our university councils is vital to ensuring student achievement as well as both state and national prosperity. Strong university councils achieve objectives and outcomes that benefit all stakeholders within the tertiary education community. Our new global environment, impacted by the pandemic, requires a swift adaptability and flexibility from leaders to provide effective governance, including from tertiary education councils.

The objectives of the University of Queensland Technology Amendment Bill 2021 are to implement governance reforms for the Queensland University of Technology to reduce the size of the QUT Council from 22 to 15 members and to enable an appropriate balance between the number of members and the mix of necessary skills and expertise required for effective governance by the council.

Queensland has seven public universities, each established under their own act, collectively referred to as the university acts. Under the university acts each university is governed by a governing body. Queensland public universities are primarily funded by the Australian government, albeit not to

the extent that they should be funded. It is well accepted that the LNP federal government does not acknowledge the contribution of research to the future prosperity of the country, unlike countries such as Singapore, Finland and other Scandinavian countries where governments value the investment in minds in the absence of natural resources.

As I mentioned, Queensland's public universities are primarily funded by the federal government and the Queensland government does not provide recurrent funding to universities, neither public nor private. However, various Queensland departments may provide one-off non-recurrent funding to universities through targeted programs or research. Public universities also derive income from non-government sources, including from student contributions, endowments, industry investments, bequests and donations.

QUT is a statutory body established under the Queensland University of Technology Act 1998. The QUT Act establishes the council as QUT's governing body and gives it overall responsibility to ensure the sound and effective governance of QUT. The QUT Act confers powers on the council to appoint QUT staff, manage and control QUT's affairs and property, and manage and control QUT's finances. Under the QUT Act, the composition of the council is 22 members, made up of four categories: official, appointed, elected and additional.

Following consultation with its university community stakeholders, QUT proposed reforms to its council and provided a new governance model for the changed composition that is similar to the current governance structure of the James Cook University Council, which followed a similar process to determine its size and structure. The QUT model has a prescribed number of members and set numbers in each member category, while the JCU model determines membership numbers by council resolution, which may change, and prescribed percentages of member categories. QUT's 22-member council is one of the largest governing bodies of Queensland's public universities. The proposed reduction in size is intended to allow the council to be more flexible and responsive in its operations and is in line with Universities Australia's voluntary code of best practice for the governance of Australian universities, which states that a university governing body should desirably have no more than 15 members.

The bill amends the QUT Act to streamline the QUT's governance by reducing the size of the council from 22 to 15 members. The bill makes no changes to the numbers of elected student members or official members, but provides for changed numbers in other member categories as follows: three GiC appointed members; five elected members including two members of the academic staff of QUT, reduced from three, and one member of the professional staff of QUT, but no elected QUT alumni members; and four additional members.

The bill also introduces requirements to assist the balance of representation upon the council including at least two additional members being alumni of QUT, which ensures representation of the QUT community given the removal of the QUT alumni class from the elected member category. Of the two elected student members, one is to be an undergraduate student and one a postgraduate student. Changing the requirement in the elected student class is considered by the council as pertinent having regard to QUT's objects in research and is consistent with current arrangements for other Queensland universities, for example, sections 15(2)(d) and (e) of the University of Queensland Act 1998.

The bill makes consequential amendments to the QUT Act on matters relating to the proper constitution of the council and the removal of a member from office as a result of reducing the size of the council. The bill includes transitional arrangements to enable an ordered and timely transition from the current structure to the proposed new council membership, with as few additional processes and as little disruption to the council as possible. The bill also makes minor editorial amendments consistent with drafting best practice.

In relation to gender parity, it is the view of the QUT Council that reducing its membership and changing the composition will achieve a well-balanced membership in terms of skills, experience, gender and diversity. It will facilitate efficient and effective governance, enable faster decision-making and improve the effectiveness of council meetings and operations while maintaining QUT's key public sector responsibilities. The bill will not impact the government's gender parity targets. Gender parity will remain a matter of importance on the council composition, as we would expect it to as the university council.

In making nominations for appointment by the Governor in Council, the minister takes into consideration the expertise and skills of proposed nominees and of factors relating to the overall skills mix including the government's policy on gender parity on government bodies. The council is also asked to consider gender parity when recommending suitably qualified persons for the minister's

consideration of nomination for appointment by the Governor in Council. I commend the work of the Minister for Education, her department, the chair of the committee and all committee members. I commend this bill to the House.



Mr LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (3.41 pm): What a pleasure it is to rise and speak about QUT, as it is now. Of course, when I was at the University of Queensland doing dentistry my sister was at QIT, as it was—the institute of technology—where she did a bachelor of business, majoring in communications, and then became the editor of the student newspaper. It was called the *Planet*. I think she used to get me to do a few film reviews every now and then, which of course I was happy—

An honourable member: Was she a radical, then?

Mr LANGBROEK: Yes, she is a leftie. She is a chardonnay socialist, still doing it on *The Project* now—good old Kate. Anyway, for a couple of free movie tickets I got to be the reviewer at the *Planet*. I also have great memories of going to what were called 'joint efforts', which were held in the canteen at QIT, as it was, where I remember seeing the forerunner band to Icehouse, Iva Davies' Flowers; Stephen Cummings; and The Sports and the great song *Who Listens to the Radio*. Anyway, my sister Kate Langbroek subsequently completed her bachelor of business in communications and—

Mr O'Connor: Relevance to this century, please.

Mr LANGBROEK: Yes, and subsequently became a tutor as well as being the editor of the paper. I think that qualifies her to become a student of the year alumnus for QUT. I encourage Vice-Chancellor Margaret Sheil to consider that in the future. I also refer to the fact that my son completed his last law exam today.

Mr O'Connor: The prince.

Mr LANGBROEK: The prince had his last law exam today. Let us presume he does not fail it, putting in danger his graduate position for next year.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr LANGBROEK: And of course, the daughter of Deb Frecklington, the member for Nanango, has made the dean's list. Well done, Elke. QUT, educating young Queenslanders: isn't that wonderful? One of my daughters, Bronte, also attended QUT for a while. Along with UQ, Griffith University, Australian Catholic University and the seven publicly funded universities it has certainly done a lot to educate Queenslanders over the past century. It is wonderful to see that it is continuing to do that.

I am proud to see that connection of QUT and how far it has come including, under former vice-chancellor Peter Coaldrake, the rejuvenation of the original Government House. It should be acknowledged that that was done with significant funding when Rob Swarten was the minister. Members who are interested in the history of early Brisbane may know that that was the first University of Queensland site. There is a lot of history there. When we were wandering around those refecs in the 1980s, we had no idea what that old building was. I certainly did not. To see how it has been restored is wonderful.

The LNP does not oppose the Queensland University of Technology Amendment Bill. The bill amends the 1988 act. I thank the Education, Employment and Training Committee for its consideration of the bill. The objectives are to implement governance reforms for QUT and to enable an appropriate balance between the number of members and a mix of necessary skills and expertise required for effective governance on the QUT Council.

As the Minister for Education noted in her introductory speech, the reform of the QUT Council commenced in 2017 with the passage of the University Legislation Amendment Act 2017, which, among other things, made changes to the governance structure of the James Cook University Council. At that time, other public universities were invited by the government to consider the implementation of a similar model. QUT was one such university which, following consultation with its wider university community, proposed reforms to change the composition and governance structure of its council.

As we have heard from other members, the bill proposes to reduce the size of the QUT Council from 22 to 15 members, with the following changes to its composition: three official members, being the chancellor, the vice-chancellor and the chairperson of the academic committee—no changes; three members appointed by the Governor in Council, reduced from eight; five elected members, reduced from nine, comprised of two members of the academic staff, one member of the professional staff, one undergraduate student and one postgraduate student; and four additional members, increased from two, at least two of whom must be alumni of QUT. The bill also establishes transitional arrangements from the current composition to the new QUT Council membership.

The Education, Employment and Training Committee, whose report recommends in favour of the bill, unanimously recommended that the bill be amended to clarify the eligibility of elected members to be appointed should there be a casual vacancy. The recommendation reads—


... that the Minister amends the Bill to clarify that an elected academic staff member or an elected professional staff member of the QUT Council who ceases to be a member under new sections 77 and 78 of the Bill continues to be eligible to fill a casual vacancy under section 20A of the *Queensland University of Technology Act 1998*, during the current QUT Council term.

There were three submissions made to this bill, two which supported it and one which rejected it. QUT submitted its support for the bill via QUT's Professor Margaret Sheil AO, vice-chancellor and president, who I note was here at the Governor's swearing-in a couple of weeks ago along with Carolyn Evans from Griffith University and Deborah Terry from the University of Queensland. It was good to see them here. Support for the bill from QUT came also from Ms Leanne Harvey, vice-president of administration and university registrar, who maintained that the new QUT Council model will achieve a well-balanced membership in terms of skills, experience, gender and diversity, facilitate efficient and effective governance, enable faster decision-making and improve the effectiveness of council meetings and operations whilst maintaining the university's key public sector responsibilities. Griffith University also submitted its support for the bill via Professor Carolyn Evans, vice-chancellor and president, who asserted that the reduction in council members from 22 to 15 more closely aligns QUT Council with other modern university councils.

We have heard from the member for Warrego in her contribution about the National Tertiary Education Union submission, which rejects the bill, citing concerns as to the consultation process. QUT outlined that its consultation process included three rounds with nearly 65,000 emails distributed. While it would appear the opportunity for feedback from the community was provided, the uptake was low with only 11 written responses received. As such, the National Tertiary Education Union views the bill as representative of the preferences of QUT management, with no broad community support.

QUT notes that its 22-member council is one of the largest governing bodies amongst Queensland's public universities. The proposed model, which complies with the parameters put forward by the state government in relation to numbers and composition of elected members, is in line with Universities Australia's voluntary code of best practice for the governance of Australian universities.

QUT has done a remarkable job in responding to the challenges of COVID-19 to continue learning, teaching and working through such difficult and uncertain times. I know, though, that my son found it very challenging, having enjoyed the onsite interaction. I know that he will be glad not just to have finished his exams but also to have completed his degree in the more traditional way now that COVID-19 is hopefully nearly behind us. If a contemporary governance structure allows QUT a more seamless way of operating in an increasingly competitive and ever-changing environment then the proposed reforms in this bill are both timely and necessary.

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (3.49 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Queensland University of Technology Amendment Bill 2021. The bill amends the University of Technology Amendment Act 1998. I started at QUT in 1999. Back then in the science blocks—N block and Q block—I looked over level 7 of the Annexe and the swimming pool that was never used by parliamentarians. While I was doing my pracs I would wonder why there was a swimming pool there. I never thought that I would actually be in this place debating a bill about QUT. I found out later the pool was cold and leaked into the library. It was removed as part of the recent upgrades to the Annexe.

QUT was a fantastic university. I note that in those days student politics was rough and ready, particularly when it came to the member for Waterford. She scared me away from QUT politics back in the day and I did not come back to politics until my last year when I joined Young Labor.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr BROWN: I would not say a bully; I would say an enforcer. I had such a great time at QUT that I went back for a second time and did law. I noticed that a fair few things had changed at QUT in that time. The QUT rec bar had completely disappeared.

Ms Fentiman: Such a shame.

Mr BROWN: It was such a shame. It was a great place.

Ms Fentiman: It was a dive bar before dive bars were cool.


Mr BROWN: I will take the interjection from the member for Waterford. Plenty of my hard-earned dollars from working in nightclubs were spent in the refectory enjoying the delights of the university experience.

When I went back for the second time to do my law degree one of my first tutors and someone who made me enjoy my first experience of law was the Clerk of the Parliament, Neil Laurie. For night-time classes during sitting weeks he had to have someone fill in for him. He gave me a great experience and exposure to law, which I am appreciative of to this day.

This bill reduces the number of members on the council. The bill ensures that the council is streamlined and efficient, especially in these trying times for the university sector. This is a sector that has been hit hard by COVID-19. I understand the need for this legislation. It provides the council with the ability to be streamlined and work in an effective manner to adapt to the ever-changing landscape.

We want to ensure that when COVID-19 is over, international students come back and on-campus experiences like the ones I enjoyed at QUT are back in full force the council has the ability to make decisions in a fast and effective way. We do not want to take away the opinions of the students in particular. Despite the reduced numbers on the council, the new arrangements provide for an increase in student votes of four per cent. I welcome that. It is important that the students as well as the academic staff at QUT have a voice in how education is delivered, particularly at a time when we have seen major changes to education delivery due to COVID-19. We have seen at-home learning and less on-campus learning. They can have a voice on the return to on-campus studies that will come in the future.

I congratulate the minister on bringing this bill forward. I congratulate the committee on the work it has done in formulating its report on this bill, and particularly the chair of the committee, the member for Redlands. They have ensured that everyone has had a say on this bill, particularly the student union and the chancellor and vice-chancellor of the Queensland University of Technology. It is important that the council is given flexibility. The council composition will be reduced to 15 members. This will be a council like that of many of our universities across our nation and across our state. It will work in the best interests of the students in particular. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Dr MacMAHON** (South Brisbane—Grn) (3.55 pm): This bill is a Trojan Horse for corporatising our universities. It will reduce collegiality, transparency and accountability. Today it is the Queensland University of Technology; tomorrow it is the rest of our public universities. The Queensland Greens stand with university staff and students and will not be supporting this bill.

This bill makes damaging changes to the composition of QUT's council which is responsible for ensuring sound and effective governance at QUT. This bill is proof that Queensland Labor is in lock step with the federal LNP in wanting to trash our university sector. In reducing the size of the council from 22 to 15 members, staff and students have lost representation. The number of elected representatives will be reduced from nine to five, almost half. Effectively, students and staff no longer have a critical mass of numbers on the council. With council members already reporting difficulties in getting items on the agenda, things are looking pretty poor.

As someone who has worked in universities, I can tell members the landscape for university staff is incredibly bleak. As the Queensland secretary of the National Tertiary Education Union said today, 'Our members who work at QUT do not understand why the ALP would continue the work of the Newman government in reducing the number of elected staff representatives on QUT's council.' The changes in the bill are based on flawed reasoning about the appropriateness and benefits of corporate governance.

As the NTEU sets out in its submission on this bill, there is simply no evidence that small university councils contribute to institutional effectiveness—no evidence. Despite this, university management, Labor and the LNP have spent the last decade focusing on increasing external members and reducing council sizes in the name of best practice corporate governance. We have seen it in New South Wales. We have seen it in Victoria. In Victoria the Andrews Labor government reversed changes that removed elected staff and student positions on university councils. If a Labor government can stand up against corporatisation in Victoria, why can a Labor government not do the same in Queensland?

Universities are public institutions. They are not businesses. They are public institutions and they occupy a unique position in society for teaching, research, critique and learning. When we structure and resource them so students and staff can flourish, we invest in society itself. A recent study from Victoria University showed that university council size did not relate to financial, research or teaching performance in any way. Their study did show a positive correlation between council size and better monitoring and influence on teaching performance. They also found a higher number of representations from internal rather than independent members leads to better teaching and research outcomes. Here is the evidence. Larger university councils have also been entirely effective at responding to recent challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic. As the NTEU pointed out, the QUT vice-chancellor had to admit to the inquiry on the bill that there had been no problems with the working of the current council.

There are well-established international principles asserting the right for higher education staff to engage in the governance of their institutions. The UNESCO recommendation states—

Higher education teaching personnel should have the right and opportunity, without discrimination of any kind, according to their abilities, to take part in the governing bodies and to criticise the functioning of higher education institutions, including their own, while respecting the rights of other sections of the academic community to participate, and they should also have the right to elect a majority of representatives to academic bodies within the higher education institutions.

Today we will go against international best principles.

In the face of all of this evidence, there is no reason for this bill, apart from the corporate politics and the drive for corporatisation of our universities to make life even harder for staff. We should be pushing for more democracy in our universities, not less.

As Academics for Public Universities stated, these regressive changes in university governance since the early 1990s have had a corrosive effect. State and federal governments have ‘handed extraordinary’ power to vice-chancellors and university senior executives who are now in power to make decisions affecting the lives of tens of thousands of staff and students with little to no accountability or transparency. This has had a ‘toxic effect on the health and wellbeing of academics, professional staff and students’.

There is no need for this bill, but there are plenty of other things this government could be doing for universities. Let us look at the actual problems in university councils, rather than this imaginary problem with size. Over time, university executives have committed serious offences and breaches of trust in Australia. The NTEU gave recent examples of Murdoch University’s vice-chancellor Richard Higgott, who resigned in 2016 over charges of corruption and pornography and recent questions around financial conflicts of interest by the Swinburne University Chancellor Graham Goldsmith through a third-party arrangement with Seek Ltd.

As the NTEU said, the role of a state government is upholding the integrity of university governance. This is all the more important in an age of university-industry collaboration, as our universities increasingly partner with business. As an example, the links between our universities and the fossil fuel sector is rife and corrosive. QUT’s chancellor was a chief executive at Rio Tinto. UQ offers the ‘Glencore Coal Assets Mining Engineering Scholarship’ and hosts the Centre for Coal Seam Gas. The appointed members of the UQ Senate is awash with people with ties to the fossil fuel industry.

In light of this, it is even more important that governing bodies ensure public money is properly spent, that research integrity is maintained and that academic freedom is ensured. Instead of this ideological modernised approach to governance, the NTEU advocates for an ethical governance approach, prioritising accountability.

The state government should be fixing the outrageous salaries of university senior executives rather than undermining institutional democracy. While staff struggle with casualisation, academics are asked to do more with no additional resources and education suffers. QUT’s Vice-Chancellor Margaret Sheil made \$1.2 million last year—go girl boss! It is unsurprising, in this context, that the university executives would request changes to the board that reduce democratic engagement.

As public employers, universities should also be the sites of good-quality jobs, helping to drive the Queensland economy. Universities are created under state acts. While the states do not fund them, the states should be setting them up as excellent places to work. Instead, the higher education sector has been chronically underfunded by successive LNP and ALP governments over decades. This year the LNP federal government has slashed university funding to the lowest level in decades. The share of total university revenue from the Australian government declined from 55.8 per cent in 2009 to 48.7 per cent in 2019. Yet, during this time, the number of students in our universities increased from 1.2 million to 1.6 million.

The federal government even denied JobKeeper to public universities, making it available only to private universities. This exclusion has led to tens of thousands of job losses across Australia since last year. This means poorer outcomes. We have seen thousands of university job cuts over this time. This also includes an unreported quantity of casual and fixed term employees who make up about two-thirds of staff. Currently, Victoria is the only state that even requires universities to report on the number of casuals they employ. How can Queensland university staff fight against the huge trend towards casualisation if we cannot even see the data?


Staff have been fired, subjects have been axed, faculties amalgamated and buildings sold, while the QUT vice-chancellor enjoys a beautiful newly renovated personal bathroom. Staff at QUT have reported a toxic culture—70 per cent of staff respondents to a recent culture survey said they did not

feel that open and honest communication existed at QUT. Meanwhile, mental illness among university staff and students is rife. The funding gap for our universities and the decline in democracy has real consequences. As Academics for Public Universities set out—

... the quality of Australia's higher education system is being systematically undermined by the wasteful ... expenditure of hundreds of millions of dollars on senior executive salaries, marketing, external consultants, property development and investment speculation. Combined with attacks on academic freedom, unsustainable levels of casualisation and widespread wage theft, university senior executives show no shame when clear evidence of their maladministration ... comes to light.

Scott Morrison's government may be responsible for defunding our universities, but Queensland Labor is completely on board in seeking to weaken their governance and to weaken the capacity for students and staff to advocate for the sector. Instead of attacking university councils, the least the state government could do is to ensure their governance is robust and that staff and students have a majority say in how their unis are run.

(Time expired)

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (4.06 pm): I would like to acknowledge and commend all of my colleagues here today on both sides of the House who have attended QUT. I am sure the speech that the member for South Brisbane has just given would remind us all of our student union days. We have not progressed much further than that, according to the member for South Brisbane. Perhaps she might need a little lesson. I am sure we will all give her an update on the facts, as opposed to the incorrect statements in her speech.

The Queensland University of Technology is, as we know, a major Australian university with a truly global outlook. It is home to nearly 50,000 students. QUT is providing real-world infrastructure, learning and teaching and graduate skills to the next generation of change-makers. QUT is a public university, as we know, which was established under the Queensland University of Technology Act 1998. The QUT Act established the council as QUT's governing body and gives it overall responsibility for ensuring QUT's proper and effective management and operation. Under the QUT Act, the council comprises 22 members made up of four categories—official, appointed, elected and additional.

Official members—there are currently three—are members of the council due to their position at QUT. The council's official members are QUT's chancellor, vice-chancellor and chairperson of the academic committee. Appointed members—there are eight at the moment—are appointed by the Governor in Council for a term of not more than four years. Elected members—there are nine—are elected pursuant to the QUT Act. Persons are eligible for election to the council if they are members of QUT's academic or professional staff or if they are QUT students or QUT alumni. Academic and professional staff and alumni elected to the council hold office for four years. Students elected to the council hold office for two years. Additional members—there are two at the moment—are appointed by the council for a term of not more than four years and must not be a QUT student or a member of QUT's academic or professional staff.

In 2017, as part of public university reforms, the University Legislation Amendment Act 2017 included amendments to the governance structure of the James Cook University Council to allow the JCU Council to determine the size of its governing body by way of membership resolution. While the ULAA amended the governance structure of the JCU Council, broader governance reforms for the other six public universities, including QUT, were not considered.

In 2017 the government invited other public universities to consider their governance arrangements and whether they would like to pursue similar governance reforms. Following consultation with the university community stakeholders, QUT proposed reforms to its council and provided a new governance model for the changed composition similar to the current governance structure of the JCU Council.


QUT's 22-member council is one of the largest governing bodies of Queensland's public universities. While the council actively engages with best practice approaches to governance matters, the council notes that best practice corporate boards or large not-for-profit entities are generally considered to be eight to 12 members.

The proposed reduction in size is intended to allow the council to be more flexible and responsive in its operations and is in line with the Universities Australia's *Voluntary Code of Best Practice for the Governance of Australian Universities*, which states that a university's governing body should desirably be no more than 15 members. This bill amends the QUT Act to streamline QUT's governance by reducing the size of the council from 22 to 15 members. The bill makes no changes to the number of elected students, member for South Brisbane—two—or official members—three—but provides for a change in numbers in other categories as follows: three GiC appointed members, reduced from eight;

five elected members, reduced from nine, including two members from the academic staff of QUT, reduced from three; one member from the professional staff of QUT, reduced from two; no QUT alumni members, reduced from two; and four additional members, increased from two. The bill also introduces requirements to assist with the balance of representation on the council: firstly, that at least two additional members are alumni of QUT; and secondly that, of the two elected students, one is to be an undergraduate student and one a postgraduate student.

The bill includes transitional arrangements to enable an ordered and timely transition from the current to the proposed new council membership with few additional processes and as little disruption to the council as possible. These arrangements include provisions for reducing appointed and elected members, increasing additional members and changing requirements in the elected students and additional members categories. The terms of remaining members will continue as per the current term. The bill also makes minor editorial amendments consistent with drafting best practice.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the Education, Employment and Training Committee and acknowledge their great work and the work of the secretariat. Thank you for undertaking that work and for engaging with stakeholders. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (4.11 pm): Being a lover of all things musical, I noted with great interest the contribution of one of the previous speakers, the member for Surfers Paradise, who commented that, in relation to his interaction with QIT, as it was then known, one of his favourite concerts was the precursor to Icehouse: Flowers. They were a great band, but I can recall many a night at QUT as a student myself, part of the alumni. I thank the member for Lytton for acknowledging many of the members of this august chamber who learned a lot on the other side of this block. My greatest concert was about a decade ago: Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds. That was a really great night!

I note there are approximately 52,000 students. In fact, my favourite student is my youngest son, Lachlan, who is also meant to be doing an exam hopefully today. It will be a competition. Because of the pivot QUT has had to do in the last 20 months with online study, hopefully he will in fact be doing his exam online and not playing *Halo*, but we will find out when the results come out in a few weeks time. I have to give QUT a lot of praise and credit before getting into the nitty-gritty of the bill. Many academic institutions, particularly universities, really did have to pivot on a dime in relation to the way they deliver their online courses. I do congratulate everyone involved because the challenges they have been subjected to in the last 20 months or thereabouts have been absolutely unprecedented, to use that word for the millionth time in this chamber.

I am very proud of the fact that I obtained my undergraduate degree from the University of Queensland, but I return to the fact that the QUT's motto is 'A university for the real world', and I absolutely agree with that. I did a graduate certificate, graduate diploma and a Masters in Property Economics at QUT. It was very hands-on and I really enjoyed all of the courses. In fact, at one stage I was on the academic tutors roll, and I did that for a couple of years. I have to say that I was not meant to be an academic—I much preferred working in the real world—but I do acknowledge the great foundation that QUT gave me.

In relation to the Queensland University of Technology Amendment Bill 2021 I too want to thank the committee. Some speakers at the very start of this debate mentioned that this particular bill is perhaps a little bit dry, but I beg to differ. I think the hallmark of societies are the way they are defined as a real world city by their arts offer but also their higher education institutions. I know there are some members of this particular chamber who have been teachers at universities, high schools or primary schools. Having a wife who has been a teacher going on nearly 30 years, I always say that anyone who teaches, particularly at higher institutions, has one of the noblest professions of all.

I note that the primary objective of this bill is to implement governance reforms for QUT to enable an appropriate balance between the number of members and the mix of the board's composition, and that is in fact the governance of the QUT Council. As many speakers have said, being a fairly procedural bill, this bill in fact proposes to reduce the size of the QUT Council from 22 to 15 members with the following changes of composition: three official members—the chancellor, vice-chancellor and chairperson of the academic committee—so there is no change there; three members appointed by the Governor in Council, reduced significantly from eight; five elected members, reduced from nine; and four additional members, increased from two, who must be part of the good old QUT alumni. I do not profess to know the ins and outs of the administration of QUT or any higher institution, for that matter. Coming very much from the corporate world, to me that sounds clean. It sounds as though the governance will still be protected and I think, if anything, enhanced in terms of the council's ability to make fluid decisions.

We have made it very clear from the outset that the LNP will not oppose the QUT Amendment Bill. I did read with interest the committee recommendations and some of the views of the various stakeholders. I simply point out that at the end of the day many people got their grounding in politics as a result of student campus politics. I worked full-time after leaving high school. I always studied part-time so I cannot regale the House with tales of the battles between the right and the left on campus, but I know plenty of people who can. I will always say in defence of QUT that I know people to this day who studied many years ago when many of us had fine heads of hair like I once proudly had—not now, but once I did, so I am not misleading parliament. A lot of the fine men and women who have gone through the ranks of the ALP and the former Liberal and National parties, now the LNP, got their grounding in the essence of democracy and the importance of striving to serve your local communities, and it all harks back to the way they actually understood what QUT really meant.

Like the member for Surfers Paradise, I remember when it was QIT. This is my personal view, but I think maybe many years ago when it was an institute of technology it did not have the cachet. When the reforms came through and it too became a university of technology, in terms of cachet it grew and grew. The 'sandstone seven' will always be important, but many people will put QUT as their first preference now because of the way it has matured and grown with this fine state, so I take this opportunity to acknowledge a fine institution.

I have made it very clear that I am proud as punch to be a member of this great chamber, but when I look back on my past I am very proud of the time I spent as an alumnus of the Queensland University of Technology. I would like to close my contribution with this thought. The fact that QUT is now more than just purely somewhere to go and learn a professional body of knowledge is enshrined by the fact that, even as the shadow minister for transport and main roads, I get involved with the Centre for Accident Research and Road Safety, CARRS, which does a magnificent job when it comes to enhancing road safety in this great state. They are a research body through QUT. Because I am also challenged by a font size about 0.6, with the use of spectacles I will just quote directly from this CARRS publication, which states—

Goal 1: To undertake high-quality research which has strong impact on policy, practice and scientific endeavours

...

Goal 2: To build capacity in the transport, occupational and community safety fields by providing high-quality educational and professional development programs—

...

Goal 3: To engage with government, industry and the community to improve transport, occupational and community safety

...

Goal 4: To enhance the skills and expertise of the Centre's staff and students—

...

Goal 5: To ensure the Centre has the human, financial and infrastructural capacity to achieve its Mission

The bottom line is that CARRS is another one of those research bodies from QUT that actually goes to the very heart and soul of saving the lives of Queenslanders. Not far from where I am speaking today, just a couple of blocks to my left, is an institution that I adore. It has moulded the hearts and minds of countless tens of thousands of men and women. Whether they then go on to partake in the democratic process here or not is irrelevant. That particular institution has helped make Queensland the great state it is. I take this opportunity in closing to thank the Queensland University of Technology for everything it has done. I am very proud to support this bill.



Ms PUGH (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (4.20 pm): I note at the outset that I also graduated from QUT, as it was known by the time I graduated, with a business degree. In so doing, I got to know many members of this august chamber. That makes me very passionate about the governance outcomes of my former university. I did not know that the member for Capalaba was at the university at about the same time as me. During my time at QUT, I was very privileged to get to know quite well the current Attorney-General and the member for Keppel, who both came through the university at about the same time as me. I did not find the Attorney-General to be nearly so scary as the member for Capalaba apparently did.

As the member for Warrego said, it is a wonderful university that turns out top quality graduates. It is very clear today that members right across the House—whether we attended ourselves, our children are attending or our parents or grandparents attended—are all very proud of the opportunities that higher learning has afforded us or our families. I think it is safe to say that QUT has changed the landscape of Queensland learning.

I also put on the record that my Aunt Barbara was employed for a very long time at QUT, including during my time as an undergraduate there. She worked as a librarian at both the Gardens Point campus and the Kelvin Grove campus for 18 years according to her LinkedIn profile, and I have made sure I got the dates right. She gained her undergraduate degree at UQ, but she came across the river, she saw the light and she completed her masters at QUT when I was finishing my undergraduate degree.

We have spoken about the previous iteration of QUT. Before QUT was QUT, it was QIT and I am very proud that my grandmother, Margaret Esther Ewers, attended its precursor, the Kelvin Grove Teachers' College. She came from regional Queensland. Her teacher studies were abbreviated due to the war effort, as she was studying teaching during the war. However, she returned to university post war to complete her degree based on her years spent teaching. Our family has a very long and proud attachment. I got some of this information from my family only today because I did not realise my nan had attended QUT but I am really proud of my nan for her persistence in pursuing higher learning. By the time she went back to university, she had five children and she was working full-time so I think that was a tremendous effort. I know she would not have been the only one but it is wonderful to see that QIT gave her and my family that opportunity.

I should also mention that in my previous role at Restaurant Two we did some work for QUT. We catered for an annual fundraising dinner for the QUT philanthropic wing. One of the board members who is mentioned in the report was the host, and I mention this in the interests of full disclosure. The QUT philanthropic committee had a special interest in providing financial support to financially disadvantaged students and students who faced additional challenges in attending university. They may have been the children of refugees, single parents or raised by a single parent themselves, so they had additional challenges that warranted additional support that was provided by that special committee that was chaired and managed by Peter Howes. He played an instrumental role in that and I thank him for it.

These dinners were hosted at Old Government House, which had recently been refurbished. I got the opportunity while I was working to listen to the stories of the scholarship holders and to hear about the impacts these funds had on their lives. It was a timely reminder to me that I was really lucky during my time at university studying my degree because I got to live at home with my parents. There were a lot of young people from regional Queensland who went to QUT and financially supported themselves, so I certainly take my hat off to those young people from regional Queensland. I believe the member for Keppel would have been one such young person who had to do that.

As I said, the alumni fund dinners were hosted at Old Government House. The member for Surfers Paradise referred to the fact that it had been refurbished by a previous state government grant, which I believe was a grant of about \$5 million. Unfortunately, because of the heritage listing in that grant, they were not able to put in a kitchen facility so we had to cater dinners for 50 people with no kitchen. We had a microwave and two trestle tables and from that we had to magic up dinner, which was lots of fun. It was quite difficult but we managed. I am very embarrassed to say this, but there was one night when I was serving—we were light on for wait staff—and I may have had a mild collision with the back of a head as I took the plates around. He forgave me and I still got to go home that night.

Mr Ryan interjected.

Ms PUGH: Lucky I had already graduated or I might have been in a bit of trouble indeed, member for Morayfield. I did apologise. The facilities at Old Government House beautifully complement some of the more modern and up-to-date facilities that QUT installed after I graduated—such as The Cube, which is world class. They are the kinds of facilities that attract our international students, and we know how important international students are for a university. As the member for Chatsworth said, we had the 'sandstone seven' but by the time I was looking at university options I certainly viewed QUT as being right there on par with UQ—

Mr Power: UQ is hopeless!

Ms PUGH: They are your words, not mine, member for Logan. I was going to say that so far we have managed to leave the UQ-QUT rivalry somewhat out of this. Member for Logan, I will let you make that contribution. I have no willingness to go there or I will be in trouble at home.

It is good to note that there is bipartisan support for this bill, and that support has extended to the entire process of how the bill has been managed. I note the contributions from the deputy chair and member for Southern Downs as well as the chair and member for Redlands. They had glowing words about each other. I do not know whether it is the early Christmas spirit, but it is certainly nice to hear that bipartisan support.

Mr Lister: No, it's a love that will last forever.


Ms PUGH: 'A love that will last forever'—put that on the *Hansard* record. That is lovely to hear. I refer now to the Minister for Education. If anybody can bring people together, I would say it is the Minister for Education.

Mr Power: I love the Minister for Education.

Ms PUGH: Indeed. I think everybody loves the Minister for Education. She is so good they named her twice. The Minister for Education takes very seriously the importance of consulting and ensuring that we have fulsome consultation through the committee. It is a very important process to run things through a robust committee system. In this particular instance, all of the members of the committee are very satisfied with how the process was run. It is fantastic to see that bipartisan support.

Our universities rely heavily on the revenue from international students, which I mentioned earlier. Everybody in this House knows that our universities were hit really hard during COVID—as were the financial fortunes of the international students who did come to Queensland to gain an education.

I simply wanted to acknowledge briefly the contribution of Riverlife Baptist Church in my electorate which did extensive work, basically opening a soup kitchen for the international students who live in my area to make sure they had not only financial support but also emotional support. That is really important because they were away from home, away from family and away from friends, and the studies they had come to complete were also abbreviated. It was a very lonely time. I really thank Riverlife church for stepping up in that space. We know that this bill reduces the number of council members from 22 to 15. It has bipartisan support, so I can safely say that I commend this bill to the House.

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (4.30 pm): The Queensland University of Technology Amendment Bill 2021 is an important piece of legislation that will support the governance and best practice of the university. My time as a law student at the Queensland University of Technology, from 2001 to 2006, is a time that I look back on very fondly. I note that there is a lot of history for my family with the Gardens Point campus. My dad did his carpentry apprenticeship at QIT in the sixties and my grandparents—my dad's mum and dad—met there back when the campus was the University of Queensland. There is a lot of history there for my family. I know that the university continues to provide skills and opportunities for many Queenslanders.

It was wonderful recently to get the opportunity to meet the young students from Mabel Park State High School who are gaining skills in future industries in STEM, thanks to the school's partnership with QUT to run their STEM Immersion program. It was wonderful to be there at the launch of the program. It is about giving young girls the skills and motivation to follow a career in traditionally male dominated STEM industries.

Whilst I did not do much learning about STEM whilst I studied law, I had the opportunity to be involved in the governance arrangements of the university. Like most students, I did spend a lot of my university days not studying very much and having lots of fun, but I also found myself heavily involved in the QUT Student Guild. This is a story that is familiar to a few of us in this House today. I should mention that Jess Pugh, the member for Mount Ommaney, was a friendly adversary in my student guild days. We may have been on different sides back then, but today the member for Mount Ommaney is one of the most passionate and hardworking members of the parliament, so I am glad we put that behind us and we are now friends and colleagues. I also shared my QUT student days with leaders like Brittany Lauga, the member for Keppel, someone who has absolutely landed on her feet here in parliament. We have a lot of great memories from that time.

I was fortunate to have been elected as the QUT Gardens Point campus director in 2003. I also served as the education director and in 2004 I was elected student guild president. Through these roles I had the opportunity to sit on the Academic Appeals Committee, the University Academic Board and the QUT Council. Being involved in these university governing bodies, I learnt an enormous amount about university governance and I was fortunate that a great many academics and leaders shared their experience, knowledge and wisdom with me. I would like to take this opportunity to thank lecturer Ross Daniels, who provided me with much guidance and support while he and I were both members of the QUT Council together.

Ms Lauga: A beautiful man.

Ms FENTIMAN: I take that interjection from the member for Keppel—a beautiful man. I would also like to thank Michael Lavarch, who was the dean of the Law School while I was there. I cannot talk about my time at QUT without acknowledging Professor Bill Duncan. He was a property law professor at QUT. I was fortunate enough to be his research assistant, and it is really great to work with him and his colleagues now in helping us guide our Property Law Act reforms through the parliament.


One of the big campaigns that I worked on during my time as student guild president at QUT was opposing increases to HECS, and this inevitably brought me into some conflict with the then vice-chancellor, Peter Coaldrake. I have to say, though, that he was always incredibly gracious and very patient in his dealings with me and I think at times often quite amused by our student guild tactics. I want to commend him for his time as vice-chancellor, driving the university to much success. He was a strong and passionate leader at the university. Of course, since then I have had the opportunity to work with him—in my previous portfolio when he was the chair of Jobs Queensland. I did get the opportunity to thank him for forgiving me for occupying his office that one time.

The Queensland University of Technology Council is, as it currently stands, one of the largest governing bodies of Queensland's public universities. It is reasonable and appropriate to consider best practice and to allow the university to be more in line with the voluntary code of best practice for the governance of Australian universities.

The parliamentary committee on education, employment and training received submissions from Griffith University, QUT and the National Tertiary Education Union Queensland division. In QUT's submission, they raised the benefits of a smaller committee which included more effectiveness and overall participation. The university believes that the council would be more agile in its meetings and operations which would better allow it to fulfil its responsibilities, especially during complex times such as recovery from the pandemic. QUT also noted that the proposed structure would ensure appropriate representation for the university community, importantly continuing to allow student representation. Griffith University also welcomed these amendments as they bring QUT more into line with other universities, including Griffith.

I want to note the issues raised by the NTEU in relation to the bill. The NTEU are a wonderful hardworking union, and they work incredibly hard to represent their members throughout the university sector, a sector that has felt the impact of COVID-19 heavily. The concerns of the NTEU, as outlined in their submission, related to the reduced council membership, and I note that initially a 13-member council was proposed which was subsequently increased to 15, as it currently stands in the bill, in recognition of their concerns. I understand that separate issues were raised regarding the transitional provisions relating to casual vacancies.

I am pleased to say that the government accepts recommendation 2 of the committee report to amend the bill to clarify that an elected academic staff member or an elected professional staff member of the QUT Council who ceases to be a member under new sections 77 and 78 of the bill continues to be eligible to fill a casual vacancy under section 20A of the Queensland University of Technology Act during the current QUT Council term. This is an important bill and it will allow the council to operate more effectively. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (4.36 pm): I rise to voice my support for the Queensland University of Technology Amendment Bill 2021. Like so many speakers before me here in this House, I am a very proud alumnus of QUT, the 'university for the real world'. I like to tell my children and try to influence any schoolchild, if they are choosing to go to university, to go that way. I am not getting paid by QUT, but I am very proud of the opportunity that QUT gave me. I do love the term 'university for the real world'. It drives my kids insane. It has taken me three children to get one enrolled into the 'university for the real world'. My eldest daughter, Isabella, has graduated from UQ, and we are very proud of her. My middle daughter has just finished her last element of prac at ACU doing nursing. My third daughter, Elke, whom I note the member for Surfers Paradise has just mentioned, was just put onto the dean's list at QUT.

This bill is very important because it really streamlines the QUT governance board and structure for the real world. That is why we are here today. It might seem like a simple thing, but it is important that QUT is streamlined and heads into the future like other universities. It is effectively reducing the council from 22 to 15. As many other members in this chamber have noted, it brings the council to a more realistic number.

The council has a very important role, and I note that in principle the QUT's powers are to do anything necessary or convenient to be done for or in connection with its functions. It appoints QUT staff, it manages and controls QUT's affairs and property and, importantly, it manages and controls QUT's finances.

As the Attorney-General just mentioned, it is pleasing to note that the minister has taken up the committee's recommendation—and I do thank the committee for thoroughly looking into this bill—regarding the unintended consequences that were noted, and I note the minister has foreshadowed she will move that amendment. That does tidy up that little unintended consequence.

I also want to mention that I had the honour of going to USQ, the University of Southern Queensland, first up. I was disappointed to hear a member of this House actually shine a light on a member who previously spoke for the fact that they would talk on this bill and they had not even gone to university. So many people do not get the opportunity to go to university whether due to distance or the simple fact they cannot afford it. I am very pleased to say in this House that I have a bursary for a student every year. It is \$1,000 and the bursary winner this year is Olivia Almond. She is studying a Bachelor of Vision Science at QUT. I will note that I do choose other universities or other trade schools for this bursary. This year it is Olivia Almond. I still recall the day that I met with her outside this great place and she was in tears. She was so excited because of what receiving that money meant to her. Along with other bursaries she had been applying for, it allowed her to go to university.

I went to USQ. Whilst I was pregnant with my second child, Lucy, I decided that I should study a law degree. I was very fortunate to be able to enrol in QUT and I studied my entire law degree externally. I was very concerned that the first word of my eldest daughter, Isabella, would be 'assignment' because I used to always say, 'Can you stop annoying me? I'm doing an assignment.' I did get through that external study. I ended up having my third child by the time I finished. It was a wonderful opportunity for me to be able to do it externally, and QUT offered that. I only had to do one semester on campus, and that was a summer semester, but the rest I did externally.

The majority of the time I was in New South Wales, so I was a long way away from the university. It was wonderful for a regional student to have that opportunity. That is what these universities—and not just QUT—offer for regional students. They offer an opportunity that those people would not have otherwise. I know the member for Mount Ommaney was very kind in her words in relation to regional students and how difficult it is for them. I was pleased to hear that.


As I mentioned, I am very proud of my youngest daughter, Elke, who has followed in my footsteps in going to the 'university for the real world'. I do want to give a shout-out to the university's education program into high schools, and I know the Minister for Education is also very supportive of this. Elke had the opportunity at the end of year 11 to do a first year university subject in IT and she jumped at it. She got a seven and she has obviously made the dean's list, so she is doing very well. She is in the School of Science doing IT. It is really tough because there are not many young girls there.

I do encourage the university to continue with this great program. Whenever I get the opportunity to speak to the vice-chancellor, Margaret Sheil, she is very supportive of this program because she can see a few of these girls who did it at the end of year 11 and they are following the path through QUT in IT. It is important that universities do offer these pathways, particularly for young girls, into STEM degrees because, quite frankly, we need more of them to go into these subjects. My daughter and her one friend who is left in IT first year would love more females to be in that course, so let's hope that happens.

Like many other members in this House, I want to acknowledge the difficulty that COVID has placed on our universities. It has been difficult. Unfortunately, it has taught the students to go from campus into the world of online learning. Whilst universities such as QUT have been offering this for many years to regional and external students, it is very difficult. However, it is wonderful to see how these universities have played in that space.

I do acknowledge the impact that the lack of international students has had on universities. Certainly all Queensland universities have suffered greatly because of the lack of international students coming into their universities. We look forward to welcoming those students back and the relief that will bring to those universities financially as well.

Like the members on this side of the House, I join with the government in supporting this bill. It is a sensible way forward. It certainly brings the 'university for the real world' into line with those other universities. I note that other universities such as Griffith support the intent of this bill as well. With that, I support the bill.

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (4.45 pm): I rise in support of the Queensland University of Technology Amendment Bill 2021. This bill seeks to implement governance reforms for the Queensland University of Technology to modernise and streamline the university council by reducing the size of the council from 22 to 15 members whilst ensuring an appropriate balance between the number of members and mix of necessary skills and expertise required for the effective governance on the council. The proposed reduction in size is intended to allow the council to be more flexible and responsive in its operations and is in line with Universities Australia's Voluntary Code of Best Practice for the Governance of Australian Universities, which states that a university governing body should be desirably no more than 15 members.

QUT's current 22-member council is one of the largest governing bodies of Queensland's public universities. While the council actively engages with best practice approaches to governance matters, the council has noted that the best practice in the corporate sector or for large non-profit entities is generally considered to be between eight and 12 members.

QUT is a public university established by the QUT Act 1998. That act established the council as QUT's governing body and gave it overall responsibility for ensuring QUT's proper and effective management and operation. Under that act, the 1998 QUT Act, the council comprises 22 members, as I have mentioned, made up of four categories: official, appointed, elected and additional members. The official members, of which there are three, are members of the council due to their position at QUT and effectively ex officio. There are eight members appointed by the Governor in Council for a term of not more than four years, and there are nine members elected pursuant to the act. Those people who are eligible for election to the council are members of QUT's academic or professional staff, QUT students or alumni.

In 2017 as part of public university reforms, the University Legislation Amendment Act 2017 included amendments to the governance structure of the James Cook University Council to allow the JCU Council to determine the size of its governing body by way of membership resolution. While the ULAA amended the governance structure of the JCU Council, broader governance reforms for six other public universities, including QUT, were not considered at that time. In 2017 the government invited other public universities to consider their governance arrangements and whether they would like to pursue similar governance reforms.

The Palaszczuk government is proud to partner with our tertiary education institutions in Queensland and universities like QUT. As we have heard from other members, this is a sector that has been hard hit by the pandemic. Indeed, coronavirus is one of the biggest challenges we have ever had to face in modern history and Queensland researchers have been leading the charge in the fight against COVID-19. These researchers from the academic sector are working across a wide front in the battle against COVID—from developing faster diagnoses for patients to developing crisis management toolkits for small business or using artificial intelligence to help with illnesses that arise due to the pandemic.

Last year we were proud to support a QUT industry research fellowship to research a rapid, highly accurate and inexpensive test for detecting COVID-19. Being able to quickly diagnose and treat patients is obviously essential right throughout this pandemic, particularly now as we start to open up. The research conducted by the team at QUT shows real promise in helping in the future. Post COVID, these research projects will lay the all-important groundwork in helping us prepare for future pandemics.


A deal with our publicly owned CS Energy has resulted in a multimillion-dollar solar farm in south-west Queensland which has created 400 jobs at the 162-megawatt Columboola Solar Farm between Chinchilla and Miles. CS Energy is buying 100 per cent of the output of the solar farm and will then partner to onsell that renewable energy to industrial retail customers like QUT, Griffith University and Central Queensland University. QUT is partnering as part of our rapidly advancing pathway to our 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030 and is part of our renewable energy future that is well underway in Queensland as we move to becoming an international renewable energy superpower.

QUT is also at the forefront of our renewable hydrogen supply chain in Queensland, with our government Redlands Research Facility hosting the QUT-led hydrogen pilot plant that the member for Redlands has rightly celebrated in her contribution to the debate on this bill. This facility led us to celebrating our first ever delivery of green hydrogen internationally to Japan and marked a significant step forward for Queensland's hydrogen supply chain. Exported by JXTG, Japan's largest petroleum conglomerate, the hydrogen was produced at QUT's solar cell facility in the Redlands. We proudly partnered to provide support of \$250,000 in funding for the establishment of that renewable hydrogen pilot plant at the facility. In addition, our first ever hydrogen powered cars have hit the streets in Queensland and are helping to rev their way towards a zero emissions travel revolution. Five hydrogen powered Hyundai Nexos can now refuel in the Redlands at this facility thanks to Sunshine Coast business H2H, which put together a refuelling station at the Redlands Research Facility. It is great to have a Queensland business take the lead in this space as part of our rapidly developing renewable hydrogen supply chain. These projects will see QUT produce renewable hydrogen and demonstrate how it can be used to refuel hydrogen cars.

It is important to note that the bill makes no changes to the number of elected student members or official members but provides for changed numbers in other member categories. The bill includes transitional arrangements to enable an ordered and timely transition from the current arrangements to the proposed new council membership, with as few additional processes and as little disruption to the

council as possible. These arrangements include provision for reducing appointed and elected members, increasing additional members and changing the requirements in the elected students and additional member categories.

The bill was referred to the Education, Employment and Training Committee for consideration and inquiry and I want to place on record my thanks and appreciation to the committee for its work on this bill. The committee recommended that the bill be passed and also recommended an amendment to the bill to clarify that an elected academic staff member or an elected professional staff member of the council who ceases to be a member under new sections 77 and 78 continues to be eligible to fill a casual vacancy under section 20A of the QUT Act 1998 during the current QUT Council term. This recommendation was accepted and an amendment will be moved during consideration in detail. Since the introduction of the QUT Act in 1998, QUT has seen some remarkable change and it continues to grow and evolve. This bill will provide a contemporary governance structure for QUT as it looks to continue its goal of providing quality higher education in an increasingly challenging and complex environment. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (4.55 pm): I rise to speak on the Queensland University of Technology Amendment Bill. We in this place must recognise how important our universities are as part of our economy but also our society. I represent an area of the state that does not have the highest rate of university education, but Logan residents absolutely know that higher education is a vital part of the economy of our state. They recognise that universities such as QUT are vital for a vibrant, diverse economy—as vital as tradies and other workers.

Unlike those opposite, we back all workers. We do not attack our QUT educated teachers or our QUT educated nurses. We know that those opposite play games, sacking nurses and teachers, and we all saw how the federal member for Bowman attempted to undermine our teachers. When it comes to our universities, he is joined by the rest of the LNP members, both here and in Canberra, attacking our university sector. They constantly make out our world-class universities and our world-class research to be something to be undermined and attacked. They want to undermine the jewels of our economy by attempting to play pathetic American-style culture wars. In Queensland and in Logan in particular people value and respect the university sector and recognise that universities such as QUT are focused on the jobs of the future and see a practical, everyday benefit of that research and those ideas.

During COVID we saw extreme strain on this sector, but we know how much benefit it brings. This sector brings research to create vaccines for our community. We know that universities train our nurses and doctors and provide that vital care. That is why this bill to restructure the board of QUT is so vital. We all know the value of universities such as QUT, but we should recognise that this period has been very tough for our universities. Prior to COVID-19, because of the world renown of our universities and the great lifestyle and the welcoming community that Queensland has, many students travelled from overseas to study for degrees at QUT. These students' families often made significant sacrifices to send their precious children into our care to receive a world-class education. I met QUT students from overseas who simply loved their experience in Australia.

If we were to measure this with other exports—in this case we are exporting knowledge, an infinitely renewable resource—it would be our fourth largest export industry which creates over 200,000 jobs. However, we also know that during COVID-19 the ability for students to travel to and from Australia was—rightfully—constrained. Many students had to travel home to deal with family issues and were under considerable financial pressure. The member for Mount Ommaney spoke movingly of a local church group that supported students through soup kitchens. COVID has put pressure on universities like QUT and the incoming board will have to continue to deal with this real challenge. If this had happened to any other export industry, then there would have been huge support from the federal government to maintain our readiness to restore exports and to increase vaccination rates.

The sector, including QUT, has suffered considerable job losses and even more pressure from casualisation. I know having worked in the sector how hard it is, but the work is vital and rewarding in the field of education. However, many faced uncertainty and casualised hours and then during COVID they were told that they could lose their job and at the same time the university would lose their skills, their commitment and their knowledge. One such worker was taken in with another worker in a similar sector and told that one of them had to go and that if no-one volunteered they would have to toss a coin to see who lost their job.

Investment in universities during COVID from the federal government could have prevented these job losses, but instead the federal government explicitly excluded universities, including QUT, from the JobKeeper system. Bizarrely, New York University Sydney was awarded \$16.5 million in

JobKeeper. Private universities such as Bond and other universities also received JobKeeper payments. I do not mention them to put them down, but to point out the different standards that were applied. This led to more than 40,000 job losses, some of them in regional areas. Not that the federal LNP members ever spoke up in those areas. These are the challenges the board will face going forward and the economic circumstances that this new and invigorated board will have.

We have to be ready to use this board to restore universities such as QUT. The federal government, increasing student fees as it has done, should back our universities and help restore overseas students. I have probably emphasised too much the economic value of overseas students, but we should also remember the social and cultural value that they bring. The old Liberal Party used to understand this. Prime Minister Menzies backed such plans as the Colombo Plan, used to share and exchange knowledge with the Asia Pacific region, but this LNP sees it as fodder to attack in a bizarre culture war. Logan people know they bring a positive impact. They also know that their presence makes for a richer educational experience on our university campuses.

The new board will continue to have two students and two alumni students, increasing that as a proportion. It should be recognised that a great education is a vital end product of these institutions. I should note for the chamber that I am a former member of the National Tertiary Education Union from when I worked at universities. I note that the NTEU had concerns about the continuing role of staff members who are not in management of the university. These general concerns should be noted. We should have great careers at a university: strong, stable jobs for both academic and professional staff. I note the National Tertiary Education Union's long commitment to the university sector and the value of strong, stable jobs. Noting my previous concerns, I share their concern over casualised work.

University lecturers love teaching and love doing world-leading research. Members would be surprised in some cases at the low pay they receive. They might be superstars when they have shown their research internationally over Zoom conferences in the last year, but they are deeply undervalued. I do not blame the board of QUT or, indeed, any of the universities that are struggling because they have an equal passion for our university sector, but I do see the budget cuts that make this a struggle for any board and remind those on the incoming board that they have to work with the National Tertiary Education Union to improve the value and role of those who do such great work at our universities.

I am disappointed that the member for South Brisbane spent so much time attacking Labor but so little time examining the cuts of the federal LNP government of Scott Morrison that have hurt the sector so much. We know the member for South Brisbane is dependent on LNP preferences. Every speech is like a little payback and appeal to the LNP for support in the future. The member for South Brisbane is entirely a product of the support of the LNP and with every statement the LNP gets the member for South Brisbane's support in return. The LNP members are the same as the member for South Brisbane in that they do little or nothing to hold to account the federal LNP Morrison government for its cuts to Queensland universities. On this side we back the diversity of Queensland education, from prep to tradies and our university sector.

Many may know me as a graduate not of QUT but instead of Queensland's greatest and, frankly, most prestigious university, Griffith University. I note that this place has many QUT alumni. I used to describe them, unfairly, as those who wished they were Griffith graduates. For many years people felt that QUT was simply a university for those who could not gain entry into Griffith University. I want to say this is simply not true. QUT is an exciting institution doing absolutely world-class research—I mean, no Griffith, but it is still good. It is not on the south side, but, of course, you could always try harder and come to Griffith. You could put a couple of years in at QUT and then move over to Griffith.

Mr Kelly: Postgraduate.

Mr POWER: Do a postgraduate degree, indeed. It is certainly better than that bend in the river that ruined the sugarcane farm that I am not sure of the name of. Seriously, we value the huge role that all the universities in our state play: the economic role, the export role, the research role and the social role. We recognise they make an enormous transformational impact on young students, especially those students who are the first in their family to attend university. It makes a huge contribution to the state and the city, even for those who never enter the grounds of a university. I support the bill and challenge those elected and appointed to the board to think of those in their family who are the first to be a student in the QUT institution and how much they will have their lives transformed by education at QUT.



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (5.05 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Queensland University of Technology Amendment Bill 2021 which was introduced by the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing on

Wednesday, 1 September 2021. The bill was referred to the Education, Employment and Training Committee for consideration and I would like to thank the members of that committee for their detailed consideration of the bill, including the chairperson and member for Redlands, the member for Rockhampton, the member for Stafford and the member for Stretton, who I note attended a hearing during the committee's deliberations. I also thank those non-government members on the committee for their contribution to the consideration of the bill.

The committee published its report and recommended that the bill be passed, which I believe is a sensible conclusion regarding this legislation. I do need to declare that I am a proud Queensland University of Technology alumnus. I believe that it is one of the best universities in Queensland, if not Australia, and it is important that there are appropriate governance structures in place to ensure that the Queensland University of Technology can continue to strive and go from strength to strength in the years and decades ahead. Those who know me know I value the importance of strong education. Education is the foundation for one's career and those who choose to undertake tertiary education should do so in an institution with strong governance arrangements which ultimately support student outcomes.

As members will know—but to be clear—the purpose of the bill is to implement governance reforms for the Queensland University of Technology to reduce the size of the governing council from 22 members to 15 members. In addition, I am advised that the bill will enable an appropriate balance between the number of members and mix of necessary skills and expertise required for effective governance by the council.

Under the current Queensland University of Technology Act, the council comprises of 22 members made up of four categories: official, appointed, elected and additional. I am advised that there are currently three official members, eight appointed members, nine elected members and two additional members. This bill will amend the act to streamline the Queensland University of Technology's governance body by reducing the size of that council. As the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing outlined earlier today, the current council is larger in size than the current Queensland cabinet and the Queensland shadow cabinet—although I am not sure who makes up the majority of the Queensland shadow cabinet, but I digress.

The legislation will also introduce requirements to assist with the balance of the representation on the council to ensure a requirement that at least two additional members are alumni of the Queensland University of Technology and a requirement that one of the two elected student members is to be an undergraduate student and one is to be a postgraduate student. I support these amendments and I am sure that everyone at the Queensland University of Technology will welcome these changes which will assist their organisation now and into the future.

This bill and its amendments are evidence of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to listening and consulting with stakeholders to get the best legislative outcomes. As stated, I was a student of the Queensland University of Technology. Before I go further I want to state that the member for Nanango and I did not share notes. I have neither plagiarised her speech, nor has she plagiarised mine, but we do have similar stories. I undertook my Bachelor of Laws externally through QUT while starting my family, doing summer school subjects to make up for those subjects I could not do while working full-time and having my babies. That was the flexibility that QUT provided and continues to provide and why so many people choose Queensland University of Technology as their pathway. It understands that you have to offer different opportunities for different people and different circumstances to ensure that everyone who wants to attend university, no matter what their background is, even if they left school at 15, no matter who they are, has the option to do that and can achieve whatever they want to achieve through those flexible arrangements. I am very grateful for that.

My Bachelor of Laws degree provided a strong foundation for my career not only as an industrial advocate, advocating on behalf of members of the Australian Workers' Union, but also as a federal member of parliament and a state member of parliament. It certainly helped me in my role as attorney-general and minister for justice, which was a role that I enjoyed immensely, ensuring that Queenslanders had strong laws that protect and support them.

I thank the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing for her leadership on this piece of legislation and for bringing it before the Queensland parliament for its consideration. I know that bringing legislation to the floor of the parliament is not a job a minister does alone; they work in conjunction with and with the support of their department and office. I thank the Department of Education and also the Office of the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing for their work on this importance piece of legislation.

While this bill will most likely not see the nightly news, it is an important piece of legislation that is another example of how the Palaszczuk government is getting on with the job of ensuring that Queenslanders and, in particular, Queensland universities, such as the Queensland University of Technology, have the legislative bedrock available to do their jobs. With those short words, I commend the Queensland University of Technology Amendment Bill 2021 to the House.



Hon. G GRACE (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (5.10 pm), in reply: I thank all honourable members for their contributions to the debate on the Queensland University of Technology Amendment Bill. As we know, the bill is largely about streamlining the governance arrangements at QUT by reducing the size of the council from its current 22 members to 15 members. The amendments support effective governance while maintaining an appropriate balance of skills and experience on the council.

I note some comments that reducing the number of council members to 15 will somehow compromise governance, but I do not accept that for one second and neither does the committee nor a lot of the submitters. A lot of the issues raised by a number of members today and the NTEU occurred under the 22-member council. Those issues all occur currently. It is not like we have already introduced the 15-member council and there are now concerns about the governance structure of QUT or any other university. I know there are a lot of conspiracy theories about what is going to happen, but any issues raised so far have all occurred under the current 22-member council. I leave members to think about that.

There has been lengthy consultation. I do not accept for one minute that members of the community, staff and students were not given the opportunity to have their say. The parliamentary committee ran an extensive public inquiry and held public hearings. There was more than adequate time for people to have their say. The bill implements the QUT proposal to reduce its membership and obviously QUT consulted well over a period of two years.

I thank members on both sides of the House for their contributions during the course of this debate. In particular, I thank the shadow education minister, Dr Christian Rowan, for his bipartisan support of the bill. I also thank the member for Southern Downs and Deputy Chair of the Education, Employment and Training Committee and I acknowledge the committee chair, the member for Redlands. The deputy chair, in particular, said a few kind words in relation to the collegial nature of the committee. It is always good in this House when we admit that often we do work very well together. Even though there may be times when we are adversaries, most of the time we get on very well. I thank the member for making that point.

I note that the member for Hinchinbrook made a reference to the bill being like dry toast. I will give him the vegemite, the jam and the honey to put on the toast to make it a little more interesting. I must admit that most of the bills I bring before this House are pretty exciting and dynamic and have a bit more emotion in them. However, it is important to get the governance right with a university of the calibre of QUT. Anyone who diminishes the professionalism or the calibre of QUT or any university in Queensland underestimates how wonderful those universities are. Are they perfect? I do not think any institution is perfect. Believe it or not, not even our political parties are perfect. Whether with the Greens, the LNP or Labor we all have issues, as do some of our best institutions. Mind you, Labor probably has fewer issues than any of the others, but I have a little bit of a conflict of interest when I say that.

As an aside, I join others in saying that my adult child is also a graduate of QUT having completed the creative industries degree and is enjoying working at the Melbourne Theatre Company. I am very pleased that they have enrolled in the University of Melbourne and are now doing psychology. I am very glad to add that. They loved their time at QUT.

I will address one point that the member for Hinchinbrook raised about the NTEU losing representation on the council. The QUT Council is comparable to other Queensland public universities in terms of the representation of academic staff, professional staff and students. The proposed council membership will see a reduction of only one academic member and one professional staff member. Importantly, there will be no changes to the number of students represented. I know that others have made that comment. Most of the reduction is achieved through the reduction in the governor-in-council members, that is, the members I appoint. Most of the reduction comes from the government taking the hit, not QUT. The number of academic staff members is the same as Griffith University, James Cook University and the University of the Sunshine Coast, and the sky has not fallen in on those universities. In fact, allegations have been made, but I do not think we should conflate industrial issues with governance issues of council. As an industrial expert I can say that it is a little bit tough to conflate those issues.

I have the transcript from the public hearing at which the NTEU secretary, Michael McNally, appeared. I know that the Greens party and the member for South Brisbane joined with the NTEU in some of this stuff. I note that the NTEU claims that I should be fixing the outrageous salaries, but that happened under the 22-member council. That is an industrial issue that comes under federal industrial relations law. As minister, I cannot go in there and fix salaries and issues like that. If anyone even suggested that then I think I would be up for a CCC investigation. I might add that QUT is also subject to CCC legislation.

At the public hearing the chair questioned Michael McNally. I respect the NTEU. I understand why they do not want to reduce the numbers. I respect their position. However, I do not necessarily agree with it at the moment. The chair asked—

You obviously represent staff at James Cook University as well. Can you provide us with some feedback on the experience of James Cook University and your members up there under a similar model?

That was in relation to reducing the membership of the council to 15. Mr McNally responded—

James Cook University has not been as adversely impacted by COVID as other universities such as QUT because of its lesser exposure to international students. In terms of governance, we have not had any major scandals or problems. Do staff feel like they have a voice at JCU? No, I would say they do not. Is that directly related to the number of members on council? No, I cannot make that connection.

In answer to the suggestion that reducing the number of members on the council will somehow make a number of other changes, the evidence speaks loudly for itself and I have read verbatim from the transcript of that committee hearing. I understand the issues. No-one likes change. However, I think that this is a step in the right direction. I would not have brought this legislation forward and gained the support of the majority in this House, from what we have been hearing over the course of the debate, to reduce the numbers on the council if I thought otherwise.

The changes do not affect QUT's public accountability at all. As a statutory body, QUT is subject to extensive public reporting, audit and accountability requirements under the Financial Accountability Act, the Auditor-General Act, the Right to Information Act, the Information Privacy Act, the Public Records Act, the Public Sector Ethics Act, the Human Rights Act and the Integrity Act. Under the Ombudsman Act, the Queensland Ombudsman has the power to investigate complaints about the actions and decisions of QUT as a public university. Under the Crime and Corruption Act, the CCC is to combat and reduce the incidence of major crime and corruption in units of public administration, and this applies to universities. Australian universities, including QUT, are regulated nationally by the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency.

There were some comments about the funding of universities, whether they are funded adequately and the introduction of HECS. I agree with a lot of those statements, but this bill is not about that. Yes, we can raise these issues. I would love to see free degrees, as there used to be. Most of the people making decisions about the funding of universities benefited from a free university education—they sit on the LNP side in the federal government—but that is not what this bill is about. Many statements were made, some with which I agree and some which I respect, but they really have nothing to do with the bill before this House.

No other Queensland public university has more than one professional and general staff member on its governing body. That seems to be the standard. We are in line with the code. The category of elected members remains the largest membership category on the council, at 33 per cent. As I mentioned in the second reading debate, reducing the council from 22 to 15 members will obviously see some members miss out—that just stands to reason—but, as I said, the majority will come from Governor in Council appointments. The reduction in the number of QUT Council members is in line with the code of best practice for the governance of Australian universities, which states that a university governing body should desirably be no more than 15 members. That is exactly what is in this bill.

It is difficult to address all of the issues that were raised. I will make a couple of comments. I appreciate the input of the majority of members, particularly those proud QUT alumni. The member for Greenslopes made a very good contribution in that universities are a major contributor to the Queensland economy. There is a lack of support from the federal government, especially when you consider what they went through with COVID. They were denied JobKeeper. Did I agree with that? No. I found it difficult that the Greens got JobKeeper but universities did not.

A government member: The LNP too.

Ms GRACE: And the LNP, but it stands to reason that that occurred. Universities were denied JobKeeper and very difficult decisions were made in relation to international students. I agree that they should have been looked after and that staff should have been looked after in terms of being adequately funded.

The member for Mirani raised a number of conspiracy theories. I disagree with them all. I do not agree that this lessens the governance. As I said previously, most of the other issues raised by the member for South Brisbane, who opposes this bill, and the respectful position put by the NTEU—and I thank them for their contribution—all occurred under the current 22-member council. If they are occurring today, I do not think reducing membership to 15 will necessarily compromise their ability to have good governance and decision-making. Anyone in this House who has sat on a board with 15 members knows that that is a board or a council of adequate size. As I have said before, cabinet has 18 members and we run the whole of Queensland. Sometimes it makes for very effective decision-making, but it is a big state. Now we have a council that has 22 members. Even the shadow cabinet has 18 members.

QUT consulted extensively on the exposure draft of the bill with its university community, comprising thousands of people including its staff members. Out of 12,000 staff members that QUT invited to provide feedback only two provided a submission, both of which were supportive of the bill. I think there may have been another that was not supportive. QUT also invited its 53,000 students to provide feedback. QUT advise that only four provided comment and that these views were mixed, with one supportive of the bill, one having a neutral position and two opposing the changes.

Issues in relation to funding of universities, their entitlements and the manner in which they operate should be directed to the federal government. Their industrial practices are regulated under the Fair Work Act. Even though I respect the NTEU, it raised the same concerns when governance changes to the James Cook University were introduced. As I read from the transcript, there really is little evidence to suggest that the reduction has brought about any major changes to the manner in which the university has operated under that reduced number of council members. In fact, one of the main reasons I was able, as a government representative and the minister, to bring this forward is that I think it is a step in the right direction and it will give the governance issues of QUT greater emphasis. Really, I did not have to appoint eight members by Governor in Council. The numbers under the bill are more than adequate. As I said, the reduction did not come from students. Of course, someone will miss out. I was happy to take the biggest hit. The others were, as I said, canvassed and agreed.

I think these are very good governance changes. I do not believe that they will somehow lead to the downfall of public universities. I think that is completely unfounded. Any conspiracy theories and accusations made in the House during this debate are completely unfounded. In fact, most of the issues raised—I said it before and I will say it again—happened under the current council arrangements of 22 members. To somehow suggest that the sky is going to fall in when a lot of the issues raised have been occurring currently is totally unfounded. I am very pleased with the support given to the bill by honourable members and I commend the bill to the House.

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

Resolved in the affirmative in accordance with special sessional orders.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 11, as read, agreed to.

Clause 12—



Ms GRACE (5.34 pm): I move the following amendment—

1 Clause 12 (Insertion of new pt 10)

Page 10, after line 23—

insert—

82 Application of s 20A to particular persons whose term of office ends

For section 20A(2)(b) and (c), a person whose term of office ends under section 77(2) or 78(2) is taken not to have been elected to the office.

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

Tabled paper: Queensland University of Technology Amendment Bill 2021, explanatory notes to Hon. Grace Grace's amendment [1941].

Tabled paper: Queensland University of Technology Amendment Bill 2021, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Grace Grace's amendment [1942].

The amendment inserts new section 82 to clarify that an elected member whose term of office ends under sections 77 and 78 will continue to be eligible under section 20A of the QUT Act to fill a casual vacancy arising during the current term of the relevant class of members of the council as if the person had not been elected.

Dr ROWAN: I rise to address the amendment to clause 12 where section 82 is to be inserted. As indicated by the minister, this will clarify and rectify a potential unintended consequence and confirm that elected members who are academic staff and professional staff of QUT whose membership has ceased in accordance with new sections 77 and 78 are to remain eligible to fill a casual vacancy under section 20A of the QUT Act during the current term. This amendment certainly aligns with the recommendations and views of members of the Queensland parliament's Education, Employment and Training Committee. As such, the Liberal National Party will not be opposing this amendment.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 12, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 13, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading



Hon. G GRACE (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (5.36 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. G GRACE (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (5.37 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.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from 28 October (see p. 3444).



Ms LAUGA (Keppel—ALP) (5.37 pm), continuing: Prior to the adjournment of this debate last sitting week, I was talking about my mum as a teacher in our Queensland state schools and how she is a creative soul and how integrating art, colour, language, storytelling, cutting, pasting and discovery of our world through science in her pedagogy is what she is so good at. Teamed with her teaching partner of 25 years, Mrs Flamank, they are a formidable force. Mrs Flamank, thank you for being my mum's partner in teaching our young people. I acknowledge Mrs Flamank's husband, the late Mr Ian Flamank, another much loved teacher who will always be remembered for his dedication to young people. Because of their long partnership as a teaching team, my mum and Mrs Flamank work like a well-oiled machine.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the education minister, the member for McConnel. Minister Grace is a wonderful boss. She is a great mentor and I enjoy learning from her and working alongside her. While I am on my feet, I acknowledge all the teachers across Queensland and wish them a very belated World Teachers' Day. It was World Teachers' Day in the week when I started this speech in the parliament. Teachers are amazing and I am constantly impressed by the dedication, passion and determination of the teachers I meet right across this state to give every student a great education. As the old Japanese proverb says, 'Better than a thousand days of diligent study is one day with a great teacher.'

At the last election we made a series of commitments all designed to ensure that we continue to give our students a world-class education that sets them up for a great future. That includes a \$1 billion boost to education infrastructure investment over the next four years. My dream is right across Queensland to have state-of-the-art teaching and learning spaces in well-resourced, safe and happy schools for every student, every teacher, every parent, every teacher aide, every school cleaner and every single person in the school community.

Following my reappointment as Assistant Minister for Education, Minister Grace has set out a number of projects for me to sink my teeth into including overseeing the rollout of the Palaszczuk government's Local Schools Local Jobs plan, overseeing outside school hours care and also chairing

the new Trade to Teach Working Group. I am extremely excited about our government's \$45 million Local Schools Local Jobs plan, which will upgrade training facilities in 26 secondary schools across the state and prepare students with the skills they need to move into secure, well-paid jobs in their local region. Skilling young Queenslanders is essential to ensure that our youngest and brightest minds are prepared for the jobs of tomorrow and Queensland's economic recovery.

The Local Schools Local Jobs plan includes investments like \$2 million for Gladstone State High School to upgrade training facilities to prepare students for jobs in the hydrogen industry; \$2.25 million for Woodcrest Secondary College to upgrade trade training facilities to prepare students for jobs in aviation engineering; and \$2.5 million for Rockhampton State High School to build an aquaculture training and research facility to prepare students for jobs in this fast-growing food industry, which I know school principal Kirsten Dwyer is very excited about. Local Schools Local Jobs will deliver modern facilities across Queensland that teachers, parents and students can be proud of. I am proud that over the next four years we will deliver close to 6,200 new teachers in classrooms across the state and 1,100 new teacher aides to meet student enrolment growth and maintain our nation-leading teacher-to-student ratios and class sizes.


On top of the existing student numbers each year, we are seeing 8,000 additional students enrolling in Queensland state schools every year. That means that we need to build more schools and classrooms but we also need to urgently train and employ more teachers and teacher aides. The Palaszczuk government's Turn to Teaching Internship Program to support 300 aspiring teachers to launch their teaching career in Queensland state schools, new homework centres in 120 schools and giving girls and young women free access to sanitary products are all part and parcel of this Labor government's clear plan and vision for the next three years and beyond for public education in Queensland.

The last election victory for Labor in Keppel could not have been achieved without the passion and dedication of so many good Labor people in Central Queensland. There was one night in October last year, just days before the election, when I had 10 volunteers sprawled around my little house—at the table, on the couch, on Odette's swing or on the grass under the Hills Hoist—all there making phone calls to Keppel constituents. We called thousands of people that night, having important conversations with Keppel locals about the important choice they had at the election. When we finished for the night, I cooked a barbie. I do love to barbecue, and it was just absolutely brilliant sitting around the table, like family, sharing a meal after talking with people right across Keppel about why we wanted to see Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk and Labor elected again.

I thank my family—my clever, beautiful, talented, cheeky and headstrong four-year old Odette Mary Lauga. My darling, I love you so much and I am sorry I had so many yucky meetings that I had to be at in the lead-up to the election. I hope that one day you will get to read this and know that the sacrifices you and I both make is all to make a difference and change the world. I thank my mum and dad, Peter and Sharon, mostly for looking after Odette when I was not able to but also for all of their love and support. I thank my brother, Lewis, as well.

I thank my hardworking and passionate Keppel electorate office staff—John, Thelma and Annette. Each of them have been with me working in the Keppel electorate office for about six years now. I thank the Keppel SEC president Bruce Craig; Yeppoon branch president Sue Smith; Emu Park branch president Bruce Craig; North Rockhampton branch president Jason Conway; pre-poll booth captain David Thomas and all of our amazing volunteers—Harrison Pocknee, Andrew Churchill, Rachael Dixon, John Hempseed, Bryce Allen, Deb Wynne, Elizabeth Luckel, Rhonda Nielsen, Hugh and Yvonne Chardon, Tom Hall, Ernie O'Sullivan, Michael Page, Sandra Briggs, Graham Brewitt, Tony Harris, Sara Dunn, Cody O'Dell, Dylan Denise Lacy, Greg Moore and Rhonda Mallory, who we sadly lost recently. Rhonda, thank you for everything you did throughout your life to support me and Labor.

I also thank the amazing Jesse Gillard, a wonderful friend and mentor. He said to me once that he really believes in me and that I have a kind of magic that makes him believe in me. I thank him for the new 'ideas whiteboard' that is in my outdoor area that I use on a daily basis now when talking about those ideas and generating those ideas. I thank state secretary Jules Campbell and everyone who helped to bring Labor back in Keppel at the last state election.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (5.44 pm): I am proud to rise in this House today as a member of the Palaszczuk government. I am grateful to the people of Murrumba who re-elected me a year ago. Thank you for once again putting your faith in me. I will continue to work to represent you to the best of my abilities and to work to make our community even better.

The previous term of government was challenging to say the least, with an unprecedented pandemic that our community has worked together to confront. Because of our health response, we have been able to get on with our economic recovery. In fact, we are moving in leaps and bounds, supporting new industries to set up shop and provide jobs for Queenslanders.

Queensland has a long and proud history of converting our natural advantages to economic advantage. That advantage spills into every region and every community every day through jobs. We are resolutely committed to ensuring that our kids inherit a state with even more opportunity than we had, just like my parents and grandparents' generations did for me. Many inputs go into that and over time they change, but one key output remains constant decade after decade—the pursuit of good, well-paying jobs. It is that commitment to well-paying jobs that puts us on the road to net zero.

Three years ago, the Premier met with businesses and academics in Japan to talk about the potential to export Queensland's sunshine as hydrogen. The following year we released our hydrogen strategy. Then we appointed a hydrogen minister—a world first. This year we launched the Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund—a \$2 billion commitment to grabbing the opportunities that are coming from clean energy. Now, because we moved quickly to secure future jobs, because we did not wait for others, because we saw the opportunity and made the partnerships needed to get the most out of it, we are seeing the benefits.

In Gladstone we joined with the Premier and Andrew Forrest to announce the commitment to Fortescue Future Industries' new initial electrolyser manufacturing facility—the largest facility of its kind in the world. When it becomes operational in just over a year's time, we will see highly skilled Queenslanders using Queensland energy to make the machines the world will need to get to net zero.

We have signed a statement of cooperation with Rio Tinto, who will use their experience to help deliver future green industry for Queensland as part of their global business commitment to net zero carbon emissions by 2050. Together with Rio Tinto and with the support of future partners, we will ensure that right here renewable energy is used to power the industries and material that the world will need over the years ahead. That will make it a more valuable product in a world hungry for clean manufacturing and sustainable materials.

In Townsville we are working with the Townsville City Council and Mayor Jenny Hill and Townsville Enterprise Ltd to build the Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct. Each of these partnerships, as they come to life, means more jobs in more industries powered by Queensland clean energy. They happened because we got on with seizing the opportunity. We took the first-mover advantage. This year, especially after the climate conference in Glasgow, the world is weighing up which jurisdictions are making the most of the renewable energy opportunity. We are not partners to inaction. We will not ignore the calls coming from business and industry to help them create jobs, even when others cannot see the opportunity ahead of us.

We define ourselves by the opportunities we create for Queensland, not by the ones we ignore. Even some of the biggest carbon emitters are crying out for investment certainty. Globally, investors are using events like the COP to assess where the best parts of the world are to invest capital in processes that will both meet our climate obligations and produce clean products. The business world is looking for partners to create jobs, and they found them in Queensland. At the beginning of a golden decade of opportunity for Queensland we have put the foundations in place to leverage our traditional strengths and build a state that will thrive in the global transformations ahead.

Pick a year in the future—any year. Let's say 2032, the year the world will celebrate the climate-positive Brisbane 2032 Olympics. It will be a world that has undertaken a fundamental rethink of how it feeds and cares for its people, ensures security for all and uses energy and fuel to power its work. Hosting the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games will forever change Queensland. Our city will join an exclusive club. The games will go from Tokyo, to Paris, to LA, to Brisbane. Not only will it generate \$8 billion in economic and social benefits in addition to 91,600 jobs but it will also kickstart a pipeline of infrastructure projects with lasting legacies. We want to make sure that every part of the state gets the benefit of these games.

I want to take a moment to speak directly to the people in my community of Murrumbidgee. Across the Murrumbidgee electorate and across the state, since the election we have experienced just a few short, sharp lockdowns but a few more close calls. Locals have answered every call to arms we put out. From going to get tested when they were unwell, to joining Queensland's Care Army when our most vulnerable needed help, to rolling up their sleeves to get vaccinated, Murrumbidgee's incredible resilience has been on show for all to see. While we are not through the pandemic just yet, I am confident we will emerge stronger than ever.

Thank you to the staff in my electorate office who have been on the front line over the last 18 months. Rachel, Peter and Jenny, you have my thanks and appreciation. There is no way I could have focused on Queensland's health response last term as health minister without such an amazing and dedicated electorate staff. You staffed the office, you answered the phones, and you dealt with people at their most vulnerable and scared in the face of an unprecedented pandemic not just from my electorate but often from around the state and the nation. When people looked to contact me as health minister they often ended up talking to my electorate office.

Thank you also to all of the volunteers who helped on the Murrumba election campaign, including: Natasha, Linda, Gary, Bob, Benton, Antonius, Bruce, Tod, Mary, Russell, Ross, Jan, Andrew, Tim, Dani, Phil, Abhi, Matt, Belinda, Elizabeth, Gareth, Andrew, Veronica, Greg, Neroli, Wendy, Sharon, Trevor, Kelly, Glenn, Robbie, Helen, Peter, Mick, Charlie, Sara, Rosemarie, Nick and my parents and in-laws. Ross and Bruce, my father and father-in-law, insist that this is the last of my elections they will be able to commit to. To be fair, they have worked more than a few. My mum and my mother-in-law, Jan, both helped on the campaign trail as well as taking care of the children when we needed that help. With your indulgence, Madam Deputy Speaker, can I mention my grandma. This was the first election she did not make the sandwiches for election day. At 94, we gave her the day off.

A government member: And you still won!

Dr MILES: And I still won even without the sandwiches and lamingtons, but we did miss them. Of course many more people contributed to the Murrumba 2020 campaign. Given how often I was called upon to be in town or elsewhere in the state, I really value their support. Thank you most of all to Kim. I could not do any of this without her support and the work she does to keep our household running. Sam, Aidan and Bridie, I know how much I miss when I am not there. I hope that when you look back it is with pride at what I was able to contribute and not sadness at what I missed.

Queensland is one of only a few places in the world that was able to hold an election in the middle of a global pandemic and not risk a spike in COVID cases, but it was not luck that got us here: it was the hard work of every Queenslander; it was listening to the health advice; and it was the strong leadership of our Premier and the Chief Health Officer. I want to take a moment to thank now Her Excellency Dr Jeannette Young for her service and the work she put in which saved so many lives. At the very beginning of the pandemic I remember Dr Young stressing to the entire leadership of our health system that we must be relentless in finding cases, isolating them, saving as many lives as possible and never giving up. She never did and we never did. She made so many tough choices and gave our government her advice, knowing that sometimes it would be tough.

At the beginning of 2020 none of us could have predicted how hard the next 18 months would be: the birthdays we would miss, the weddings we could not celebrate, the ways we had to change how we said goodbye to our loved ones. Our strong border measures were tough, but I know they saved the lives of countless Queenslanders. Every Queenslander made huge sacrifices, and on behalf of this government I thank you.

Murrumba is a diverse electorate—diverse in backgrounds, diverse in our culture and diverse in age. That diversity makes our community strong but in a pandemic it also poses challenges, particularly for the elderly. In Murrumba we have many aged-care facilities. I remember the fear and anxiety we felt for our loved ones who we knew were most vulnerable. Since this pandemic began we have lost seven people to COVID-19. While that is an enviable record compared to much of the rest of the world, it is still seven too many. Our community has felt that pain close to home, with Murrumba Downs local Karla Lake being among the few Queenslanders to lose their lives to the virus.

Karla and her husband, Graeme, loved cruises, and for her 75th birthday they chose to celebrate on the *Ruby Princess*. I spent some time with Graeme and their family members in my electorate office. Graeme spent some time in ICU with COVID as well. Their story is heartbreaking. It is one that I kept in mind when I was health minister and one that I will not forget. The actions of health authorities have real consequences, and I committed to ensuring the health of Queenslanders came first every single time.

The next three years will be one of opportunity for Murrumba. One of my proudest moments over the last term was opening the Mango Hill State Secondary College. This is a brand new state high school for the booming suburb of Mango Hill. I proudly joined the Premier and Minister Grace on 23 January 2020 to officially open it. I acknowledge the member for Bancroft, Chris Whiting, who kicked off the effort to get that school before the redistribution when it was part of his electorate. The first students at Mango Hill State Secondary College had a strange year studying in a brand new school in a once-in-a-century pandemic. But the school has served them well, doing its best to support them through this challenging time.

In recent months I have opened fantastic new halls at Mango Hill State School and Kallangur State School. The new university at Petrie is also providing great opportunities for local children. When I started uni, having grown up at Petrie, I would walk to the station—it took me about 10 minutes—to start the 90-minute journey from Petrie station to Toowong station to get on a bus to St Lucia. To think now that someone growing up on Young Street, as I did, can just cross the railway line and go straight to university is pretty incredible. Young people in our community no longer need to choose between our community and getting a university degree.

Our Pine Rivers satellite hospital will ensure that locals will be able to access health care closer to home, reducing the need to travel to Redcliffe or Caboolture hospitals. It will be a game changer for our region. The Premier recently announced that the satellite hospital will be located on land adjacent to the Kallangur train station, making it convenient to public transport, and I think today she announced that Hutchies will be the contractor for building all of the satellite hospitals, including Pine Rivers.

Dakabin station has been long overdue for an upgrade, with Dakabin's growing population putting more demand on the ageing station, but worse were the stories of wheelchair users being carried up the stairs because there were no lifts. Our community deserves better than that. The upgrade, which is almost finished, is making the station more accessible by installing lifts and raising the platform, as well as making it safer by adding more lights and security cameras. I acknowledge the member for Kurwongbah, Shane King, who again kicked off the campaign for the station upgrade. I have been really pleased to work with him on that.

Another project that we worked together on that Shane kicked off the work for and worked very hard to deliver is Kallangur's new community centre, which right now is delivering services for our community, bringing people together at a time when they need it most. I was proud to open it in April this year alongside the minister, the member for Algeester, and the member for Kurwongbah.

We are proud to be delivering air conditioning for every learning space in the Murrumba electorate. We did not have a lot of air conditioning. The schools in my electorate tended not to have the kinds of P&Cs that could raise the funds to deliver the air conditioning, so to see those rooms now air-conditioned is fantastic. We are building new classrooms and we have hired many more teachers to teach and inspire children in those classrooms.

We have expanded Redcliffe and Caboolture hospitals, built new car parks, installed CT scanners and MRI machines, and delivered new and expanded health services. All of these projects have delivered jobs for locals and driven our economic recovery. There is more to do with more funding for schools across the electorate, an even bigger expansion planned for Redcliffe and of course finishing the major expansion at Caboolture Hospital.

Queensland's plan for economic recovery is well underway. We are delivering thousands of jobs across Queensland, and in Murrumba we are delivering infrastructure that will fundamentally transform our community. There are not many places in the world where long lockdowns have not caused massive disruption and economic hardship. Thankfully, because of Queensland's strong health response, Murrumba's recovery is well and truly on track. Driving up and down Anzac Avenue, you can see the high-vis and the construction sites. You can see the cafes and shops that are open because our local economy is going from strength to strength. You can sit down—or stand up, for that matter—at any one of our excellent pubs with a drink: from the Murrumba Downs Tavern, to Diamonds, to my local the Mango Hill Tavern, the Kallangur Tavern, as well as our great clubs like the Kallangur bowls club and Norths. We can visit our loved ones in aged care and visit them in hospital without having to risk their lives. Isn't it a relief to be sitting in here without masks on? We have settled into this new normal. While we are scanning our QR codes and soon showing our vaccination records, our daily lives are largely back to normal.

The next three years will be critical for Murrumba and Queensland's continued economic recovery based on a strong health response and driven by the Palaszczuk government's plan for economic recovery. My No. 1 focus is on delivering the jobs our region needs to thrive and to grow. This term my priorities locally are: acquiring the land for our community's new fire station, which was delivered back in July; delivering the Dakabin health hub, a co-located health facility sat between Dakabin State School and Dakabin State High School; and building the Moreton Connector, a subarterial duplication of the Bruce Highway running between Mango Hill and Griffin initially and hopefully, Minister for Transport, eventually a second bridge over the Pine River.

Thank you again to the people of Murrumba for giving me the opportunity to represent them for another four years. It is a great honour to represent them for another four years. Thank you to the people of Queensland for re-electing the Palaszczuk government with an increased majority. We will continue to work for you.



Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (6.03 pm): It is just over one year since that final day of October 2020—the date of the 2020 state election—and I still remember that feeling of that memorable night: a feeling of pride and honour, of gratitude and the responsibility bestowed on me, a responsibility created by the trust my local community had once again shown in the Palaszczuk Labor government. The result of the 2020 state election also bestowed a great honour upon me—the ability to represent the people of the Woodridge electorate for another four years.

When the people of Woodridge and the people of Queensland made their decision at the ballot box a little over one year ago, it felt like life in Australia might be heading back to normal. We had held the COVID-19 virus at bay. Just days before our election, Victoria had lifted its second-wave lockdown. Sadly, that was not to be. Prime Minister Scott Morrison's failure to acquire enough vaccine and his failure to build proper quarantine facilities gave the dangerous COVID-19 delta variant the chance it needed. Long lockdowns in the southern states ensued but thankfully, with the exception of a handful of short, sharp lockdowns, our state has avoided the damaging and destructive outcomes seen in other states. That is to the very great credit of the people of Woodridge and the people of Queensland who have done everything we have asked of them to keep our state safe.

But now we have one more request, one more ask, one more challenge, and that is to get vaccinated—for Queenslanders to get vaccinated in numbers so great that we can protect all of our fellow citizens, especially the most vulnerable. By 17 December, our borders will be open once again to southern states and our borders will be open to the dangerous delta variant. The virus will come to Queensland. The virus will be here. The only way we can protect ourselves, the only way we can protect Logan, the only way we can protect Queensland is to get vaccinated, which is why I am so pleased the COVID-19 vaccination rates in the electorate of Woodridge and the City of Logan have improved significantly. The latest vaccination rates in Logan show that the city's first-dose vaccination rate now stands at 80.1 per cent, with double-dose vaccination being 64.7 per cent. This is a 10 per cent improvement in single-dose vaccination and a 12 per cent improvement in double-dose vaccination in just over a two-week period.

While we still have more work to do, this is an outstanding result. I want to pay tribute today to every citizen in the City of Logan and every citizen in the electorate of Woodridge who has been vaccinated. Those citizens have rolled up their sleeves and have taken action to protect themselves, their family and our community from the potentially deadly and economically destructive impact of the COVID-19 virus.

In the past few years, the Woodridge electorate has changed shape and continues to evolve. More people are saying yes to Woodridge as the place to put down roots, to find work and to start a family. Even though the history and heritage of Logan's First Nations people, who I acknowledge here today, spans tens of thousands of years, we are still a young community. The average age of residents is just 30 years. That youthful outlook brings with it aspiration and optimism for the future. Nowhere is this more clearly seen than in our primary and secondary schools. Young minds are being nurtured by some of the best teachers and principals in the nation. On the border of the Woodridge electorate, you will find Australia's best secondary school, Marsden State High School, and the country's top public school principal, Andrew Peach.

This new era for the Woodridge electorate is part of a significant growth phase for Queensland. Our lifestyle is attracting record numbers of interstate migrants to our state—new Queenslanders who are proud to call Queensland home—and we welcome these new Queenslanders with open arms. We know that the Sunshine State is the place to be.

The real strength of the community that I serve lies of course in its diversity. Woodridge is a snapshot of all that is great about our state and nation. The diversity in heritage and culture provides endless opportunities to learn, to connect and to understand. In our City of Logan you will meet Queenslanders representing 240 nationalities and ethnicities. We are one of Australia's most multicultural cities, and this is a badge of honour we wear with pride.

We are also a caring community. During the pandemic we saw that in spades. In Woodridge and the wider Logan region, our community groups stepped up to help others—organisations like YFS, Access Community Services, Multilink, Meals on Wheels and Substation33. The benefits of the services they provide come in many forms—health and wellbeing, inclusion, friendship and employment. For our part, the Palaszczuk Labor government will keep backing Logan. In Logan, we are witnessing the delivery of the \$500 million expansion of Logan Hospital and programs to air-condition every classroom in our state schools.

We are also making sure affordable housing is available to more Queenslanders. Since 2017, our government has built around 2,800 new social homes for Queenslanders, creating work for thousands of tradies along the way. These sorts of investments, including record funding in the 2021-22 state budget for social and affordable housing, are only made possible by ensuring the financial position of the state remains strong.

When I took on the role of Treasurer in May last year, during the worst economic crisis of our lifetime, I knew that we had to invest to protect Queenslanders but we had to make sure every dollar mattered. Not long after I became Treasurer I told the story of the first pay packet I received as a young man back in 1982. It was an envelope that contained the first \$2 that I ever earned—a pay packet and \$2 that I still keep today. Every day when I walk into my office I am reminded of my responsibilities by a plaque hanging on the wall that reads ‘Other people’s money’. It is paraphrased from something my late father would always tell me: ‘It is not the government’s money; it belongs to the people’—the people who elected people like me, who work hard, who pay their taxes, who expect the best possible response and services from government. We must always use their money wisely.

Our Unite and Recover COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan is focused on them—on good, secure jobs, backing industry, backing small business and safeguarding the health of Queenslanders. This is the core policy platform we took to the last election and, as the results show, it resonated strongly with the people of Queensland. With uncertainty swirling on a global scale, our government’s strength and stability stood out like beacons of hope and possibility.

In the last state election, Queenslanders told us that they wanted strong borders and strong decisions to protect their lives and livelihoods. They did not want to be dictated to by southern governments, including the federal LNP coalition government. While the LNP—in fact, every registered political party in this state—could not even bother to campaign in Woodridge during the 2020 state election, our government will never take electorates like Woodridge for granted. Equality, opportunity, respect, dignity in work: these are Labor values and they are values of the Woodridge electorate as well.

As I stand in the House to deliver this speech I speak as the voice of my community, and members of my community and a strong local Labor team worked so very hard to secure my re-election. Their efforts and belief made an enormous difference. I acknowledge and thank them today.

I take the opportunity to thank my campaign manager, Jon Raven, who steered the ship admirably once again, and the other true believers who supported me including Kelvin Nicholls, Malcolm Catchpole, John Wood, Tari Dambo, Fardos Yusuf, Teresa Lane, Phoenix Potoi, Izzy Harmer, Alison Liddell and Mindy Russell, along with so many others. In particular I acknowledge rank-and-file members of trade unions and leaders of trade unions. Trade unions play such a special and important role in our Queensland state and in our economy. I want to thank them for everything they do for working men and women in this state and everything they did to give me support.

I would also like to give special thanks to my hardworking electorate officers, Peter Wood and Mel Wong, who do an extraordinary job working so hard for the people of Woodridge. I see myself as working with them. We are a team to serve and look after our community, and I want to particularly acknowledge them this evening. I, of course, want to acknowledge my family—my wife, Therese, and my sons, Samuel and Jonathan—who have been with me on a long and interesting journey every step of the way.

Now it is time for the Sunrise State to rise higher than ever before. COVID-19 may have bruised us, but we are coming back better, stronger and full of hope. Of course, as always, that starts locally. The strength, the fortitude, the resilience and the kindness we all witnessed during the pandemic in Woodridge, in Logan and across Queensland will not be short-lived. Be assured, I will be using this four-year term to give back to my community as much as it gives to me, because it continues to be the greatest privilege of my life to represent the Woodridge electorate in this parliament.



Hon. SM FENTIMAN (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (6.14 pm): I start by respectfully acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which we meet, the Turrbal and Jagera peoples, and pay my respects to elders past, present and emerging, and the traditional owners in Waterford, the Jagera and Yugambeh language nation, and again acknowledge elders past, present and emerging.

I say a big thankyou to Waterford for re-electing me as their representative in the Queensland parliament. My commitment to our community is as unwavering and as strong as the first day I was elected all those years ago. In that time there have been some incredible local wins. I remember when

principal Mick Hornby came to see me about a GP clinic at Mabel Park High School to provide vital health care to disadvantaged students. We took that idea to the Minister for Education, Minister Grace Grace, and I am pleased to say that not only has Mabel Park High School become the first school in Queensland to have a GP clinic but also, because of its success, we are now expanding the program right across the state.

Roy and Henrietta Moran from Regal Waters retirement village in Bethania shared with me their thoughts and ideas on how we could make our community safer—from tackling dangerous intersections and fighting for emergency vehicle access across the Bethania train station to lobbying for important changes to the Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Act.

Politics for me has always been about changing people's lives for the better, to fight for people like Colin Batterham. Colin and his neighbour Rebecca came to my office because he was facing eviction from his retirement home at the age of 81. Not only did his landlord force tenants to sign tenancy agreements riddled with errors but also they charged tenants three-quarters of their pension for accommodation and meals, leaving them with very little to live off, and the meals served were absolutely atrocious. Colin refused to pay for his meals because he said they were not edible and in return received an eviction notice.

We fought the landlord every step of the way and unearthed a systemic scheme that took advantage of vulnerable people not just in my electorate of Waterford but right across the state. We have now prosecuted this landlord for those activities across three villages and she is facing hefty penalties for her actions. Thanks in part to our intervention, Colin and his fellow residents were not evicted and they now get their meals delivered by Meals on Wheels. People like Colin are the reason I got involved in politics and why I am so proud to be the member for Waterford.

Ours is an inspiring and growing community. It is a considerate, compassionate, diverse and generous community. It was Waterford's shared values and commitment to one another that undeniably got us through what has been a very tough couple of years. There is no denying that 2020 was a year that tested us all, and so has 2021. Queensland needed strong leadership to guide us through COVID-19 and we found that in spades with our Premier, Annastacia Palaszczuk. Our Premier remained steadfast, listened to the health advice of our Chief Health Officer, Dr Jeannette Young—now Governor of Queensland—and together they kept us safe and healthy. I want to thank our Premier; our Governor, the former Chief Health Officer; our outgoing health minister, the member for Murrumba; and our new health minister, the member for Redcliffe, for their relentless and continuing commitment to Queenslanders through the pandemic.

Queenslanders in turn showed their gratitude by re-electing a strong and stable Palaszczuk Labor government. Overwhelmingly, Queenslanders said yes to our plan for economic recovery—a plan that has kept locals working, our businesses in action and our students in schools. We kept Queensland working and moving at a time when world economies were being shut down. As then minister for employment and small business and the minister for training and skills, I felt it was important that we got things right during COVID-19. We provided more support than any other state to keep small businesses' doors open and keep Queenslanders in jobs. We also delivered free TAFE for year 12 graduates and free apprenticeships for under-25s and supported over 25,000 young Queenslanders get a valuable qualification for free. We also committed to skilling up young people by expanding programs to anyone aged under 25. Our Back to Work program supported more than 23,000 Queenslanders, and through Skilling Queenslanders for Work more than 32,000 Queenslanders found a job. I would like to thank the wonderful ministerial and departmental staff on behalf of Queenslanders who are working, who now have a new skill, who have a better job and a brighter future because of the work that those in the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training delivered.

This term I have had the privilege to serve as the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. It is an absolute honour to be the first law officer of Queensland. Social justice is so important to me. Good laws are paramount, which is why I will always advocate for a safe, fair and just society. As Attorney-General, I will ensure Queenslanders have access to justice because right now Queenslanders need the law and its protection and representation more than ever.

We know that Queenslanders stayed home for much of the pandemic to protect themselves and the community from COVID-19, yet for so many women home is not a safe place. Almost one in 10 women in a relationship in Australia experienced domestic and family violence during the pandemic, with two-thirds of those women saying that the violence started or became worse as a result of COVID. Added to the complexity and the risk that COVID-19 has introduced as well as the services supporting them is the economic impact felt by Queensland women. They have been disproportionately impacted

by the pandemic. As we rebuild Queensland's economy, it is crucial that we put women at the forefront. That is why we have invested \$155 million in Queensland women and support services for victims of domestic and family violence this financial year.

It would be remiss of me to talk about the advocacy of women without acknowledging the former member for South Brisbane, Jackie Trad. Jackie is a fearless warrior and she made sure that the needs of women were always met. The tireless work that she did on abortion law reform, telling the thousands of Queensland women, 'You are not a criminal for choosing to have rights over your own body,' her courage and her determination paved the way for many Labor women, including myself, to pursue politics. Thank you, Jackie.

As I said at the beginning, my commitment to the people of Waterford is resolute. When I was first elected back in 2015 I promised to deliver for Waterford and I continued with my commitment by delivering \$16 million for a new auditorium at Marsden State High School; a thousand jobs for the Logan Hospital expansion; \$460 million for new hospital beds, new maternity ward and new parking for Logan Hospital; finish stage 1 of the M1-Gateway Motorway upgrade including the new Underwood Road bridge; started on stage 2 of the M1-Gateway Motorway upgrade including the widening of the M1 from Eight Mile Plains to Daisy Hill and a new busway to Springwood; upgrades to Loganlea TAFE's nursing and VET units; and I want to build on all of the collaborations of the last six years to create more change for our community for the better and secure Waterford for the future.

In order to build on these important foundations, we need Labor governments and we need to win elections. If there is one thing I know for certain, no election can be won alone. I am so lucky to have a dedicated and hardworking team on my campaign, a fantastic team of volunteers, lifelong Labor members, the phenomenal Waterford branch members and even some first-time campaigners who joined the Labor family because they believed in our shared values of equality, fairness and social justice. I want to thank them all for their tireless and extraordinary work on the 2020 Waterford campaign. What a stellar effort and what a spectacular feat we all achieved in re-electing a majority Labor government on 31 October.

As I said, elections are never fought alone and I want to recognise the campaign team led by Olivia Amsden, as well as Alex Alder and Liz Irvine, who helped manage our amazing volunteers. A special thankyou goes to Brad Maltby, Kate Grisedale, Christos and Colleen Papadopoulos, Lonnie Nielsen, Sally Traynor, Yvonne Breitreutz, Rachel Simpkin-Bale and Tony Bale, Gail MacPherson, Adrienne Cremin, Charlie and Jenny Bennett, Neil Rogers, Mark Avasalu, Frank Mangan, Qin Zhang, Henrietta and Dana Moran, Laura and Eric Guthrie, Councillor Tim Frazer, Sharon Robertson and Rowan Holzberger who volunteered through rain, hail or shine—they gave it their all. Each and every single volunteer talked to voters on the doors, on the phones and at polling booths with one simple message: Labor puts people first.

No campaign team can work without the fuel needed to keep going, so a special thankyou goes to the Beenleigh CWA for providing a delicious and nutritious lunch on election day. I want to thank both my current and former staff: Laura Fraser Hardy, Michael Kely, Justin Foster, Joshua Lucey, Inga Williams, Penni Pappas, Phoenix Campbell, Jacqueline Anderson, Chanelle Ashfield-Smith, Dou Ribu, Tori Holliday, Claire Francis and Monica Irvine. Right now Monica is enjoying time off with her beautiful baby, Oscar, but we are happy to have her back next year.

A special thankyou goes to my incredible driver, Alice Gilliver. Thank you to my wonderful union family Rohan Webb and Ann Marie Allen from the AMWU; all of my friends at the UWU, ETU Together, the plumbers union, the UFU, the Services Union and the CFMEU; to Julie-Ann Campbell and Kate Luke and everyone at Queensland Labor; those who worked tirelessly in organisations that fight for great change such as Maurice Blackburn, Slater and Gordon, Access including the amazing CEO, Gail Kerr, Kingston East Neighbourhood Group, the Centre Against Sexual Violence and Logan House Fire Support Network.

I also thank my mum, Chris, who was again a champion at pre-poll; my dad, Eric; my sister, Erin, and her husband, Charles; my incredible adopted parents and friends, Fran and Pepe, who helped so much; and my amazing neighbours, John May, Larissa and Carl as well as their children Kiana and Will. I thank my incredible partner, Matt Collins, for all his support and thank you, of course, to the girls Sibella and Maggie.

Waterford, as your re-elected MP, I stand here today to reaffirm my commitment to you all. I will fight for you. I will not let you down. We will continue together the wonderful work we have done to make our community of Waterford even better.



Mr KATTER (Traeger—KAP) (6.25 pm): Firstly, I would like to congratulate the government on their win. Next I would like to thank all our KAP supporters, the hundreds and perhaps thousands of booth workers we had in that now expanding period of the pre-poll, which certainly makes coordination a lot more challenging. For parties of a smaller size like ours it is very difficult to coordinate things like that. We rely very heavily on those volunteers who get paid nothing, and we are very appreciative of their work.

I recognise the valiant efforts of candidates, and I will make mention of ours in the KAP team: Tanika Parker, Attila Feher-Holan, Julianne Wood, Josh Schwartz, Sam Cox, Ciaron Patterson, Christian Shepherd, Allanah Tomlinson, Paul Hudson and Rick Gurnett. I think they all conducted themselves with integrity and gave it their best shot. On behalf of the KAP I also pass on our well wishes to all of the candidates who were unsuccessful. As honourable members would well know, a lot of those people put their life into those campaigns for that short period and a lot of people were bitterly disappointed and really struggled after that election. I think it is important for us to reflect on those people who are not successful because they are part of what makes the democracy robust and provides that competition to keep everyone on their toes. I think it is important to acknowledge the efforts of all those candidates.

I say a special thankyou to my colleagues, the member for Hinchinbrook and the member for Hill, ever reliable—and what a wonderful result for the member for Hinchinbrook. I always joke that the member for Hill can be put under any adversity and he will never lose. The member for Hinchinbrook had a wonderful increase in margin which stands as testimony to the effort he put into that seat during his first term. I also say thank you to our head office: Sarah Major and Anne Pleash. They are highly competent and I am appreciative of their efforts that were well above what they were paid for.

I want to make special mention of my mother, Susie, who is always in the background. She is responsible for a lot more of my dad's political success than he would be willing to admit. I am not sure he is that popular in Charters Towers, but Mum certainly is. I also thank her large band of friends. I am very appreciative. I would be absolutely lost without her. I want to acknowledge my beautiful wife, Daisy, and my daughter, Peaches, for keeping me grounded as well.

Election campaigning for me is a rigorous exercise, but it is a good exercise. I think it is healthy for everyone to be going out and taking the pulse. What are the things people care about? What is going on in the electorate? Let's take a broader view. I would like to think it has been drummed into us in the KAP that we do not want to just be slagging off whoever is in government or opposition; we always want to be offering some solutions when we offer criticism. It needs to be weighted with some solutions.

The KAP put our best foot forward in terms of offering policies that we thought were relevant, making special note of rural and regional areas and in particular North Queensland which we hold so dear. We put forward ideas that we thought could offer people something and give them some hope whilst expanding our economy and making meaningful improvements, not just words that seep out at election time. It is those nation-building initiatives that get the fire in people going.

What are some of the issues? I cannot go past crime. You cannot be an effective MP in North Queensland without being touched by the incidence of youth crime. It is very much misunderstood. I am not saying that I have all of the answers by any means, but I get bitterly disappointed by the level of apathy that I encounter when I talk to either members of government or departments or people working in that space. So many people in that space seem to be disconnected with the reality and what is playing out on the ground.

I was talking to one of the lead civic figures in Mount Isa—this was the second time I have heard this—and as a long-term family they were looking at leaving because they just cannot put up with the crime and they have never seen anything like this in Mount Isa, and it really hurts you when you hear that. We are breaking our backs trying to get things going and keep things going—keep industries going in the electorate to keep jobs there. The health system might be failing and education might have issues, but youth crime is just growing and spiralling. It really knocks the stuffing out of you when people say, 'We think we're getting on top of it,' or, 'We think we're doing enough.' There is no expectation on our part for this issue to be fixed immediately, but there has to be an acknowledgement of the problem, and that is the extreme frustration that I pick up wherever I go. That is why we have previously called for relevant ministers to spend some time in these areas—not just for a day and not just saying, 'We're talking to people on the phone,' but to live there for a week or for a month and then you will really get a feel for what people are saying and they will start talking to you.

We felt that that was such a lead issue. As it stands, it did not move votes. It did not change seats in critical areas, but I do hope that the government would at some point acknowledge that that problem is not going away. It is not getting better and the things in place now are not improving it. That is why we have stuck with relocation sentencing. There is a big gap that still exists. There seems to be a continued space—and I get this every day—where people say, 'There are great programs,' but the people we need to do this do not volunteer for it. They need to be forced to do it and forced into that situation. The only thing you can force the kids to do is to go to Cleveland Bay prison, the youth detention centre. Most of the kids going there—a large proportion of them—want to be there, so it is not much of a deterrent, and it is full anyway, so we need something different.

We know—not we think; we know—that remoteness plays a key part in trying to reform some of these kids. Remoteness is one key part and another is being able to force them into that space and giving magistrates and police that ability to remove those problems out of those areas immediately. That is what is needed. They need to be taken to somewhere that is not Cleveland Bay. That is not the deterrent or the answer at the moment, plus it is full. That is why we have stuck to relocation sentencing as a key part of what we would offer the people in terms of what needs to be done. We hope that the government at some point acknowledges that so we can start to try and fix some of these issues.

The other policy that we ran with was getting the public servants who work in the youth space to come out and volunteer in sport by giving them time in lieu. This is a program trialled by the QPS where they can get time in lieu for involving themselves in some of those sports around town that are struggling. Many sports are struggling to get volunteers at the moment, but someone who works in Youth Justice or Child Safety who is supposed to be engaging with kids in, say, Mount Isa can get four to six hours a week volunteering in an approved sport in that town.

The sport wins from getting volunteers and you have the person getting away from their desk working with those kids in need. If it is the right approved sport—something like Rugby League—you know that those officers are there engaging with those kids where they need to be. Often the biggest criticism is that there are too many people in the offices not engaging with kids on the ground. That is another policy we put out there that we believe goes part of the way to solving some of these problems. We hope it will be adopted sometime in the future and we will certainly continue to push those policies in the parliament.

With regard to the economy, the government—and I heard it again tonight—is very much riding on the success of COVID and its management of it. There is some validity in saying that—I acknowledge that—but there needs to be another thing acknowledged with the whole COVID situation which is never really talked about. Hundreds of billions of dollars worth of cash has been poured into the economy and everyone is thinking, 'Things are pretty good,' and we heard it again tonight from the Treasurer when he said that it has been managed well and the economy is going well. No kidding! You poured hundreds of billions of dollars worth of cash into the economy so things are pretty good, but how does it look in the long term? That is when we need to start looking at industry. What is the government doing about industry?

We heard talk about hydrogen. Obviously I am from an area that is full of front row seats to industry, and the copper smelter came up as a massive issue for me. There is a saying in politics that is highly relevant: success has many fathers, but failure is an orphan. We have been talking about trying to do these things with the copper smelter and getting incentives in place, as the government has always done. How do you think we built the bauxite and the aluminium industries in the first place and the coal industries? We have to incentivise to get the jobs to get the industry so it keeps pumping money into the economy so we can pay for our hospitals and schools and whatever else.

All I ever hear out in the western areas is, 'How much money can we pull off this railway line and out of these water assets and these electricity assets? How much money can we pull off all of these businesses before we start compromising?' You are finding that threshold because you are at it right now in the north-west. Until electricity prices shot up in Europe recently, the north-west had the world's highest energy prices. Shame on you for allowing that! That is a terrible reflection on management of things out there, and that is why we hang so heavily on the CopperString project. It is a private business going for that, and I note again my relationship with the developer of CopperString. My view is that the government should own this. It should not have anything to do with private industry. This infrastructure was built by the government 30 or 40 years ago. All throughout our history this infrastructure was built and owned by the government. The Great Northern Railway line out to the mine was built by the government and owned by the government.

That is what we want—power stations built by the government and owned by the government. Why are we not building that transmission line now to connect us to the grid? We had a timely reminder last week—another small reason—as to why we need connection to the grid, because we have one

monopoly supplier, APA—a global gas giant, a multibillion-dollar company. It is flexing its muscle by taking a super profit from its activities in Mount Isa with the cosy little monopoly arrangement it has now that the government has shut down the only other power station. When its generator went down last week, we all lost millions of dollars.

The copper smelter was shut down for over a day and all businesses around town were unable to do business from two o'clock until six or seven o'clock that night. But that is not the first time that has happened. It has happened multiple times in the last couple of years. We have one supplier. The way to offset that is to be connected to the grid, but that is only a small part of it. If you are a miner out in that region, you are paying \$200 a megawatt hour. The grid price is \$50 or \$60 a megawatt hour, yet they are paying \$200 a megawatt hour in Mount Isa, and they are still competitive. The government is still getting revenue from those mines out there. Connecting us to the grid can get that more towards \$110 a megawatt hour. Imagine what industry in the north-west could do with that.

There was a lot of talk by the government about supporting CopperString. The minister mentioned it again in question time this morning, but it is misleading because all through the campaign those opposite say, 'We support CopperString. We support connecting to the grid.' However, you have to put your money where your mouth is. You have to follow through with that and make sure that it is within the government's ability right now to make it happen as it did 10 or 12 years ago. If you cannot make that happen, I pity us in the future. We can look forward to the continuation of the world's highest energy prices and monopolistic situations. That is the sort of valuable infrastructure we need. When people see that, they think, 'This is a government that's serious about nation building and about engaging in the long-term future and making investments that will create money for us in the future.'

We keep harping on about the Olympic Games. It did come up a lot. It did not come up positively in the north. Some people think it is a great idea. It is not that anyone is against the Olympic Games—we love the Olympic Games—but, crikey, we want some nation-building infrastructure built. We want some big announcements on nation-building infrastructure. We want the same level of commitment to that. We want three ministers dedicated to that in this House instead of three ministers dedicated to the Olympic Games. That is the sort of thing people are looking for and what we try to involve ourselves in.

I acknowledge and thank the government for its help with the copper smelter. There was some good work done there. We are appreciative of that. There were 1,300 jobs saved. It is a pretty big deal if the copper smelter shuts down in Mount Isa. The sulphur from that plant gets taken to make fertiliser at the biggest fertiliser plant in the Southern Hemisphere in Incitec Pivot. That is about 900 jobs. There are hundreds of jobs at the acid plant owned by Incitec Pivot in Mount Isa that takes the sulphur. There is the copper plant itself requiring highly skilled workers. It is one of the rare value-adding industries in Queensland. There is that industry, the bauxite industry, and the refinery in Townsville, but there is not a lot else. There are certainly not many people looking at building these types of industries in the near future, so we have to look after them.


I should have mentioned the jobs at the refinery in Townsville where the copper is sent to be turned into ingots. It is nice to reflect on that. We take that dirt out of the ground and turn it into copper sheeting in Townsville that is ready to be turned into copper wire to be put into houses and electronics and whatever else, but we send that to China. Wouldn't it be beautiful if we existed in an economy where a government said, 'You know what? Let's turn that into wire ourselves.' That is sort the vision we want.

Let me now turn to biofuels. I went down to Dalby and entirely by coincidence witnessed the last grain truck going into the Dalby ethanol plant. It has now shut down. I met the manager there who had repatriated to Australia after being in Europe for many years developing and managing biofuel plants. He came back to Australia excited to help energise and build the industry only to witness its complete demise in Queensland. When I hear the talk about hydrogen and these other industries, I remember years ago in this House we were talking excitedly about biofuels. We got a four per cent mandate of ethanol. Last year I drove to the Sunshine Coast a couple of times. I stopped at every servo and they do not even have an E10 bowser. I checked and there are no fines given for no E10. There was big talk about biofuels but no-one seems to be very serious about it. Was it just talk or was it serious?

In terms of being serious about climate change, E10 in your tank takes 30 per cent of emissions out of your car. We should mandate 10 per cent ethanol tomorrow and force these big oil companies to do it, like they do in the States—there is an E20 mandate in California. Sixty-three other countries in the world mandate ethanol. Every car coming into the industry is tuned in for ethanol. They do not like non-ethanol in the tank. We do not have it because the oil companies seem to be able to out-muscle our governments. Because we do not do that, we deny ourselves a cost-free way of taking the equivalent of 30 per cent of petrol-driven cars off the road.

We would ordinarily be seen as the enemies of the environment, but we are putting forward practical solutions that will get 100 jobs back in Dalby at that plant and underpin a good grain price for the farmers. These are good policies. Why are we not aggressively pursuing those if we are serious about building a future? The only cost of putting E10 in our tanks is to global oil companies. Who are we looking after in this House? Are we looking after APA and the Diamantina Power Station to retain their monopoly? Are we looking after the oil companies so they can manipulate the fuel price system? The Institute of Automotive Mechanical Engineers support ethanol because we know that cars function better on it now in Australia. They are built for it now. We know it is the only way to keep the fuel price down. Not to mention defence imperatives, which is more of a federal issue but we should be concerned about that. It would not hurt for us to be mindful that it will help with fuel security as well. Why are we not pursuing policies like that in biofuel? It is very disappointing.

The last point I would like to make is an observation of a leader of a minor party. During the election we were out there battling away. We put our best foot forward. We think we had a pretty credible campaign, but, boy oh boy, some of the paraphernalia and the army of volunteers from major parties that came out—and I am going to pick on the ALP here more—was very impressive. Let us put that in context. Our ability to fundraise has been reduced. We are hamstrung. We cannot raise any money. It makes me wonder how much third-party money comes into all this. Are these volunteers or are these paid people? This is a distortion of the political process if that is what is happening. It is hard not to think that it is happening here in Queensland.

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (6.45 pm): I wish to put on the record my thanks to and admiration of the 26th Governor of Queensland, the Hon. Paul de Jersey AC and his wife, Kaye. His Excellency has given seven years of service to Queensland as the representative of the Crown—the longest term of service since Sir Walter Campbell, who also served seven years as Governor of Queensland. It is a significant record of service from a man who already has a significant record of service as a justice of the Supreme Court of Queensland for 29 years, 16 of which were as Chief Justice. His Excellency's service to Queensland has made a significant contribution to our state. I believe that it was a privilege to have known him and, indeed, serve as Speaker whilst he served as Queensland's vice-regal representative. I was honoured to MC the farewell dinner for His Excellency hosted by the Premier at the Brisbane Exhibition and Convention Centre on 25 October.

On 1 November, the 27th Governor, Dr Jeannette Young, was sworn into office on the Speaker's Green. It was a fitting event worthy of the occasion, including the speeches given by the Governor, Premier and Leader of the Opposition. I would also like to thank the Parliamentary Service, Protocol Queensland, Office of the Governor, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, police and armed forces for their contributions to a great event. I believe all fair-minded people would consider that Her Excellency has done a tremendous job during the COVID-19 pandemic as this state's Chief Health Officer. She has already provided a great record of service to this state and I am sure this will continue in her role as Governor.

COVID-19 has had a deep and lasting impact the world over and, even with Queensland's relatively good record on hospitalisations and deaths, it has been a challenge to keep life going as we know it. Much has been said about the disruption caused by COVID-19 in this place and beyond and I do not wish to re-state what has been said by others. However, there is one positive aspect which I do not think has been given enough air time and that is regarding improvements in technology which have enabled us to bank and shop from home and, importantly, keep us in touch with our loved ones through the various videoconferencing platforms available. The internet was a stabilising force during COVID-19 and, while there are downsides and pitfalls to social media, we should not overlook what the internet allowed us to do during this pandemic to keep us all together and keep everything moving.

The first anniversary of the election which brought us to this place was 31 October. Not only did the election take place on Halloween; from memory it was a full moon. To this day I am shocked that neither side of politics really used the hook of Halloween as part of their election campaign tactics—it would have been the mother of all scare campaigns.

While some time has elapsed since the last election, I wish to give a few thank-yous to those who worked to return me as the member for Mulgrave for my fifth term in this place. It is humbling to receive the faith of your electorate to represent their interests here and beyond. I congratulate all members who have been returned and in particular those members who have been elected to this parliament for the first time. I again thank the people of Mulgrave who have trusted me again to be their representative. I will continue to work on delivering more and better services to the fast growing southern corridor of Cairns, with a huge focus on the \$481 million Bruce Highway duplication project, bringing four lanes between Edmonton and Gordonvale.

The 2020 election campaign in Mulgrave was conducted generally in good spirit and, like all election campaigns, was a significant undertaking. I am humbled by the support shown in me by the electorate, with first preference support just shy of 50 per cent. I am also very grateful for the support of my campaign provided by local volunteers. No candidate can run their campaign alone. Without the volunteers who support the campaign through street stalls, community events and handing out how-to-votes on election day, campaigns simply would not be possible or successful. I will not name every member of my campaign team. They know who they are. We said thank you quite some time ago. But I do wish to say that I owe each and every one of them a debt of gratitude.

I also wish to thank my electorate officers in 2020 who went above and beyond and continued to do so in an election year and, of course, a COVID-19 disrupted period. Bec Spencer is diligent and tireless as a presence in my electorate office, for which I am very grateful. I wish to thank Kylie Bock, who was also integral to our efforts in 2020. Kylie has since moved on to work with Mission Australia, but I still get to work with her on a semi-regular basis in one of my new areas of focus, which I will talk about in a moment. In 2021 we welcomed Ana to our office as the assistant electorate officer and I thank her for her efforts to date.

Parliamentarians rarely agree on much but one thing that we can all agree on is that we would not be here if it were not for the love and support of our families. I wish to put on record my love for my wife, Kerry, and our children. It has been a big year with Tristan beginning high school and Layla and Kobi continuing to keep busy with sport and dancing. They remain the most important people in my life.

I also wish to thank my parents, Warren and Linda, who have supported me as life has thrown its challenges to them. Many members would be aware that back in 2006 when he was in this place my dad battled Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, which he beat and he has been in remission since. However, earlier this year Dad was diagnosed with bowel cancer and had multiple surgeries before spending four months in hospital. While that was going on, my parents took up my suggestion and sold their house and bought the house next door to my place. The stress of Dad's illness was one thing but packing and moving the folks whilst visiting Dad at the hospital every day added an additional layer. Then again, we never do anything by halves in my family.

The year 2021 has been filled with sadness. This House obviously lost our good friend Duncan Pegg. We have said our thanks to Duncan for his service and I will not do that again today. I am not sure I would be able to get through it.

In February, we lost 19-year-old Luke Azzopardi in a tragic cycling accident in Far North Queensland. Luke was a remarkable young man with a very bright future. I first met Luke when he signed up for Ride for Isabel with his mum, Sue, and over the years I have been very grateful to know Ian and Jazzy, too. Luke won many accolades for his cycling prowess, but I will remember his eagerness to help, his maturity to take on greater responsibility such as being a pack leader and his generosity of spirit. Quite simply, he was a great human being who loved his family and his community.

I have spoken with Sue, Ian and Jazzy and members of the local community and put forward a proposal to name in his honour the cycleway between Gordonvale and the Cairns CBD that is currently under construction. Many people would remember Luke as a champion of community road safety and an advocate for cycling and road safety awareness. Luke was excited about the cycleway project and no doubt would have used the route as part of his regular commute to work in Cairns. An independent decision-making body will determine how infrastructure such as that is named, but it would certainly be fitting if it came to pass.

When Jim and Ros Smith moved to Gordonvale in 1979, they became fast friends with my parents. Since that time Ros, Jim, Brad and Tracey have grown into an extension of my family. Sadly, we lost Ros Smith in August this year, one day short of her 77th birthday. She was like a second mum to me and to my sister, Dionne. Affectionately known as 'Aunty Ros', she was a courageous and proud woman, a tireless community volunteer and a strong and kind role model for all who knew her. Ros was a person who encouraged everyone to be kind and to be the best you could be. She may have been small in stature but she was anything but in terms of her personality. Ros Smith was strong in character and in her convictions, forthright and up-front with her opinions, but also considerate and caring.

Only last month my Uncle Mike Smith suffered a massive heart attack and passed away. I was with my Aunty Annette as the paramedics worked hard to save him, without success. Mike was one of the most caring people I have met and the nicest bloke you could ever meet. He is missed by his daughter, Tracey, and stepchildren, Vanessa, Anita and Ben, and our entire extended family. Mike's stepson, Ben, is an NRL premiership referee and, as a mark of respect, all referees wore black armbands for Mike during the final series. As a lifelong Penrith supporter Mike would have been happy to see his Panthers take out the historic first-ever Brisbane NRL grand final this year.

On to brighter things. I turn now to the progress that has been made on the Far North Queensland sound stage that was promised by the government during the election. The announcement of the location for the facility last month was a very exciting moment for the Far North Queensland film and television industry and those who want to see the Far North's economy grow and diversify. The new Screen Queensland production facility will be located at the former Bunnings site, a 6,500-square-metre site that is five minutes from the CBD and only 13 minutes from the airport. The site was chosen after months of planning, stakeholder roundtables and industry consultation.

Construction on the new facility will commence in early 2022 and it is estimated to be operational by the middle of next year. The film studio will create an ideal space for local TV and film creators and would be another drawcard for interstate and international productions choosing the Far North as a film destination. I am the Queensland government's Far North Queensland Screen Champion and the implementation committee that I chair is working with architects and designers to create a facility that will be multipurpose and will support collaboration, serving the needs of a wide variety of local screen creatives and the wider artistic and cultural community in general. Once completed, the studio complex will house a sound stage and support facilities including production offices, construction, wardrobe and hair and makeup departments, along with an events space and permanent creative tenancy opportunities.

Excitingly—and I think one of the best parts of the facility—it is going to have an educational component. CQUniversity has been a partner of ours since the beginning. We hope that they will be able to deliver their digital program through the facility and, of course, we will invite other like-minded groups such as the Australian Film Television and Radio School to have a regional Australian campus in Cairns. This is about making sure that we tap into the great things happening in film and television and that we have the workforce of the future.

Locally made interstate and international productions are job generators for Queensland and currently our screen industry is thriving. In the past 18 months a record number of projects have been filmed in Queensland or are wanting to film here, generating millions of dollars for our state economy and requiring a workforce of thousands. The pipeline of productions is critical for our economy, and our economic recovery will be even more important going forward. Far North Queensland is highly regarded in the industry for its picture-perfect tropical and coastal locations so the construction of this state-of-the-art facility will provide much needed infrastructure to cater for the creative and logistical needs of local and visiting productions.

In addition to its commitment to the Far North Queensland sound stage, in this year's budget the Palaszczuk government has allocated \$71 million towards home-grown productions and the Production Attraction Strategy, which we implemented in 2015, including \$4 million for the new four-year North Queensland Regional Program to build skills and opportunities for the local screen workforce. Recent productions for the region include the Queensland-made hit movie *This Little Love of Mine*, which was ranked the No. 1 most viewed movie on Netflix in the UK, and the Network Ten series *Dive Club*, which was filmed at Port Douglas and released to international audiences on Netflix recently.

The Far North is home to expert local screen businesses such as Lone Star Productions, my good mate Aaron Fa'aoso and the team behind the NITV and SBS food and travel program *Strait to the Plate*, which we premiered here at Parliament House, and cinematographers BioPixel and BioQuest, which worked on David Attenborough's *Life In Colour*. Currently in production at Mission Beach is *Irreverent*, Matchbox Pictures's drama series for Universal Studios Group about a criminal who poses as the new church reverend in a small reef town. That sounds very familiar. I was on set at Mission Beach recently and had the pleasure of spending a chunk of time with Producer Tom HOFFIE and Executive Producer Paddy Macrae, as well as series lead, Colin Donnell of *Chicago Med* fame—but to me he will always be Tommy Merlyn from the DC series *Arrow*. The new Screen Queensland Production facility in Cairns will take the film and TV production facility in the Far North to the next level, bringing more productions such as those and more jobs to the Far North.

I wish to talk about another great initiative in Mulgrave, Cairns South Together, which was founded in May last year. Based at Hambledon House Community Centre, it aims to integrate the collective impact model and evidence based decision-making with community engagement to improve the lives of young people and their families living in Cairns South. The saying that it takes a village to raise a child has been tossed around for years, but it is particularly fitting when it comes to the Cairns South Together collective impact movement. 'Collective impact' is exactly what it sounds like: a collaborative approach by local people, organisations and agencies seeking to bring about long-lasting social change in a particular community.

In early 2020, I was asked to take on the role as chair of the Cairns South Together steering committee, which was charged with progressing the vision of having happy, healthy young people contributing to a brighter future in Cairns South. The steering committee consists of recognised community leaders with experience in advocacy, governance and strategy who also have an ability to bring people and organisations together to achieve a common goal. Committee members include representatives and experts from fields such as business, health, policing, education, the law, skills and training, sport, traditional owners, early years, multicultural and community. In November 2020, working groups driven by the steering committee members were established.

Cairns South Together lives by the phrase ‘nothing about us, without us’. Authentic community engagement through surveys, information stalls, focus groups and youth consultation is already underway involving locals from Earlville to Gordonvale. Data on Cairns South is being collected from a range of sources and is being shared across partners and stakeholders to identify change-making projects. As the backbone of Cairns South Together, Mission Australia will collaborate to provide resources to progress and support the activities of the collective. In September 2020, Mission Australia announced that Cairns South is the first Mission Australia Community of Focus site in Australia. This is a pledge of 10 years of support for Cairns South Together which is a great launching pad for future success.

Despite the disruption of COVID, in almost 18 months Cairns South Together has already delivered several initiatives. Last month, the Cairns South Together education, skills and training working group held the inaugural youth leadership forum for 52 students from 10 local schools in the southern suburbs of Cairns. This forum was an opportunity to engage with local students to discuss challenges and opportunities in Cairns South.

The Southside Celebration Day, held on 30 September at Hambleton House, was also a great community engagement event hot on the heels of the south side services expo held a few days prior. These events are only a small snapshot of what Cairns South Together is achieving. With deep community connections and responsiveness to grassroots needs, we hope to prove that public money is not always the answer. Improved sharing of data, a little autonomy and place based decision-making can go a long way.

Finally, it was almost a year ago that I was re-elected as Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. I wish to place on the record how I was very humbled to receive the support and endorsement of fellow parliamentarians to continue to do a job that I love. Especially as it was a re-election, I consider it a mark of confidence—or maybe not—from my colleagues for the way that I presided over the parliament last term. I want to thank the irrepressible George Hasanakos and the effervescent and efficient Coral-Leah Kemp in the Office of the Speaker for their continued support. I am very happy that a regional MP again is in this role. It shows that regional MPs still play a vital role in how Queensland is governed.

I am especially proud that there will be a regional parliament in Cairns this term. When regional parliament last came to Cairns, in 2008, it was warmly received by the community in the Far North. Given the 2020 Cairns TNQ Convoy to Capital Q, I am sure there are many local stakeholder organisations that will again be very keen to have the Queensland parliament in the Far North. I am always keen to have Far North schoolkids down to Brisbane to see parliament in action but very often this is not possible. The Cairns regional parliament will be an excellent opportunity for many local students to see parliament in action when they otherwise would not have had that chance.

On a personal note, it will be a rare privilege for me personally to preside over parliament in the region in which I live. I very rarely have been able to drive to parliament! It is an event I am keenly looking forward to, and I look forward to hosting members in Gordonvale for an evening. In closing, I love my job as the member for Mulgrave and as Speaker. It is a great honour to serve in both roles. I look forward to serving and delivering in both capacities in this the 57th Parliament.

Debate, on motion of Mr Pitt, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Whitsundays, Queensland Tourism Awards; Beef 2021



Ms CAMM (Whitsunday—LNP) (7.02 pm): On Friday night I was pleased, along with many of my colleagues across the parliament, to attend the 2021 Queensland Tourism Awards that were held at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre with more than 1,100 guests gathered to honour the state's best tourism operators across 31 award categories. The Whitsundays certainly took out its fair share. Karen Jacobsen—the GPS girl, the original voice of Siri and our Whitsunday ambassador—welcomed guests. I do need to acknowledge her latest release *Take Me to Hayman Island*, which is a fantastic new single that also showcases one of our award winners.

Some 17 Whitsunday operators were nominated across Queensland Tourism Awards categories. For the first time in history across three consecutive years upon entering the state awards for the first time, Red Cat Adventures—I need to acknowledge Asher and Julie Telford whom I know many in this House have worked closely with—won gold in the adventure tourism category and gold in the major tourer and transport operator category. We congratulate them now on entering the hall of fame in two categories.

I also acknowledge Intercontinental Hayman Island Resort, which took out the five-star accommodation category. Pinnacles Resort in Airlie Beach took out the self-contained accommodation category. Ocean Rafting achieved second in the major tourer and transport operator category—it has a fantastic product; Big Four Adventure Whitsunday Resort, which I used to take my children to when they were younger and which I know many families experience, also took out silver; and Whitsunday Coast Airport also took out silver in the tourism, retail and hire services category. Cruise Whitsundays took out silver in the unique accommodation category. Whitsunday Escape achieved bronze in the unique accommodation category.

Tourism Whitsundays took out the Richard Power Award for Tourism Marketing and Campaigns. I acknowledge the team of Tourism Whitsundays and the leadership of past CEO Tash Wheeler, outgoing chair Matt Boileau, incoming CEO Rick Hamilton, whom we welcome to the region, and new chair Julie Telford, who we know will lead the organisation with great energy.

I also take this opportunity to acknowledge Beef 2021. I am very proud of my cousin Bryce Camm and his team for being awarded gold in the major festivals and events category and gold in the excellence in food tourism category. It was fantastic to be able to celebrate the night with all of them. I also acknowledge and recognise Mackay Tourism, as a third of my electorate is supported by the Mackay Visitor Information Centre, which services our tourism industry. It took out bronze in the visitor information category. It has been a tough time since Cyclone Debbie, along with the pandemic. I congratulate the leadership of our tourism industry.

Keppel Electorate, Coronavirus



Ms LAUGA (Keppel—ALP) (7.05 pm): I acknowledge the presence in the gallery of my friends Jodie and Adam. Thank you for being here at parliament; it is great to have you. Keppel has been through floods, fires, cyclones, droughts and hailstorms and is now enduring a global pandemic. COVID-19 has had a significant impact on our region over the past two years. Last year businesses had to close their doors, working parents had to juggle Zoom and homeschool, school students missed formals, workers stepped up and our hospitals rapidly prepared for the possible rush of patients needing treatment and care. As Keppel always does, we rolled up our sleeves, got to work and protected the elderly and the vulnerable. Neighbourhoods were alight with generosity.

As a result of our hard work, community spirit and care and as a result of heeding the advice of the then chief health officer, Dr Jeannette Young, the Premier and the medical experts, Central Queensland has pretty much avoided COVID—until now. As one of the most disaster affected regions in Australia, Keppel knows how to get back up again after we have been knocked down. When the fire roars, we help each other get out. When the cyclone is coming, we batten down the hatches. When the floodwaters rise, we pack sandbags. Well, COVID is coming. I am asking Keppel residents—I am pleading—to please get vaccinated.

Today Queenslanders started coming back home from New South Wales and Victoria. There were emotional scenes at the airports today as families were reunited after months apart. I acknowledge all of those families who have sacrificed so much in order to keep Queenslanders safe. As people return home, they will inevitably bring COVID with them. That is a reality. This pandemic is not some made-up thing. It is not some game that health professionals are playing to control you or to improve 5G connections. When COVID comes, I need our region to be absolutely ready for it. Let us employ the same generosity that I have witnessed time and time again in the face of disaster. You can be a generous, selfless, caring local by getting vaccinated—for you, your family, your friends, the elderly and the vulnerable. We do not need One Nation and the LNP stirring mistruths. Just do not buy into it. If you are unsure, if you want to ask questions, if you want to know what is going on and why, just ask me. I have always been available to anyone who wanted to meet with me about anything.

I am pleased to inform the House that vaccination rates in Central Queensland increased by 4.1 per cent last week. Livingstone is now at 77.2 per cent first dose and Rocky is at 78.2 per cent first dose. These numbers are expected to climb over the next few weeks and months. Second-dose numbers will also increase. That means that as every day goes by more and more people will be able to continue to go about their business as per normal. Please, Keppel, now is the time to respond to this disaster. Let's be kind to each other, caring for our community, and get vaccinated.

Labrador State School, 100th Anniversary



Mr O'CONNOR (Bonney—LNP) (7.08 pm): More people live in Labrador than in any other part of my electorate. It is one of the oldest and proudest parts of the Gold Coast—named not after a breed of dog but by one of our first European settlers, Robert Muir. He was a Scottish engineer who had sailed past the Labrador Peninsula in Canada. When he bought 139 acres north of Southport in 1878 that today makes up our suburb, the Broadwater reminded him of those estuaries on the other side of the world.

Tonight I pay tribute to a place that is a heart of that community, Labrador State School, because this year it celebrates its 100th birthday. We have come so far in that time. When the school opened in 1921 it had just 17 students and one teacher in a single building. In 2021, Labrador has 768 students with 85 teachers, teacher aides, admin staff, cleaners and a groundsman, all ably lead by Principal Stephen Josey and his team.

The school is not even in the same place it was a century ago. It actually used to be on Billington Street and the Gold Coast Highway, where the council's Labrador Community Hub now sits. The selflessness of local people is engrained in this school. We can still see it in the incredible P&C volunteers a century later. It is the reason we have our hall and our swimming pool, and the very existence of our school is because of the efforts of locals.

The school started with a group of Labradorians meeting on a Friday night at Peter Kropp's house on 5 September 1919. They were worried that a quarter of the children in the area did not go to school at all because the closest school to them was Southport State School, four kilometres away, which is quite a journey on foot. They then had to hold working bees to clear the land themselves—not an easy task because the school site, like most of the Gold Coast, was essentially a swamp. The grounds of that first site were barely dry for more than a few days a year. The kids would regularly get colds, boils and sores, and they would even catch freshwater yabbies in the back corner of the schoolyard. It would stay on that site for another three decades.

The school that we all know and love today opened on the land bounded by Imperial Parade, Turpin Road and Gordon Street in 1952 with around 200 students and, thankfully, it is on much higher ground. Thank you to everyone who has helped celebrate this centenary through the heritage walkway, the year 6 designed mural, the reunion at Southport Sharks and this badge which every student and staff member received and which I was proud to sponsor. Whether you are one of the first families of our area or one of the new arrivals who make up our modern multicultural community, thank you for making this school so special. As your very proud local MP, happy 100th birthday Labrador State School.

Coronavirus, Vaccination; Year 12, Graduation



Mr McCALLUM (Bundamba—ALP) (7.11 pm): I am pleased to announce vaccination rates across our local Ipswich community continue to rise. As of today, a total of 82.2 per cent of people have now received one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine while 68.2 per cent of people in Ipswich are fully vaccinated. These rates have risen by almost four per cent in the past week alone. It is a good result but clearly we have more work to do. Getting vaccinated has never been more easy or convenient.

Our school captains continue to play an important part in our safe and strong recovery. This weekend more than 100 schools across the state will once again host vaccination clinics. I was proud to welcome the Premier to one of our local schools that has been central to our vaccination efforts in recent weeks—Redbank Plains State High School. School captains Ellie, Elizabeth, Johnny-Mack and Alison are leading by example—rolling up their sleeves and getting vaccinated and encouraging our local community to do the same. Their enthusiasm and passion is undeniable. They even managed to get the Premier and myself to take part in what was my very first TikTok video to help promote the importance of being fully vaccinated. The clock has well and truly stopped ticking on this one. It is past time to get vaccinated. To everyone in our local community of Ipswich and across the rest of Queensland I say: please get vaccinated now.


Our local students are leading from the front as another challenging year at school comes to a close. On Friday we will farewell the senior class of 2021. These students have shown great resilience and determination to finish their secondary education during two years disrupted by the pandemic. Homeschooling, postponed exams, formals and other events and abbreviated and suspended sport seasons were all a part of their unique journey to graduation.

Now, because of our ongoing safe and strong recovery and increasing vaccination rates, we can celebrate their success in and out of the classroom. I have been proud to attend and support graduations and presentations across our local community. From early childhood centres to senior

school awards, our education providers in Bellbird Park, Bundamba, Collingwood Park, Goodna, Redbank Plains, Redbank, Ripley and Riverview continue to acknowledge the outstanding achievements of their students, staff, supporters and the entire school community.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the seniors of 2021. I wish you all the very best for the future and hope you have a safe and well-earned break. To our teachers, support staff, parents and carers: thank you for everything you have done and continue to do to educate, inform and inspire our next generation.

Southport Electorate


 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (7.14 pm): Tonight I rise to speak briefly on some local happenings in my patch of the Gold Coast, and to recognise the hard work of some outstanding members of the community working on these projects. Every Sunday evening for almost 20 years the amazing Angels Kitchen volunteers from Southport Catholic parish have been serving meals to homeless and lonely people from around Southport. The whole team, including Tony, George, Alana and former member for Moncrieff, Kate Sullivan, do a terrific job of supporting underprivileged people in our community. It has been my pleasure to help out from time to time of a Sunday evening. I am always on the lookout for the best specials and bulk buys on Sanitarium Up and Go as I know they always put it to good use. Members can drop some to my office if they have some spare.

Those who have been members of this place for at least a few years will know of my ongoing commitment to the Vinnies CEO Sleepout. I especially want to give a shout-out to fellow ambassadors Col Wheeler, Karen Phillips and Jamie Preston. I also want to thank Kris Martin and Tanya Mohoney from the Vinnie's team for all the great work they do and for surprising me over lunch just a few weeks ago with an outstanding fundraising award. It was not expected, but I am so honoured to be recognised for personally raising more than \$100,000 over the last five years—more than any other Gold Coaster. More importantly, collectively Team Southport and the Vinnies team have raised more than \$2 million, with this year being a record year.

Another great organisation in the electorate is Set Free Care which provides excellent services to disadvantaged people on the Gold Coast. Set Free Care was started in 1996, and today their service offering has expanded to include discounted pantry packs, free haircuts, discounted clothing through their op shop and a free laundry service, amongst others. However, one of the key things they have done is provide opportunity and space for many government and non-government service providers to come in and meet with their clients. I especially want to acknowledge my dear friends Edith and Mal Kennedy for their years and years of sacrificial service. They live and work to support this service and they are an incredible blessing to our community and to Set Free Care.

I also acknowledge the fact that we have a new homelessness space in Southport. The Gold Coast Youth Foyer recently opened its doors. The Foyer model, initially trialled by the LNP government and initiated by Tim Mander as a trial in Logan, is an approach to youth homelessness that attempts to ensure that the experiences of homeless young people do not translate into long-term poverty and disadvantage in adulthood. I understand that just over half of the 40 units are already tenanted. I have been impressed by the hard work of Matt Slavin and Maria Leebeek from the Gold Coast Youth Service. It was my pleasure to host them for dinner in Strangers last sitting week and to present them with Sensational Southport Citations.

McConnel Electorate, Live Music Venues

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (7.17 pm): McConnel would have to be one of the best electorates in this state. Before I get any arguments from the 92 other members in this House, I say that that is largely because of the wonderful restaurants, the live music scene and venues I have not only in Fortitude Valley but spread right across the McConnel electorate. The Palaszczuk government had a firm commitment to assist artists and live music venues to make sure that as we kept Queenslanders safe and grew the economy, jobs and the economic base these venues went from strength to strength. Of the *Courier-Mail's* 20 nominated best restaurants, 18 of those are in the electorate of McConnel. If members want a good restaurant, come to McConnel and they will be wined and dined in some of the best restaurants that Brisbane and Queensland has to offer.

The live music venue support that we as a government have been able to give is around \$60 million. A lot of that has come into the electorate of McConnel. Music venues like the Woolly Mammoth, The Zoo, the Tivoli theatre, The Triffid and the Fortitude Valley Music Hall received financial

support so that when we opened up people could go back into clubs, which is unique to Queensland, and dance on their dance floors and enjoy the live music scene. This has seen them through and they have delivered a fantastic product that young people enjoy.

There are also some of our emerging smaller capacity venues such as Brooklyn Standard, the Tomcat bar and O'Sculligans, just to mention a few. These venues have received altogether—I thank the arts minister—around \$22.5 million, and around \$2 million has been spent in the electorate of McConnel. This has been of great assistance to these venues. As we know, international artists have not been able to travel here and national artists have had trouble travelling from Sydney or Victoria. Many live music venues had to cancel shows because artists could not come into the state. Luckily, as we open up—hopefully on 17 December—this assistance that we have given these businesses, particularly in the seat of McConnel, will put them in good stead to be able to deliver a quality product.

Queenslanders deserve to see their lives return to normal. It has been a long, hard road. Some of these businesses have done it tough, but they have met the challenge. We have been able to assist them financially. I look forward to making sure that when we do open up on 17 December these venues are in a position, through government assistance, to be able to offer the quality live music venues that they have been all along.

Jacobs Well Heritage Fair; You Choose Youth Road Safety



Mr CRANDON (Coomera—LNP) (7.20 pm): I had the pleasure of officially opening the Jacobs Well inaugural heritage fair last Saturday. For an old area like Jacobs Well, you would wonder why it would be an inaugural heritage fair, but that is what they called it and that is what we are going to continue to call it. Hopefully we will see it go on for many years to come.

Mr Stevens: Great pub.

Mr CRANDON: I take that interjection. Absolutely, it is a great pub at Jacobs Well for sure. Fortune favours the brave because planning was done over many months leading up to the event. It was a magnificent day. Everybody was walking around maskless and thoroughly enjoying themselves.

The day started with a parade along the local streets of Jacobs Well to Riesenweber Park. Things were well underway when I arrived at 10 o'clock. Thousands of locals and people from far and wide came out to celebrate the occasion. Old cars lined the park to show off their tailored beauty including an FC Holden, which brought back memories as my very first car all those years ago. We were joined and entertained by Woongoolba State School choir and Ormeau State School choir. In fact, the German heritage was coming through strongly, with one of the songs from Woongoolba State School being in German and it was thoroughly enjoyed by all and sundry.

The Jacobs Well Fishing & Social Club were awarded best dressed in the parade. It was a real sight to see I have to say. There was a great level of cooperation and enthusiasm. Well done to Jacobs Well & District Progress Association, headed up by president Chas Watt; the convenor of the day, Dave Mayo, who spent months and months planning all of this, and his darling wife, Pat Mayo; Jenny Cooper, Bill Whiting and the rest of the organising committee—Lurlene Schmidt, Jenny Oceans, Pat Plenty and Jan Litherland; the emcee on the day, who was Ray Leon—and what a great job he did; and all the workers on the day who made it an outstanding success. Congratulations to the Jacobs Well community for an outstanding local event.

Another important event is coming to our northern Gold Coast community—the You Choose Youth Road Safety evening. It is being run by Melissa and Peter McGuinness from You Choose Youth Road Safety program, who were runners up for Queensland's Australian of the Year, in partnership with Gina and Tim Connolly from Newhaven Funerals and hosted by our newest school, education minister, Gainsborough State School, with principal Clay McCann providing his wonderful support for the community yet again.

Commencing at six o'clock on Wednesday, 8 December 2021, locals will listen to an introduction to Melissa and Peter's powerful message. Peter and Melissa embarked on a social mission to push for change in reckless driving behaviour of young drivers after their son, Jordan, made choices as a driver which cost the lives of four innocent young people in 2012, including his own life. That event is on 8 December. All are welcome on that evening.

Small Steps 4 Hannah Foundation



Mr KELLY (Greenslopes—ALP) (7.23 pm): Last Thursday Susan and Lloyd Clarke were honoured as Queensland's Australians of the Year. The day before that I saw Susan and Lloyd at the fantastic local Whites Hill State College, where they were presenting an award in honour and memory

of their daughter, Hannah, recognising a young sportswoman from the school. I suspect that the last time Susan and Lloyd had sat in that hall would have been as proud parents in 2005 watching their daughter, Hannah, receiving her school captain's badge. Like a lot of parents, they would have helped out in the school while their kids were there but, once the kids are out of the school, life moves on. I doubt they would ever have imagined that they would be back at the school giving out awards in memory of their wonderful daughter.

Susan and Lloyd have been recognised for their efforts to prevent domestic violence—in particular, to get action on coercive control—starting the Small Steps 4 Hannah Foundation. I want to quote a couple of statements from a speech Sue gave recently—

The Foundation's story begins in February last year, with something that no parent or grandparent would ever expect. I'm sure you know our story. Our beautiful daughter and grandchildren were taken from us.

And very soon after that awful day we learned a term that we'd never heard before. Coercive control. We certainly knew the signs and we knew the impacts. We just didn't know that it had a name.

We also learned—talking to the police and domestic violence experts—that it is far more widespread than we had ever imagined, and probably than most Australians had imagined.

And we were confronted with a choice. Do we close our eyes to that problem, and allow other families to continue to suffer the way that our family had suffered? Or do we do something about it?

In a million years no-one would ask for this platform. But we have it. We are going to use it to tell Hannah's story in the hope that other women will see those warning signs, and make choices that will save them. Save their children. Save their families all the devastation.

Susan, Lloyd and their son, Nathaniel, have done just that—using their platform to attempt to stop domestic violence and end coercive control, working with Attorney-General Fentiman and the task force headed by Margaret McMurdo to develop laws against coercive control. Susan also takes time to work with other volunteers at a great local community organisation Beyond DV, to speak to mothers and daughters about coercive control. Recently the foundation, after just one year of operation, awarded three community organisations \$97,000 in funding—Beyond DV, Blue Light and The Lady Musgrave Trust.

I remember clearly the day Minister Ryan rang me to tell me of the terrible murder of Hannah, Aaliyah, Laianah and Trey. It occurred on a street not far from where my grandparents had lived for 40 years—and a street I would have played on as a kid at about their age. Like our entire community, I was shocked. I wish I had never gotten to know Susan and Lloyd in this way. I wish I had just met them in the community as the hardworking, community-minded people that they are. But I am glad I have gotten to know them. I bump into them regularly now at community events, using their platform—the one they really do not want—to end domestic violence; to stop coercive control; to honour the memory of their daughter, Hannah, and their grandchildren, Aaliyah, Laianah and Trey; to say not now, not ever to domestic violence.

Gold Coast, Youth Crime



Mr STEVENS (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (7.26 pm): Since we last sat in this House of legislation, I have met with several parents of youths who have been, and continue to be, involved in serious crime sprees on the Gold Coast. These are good, loving, caring parents who are desperately frustrated at the behaviour of one of their children, while having well-behaved, normal brothers and sisters being unfairly affected by that sibling's atrocious behaviour. They are at their wit's end trying to combat the unacceptable behaviour of their child and they are crying out for help.


That help needs to come from the justice system that is charged with protecting the community from lawless behaviour. That justice system is directed by the laws that we make in this House. This House is the filter for community sentiment and direction. This House is filled with politicians who should understand and react to Queenslanders' concerns. This House is the font of knowledge of what is acceptable behaviour for our community and accordingly makes laws to see that those lawful standards are implemented by the judiciary. I am sick and tired of seeing half-baked magistrates with no, none, zilch community representation sending deliberately delinquent kids back out on to the street to repeat the crimes for which they have been charged and found guilty.

These parents are angry at the judicial system for failing their children. They are certain that this government's failure to put in place adequate laws for the judiciary to follow will lead to the death of their child in a stolen vehicle or, what is worse, the death of an innocent family caused by their child in an out-of-control stolen vehicle. These kids are as young as 13 and have no regard for parental direction or control. The parents themselves want them taken out of normal society and away from peer group gang pressure until their behaviour can be corrected.

On the Gold Coast we are talking about 30 known offenders, so it is not a lot of criminals that we are dealing with. Yes, they are criminals, and criminals, old or young, should be removed from communities. I have sponsored a petition to get this Labor government to do the right thing about these hardened criminal kids—a petition which their parents have signed. I urge Premier Palaszczuk to understand the heartache these kids are bringing to their families and which is about to explode as these criminal influences encourage more youth to join them.

The police are sick of the court's revolving doors for these repeat offenders, and I know they privately support a new law regime to give effect to the wonderful work they do in rounding up these errant teenagers and protecting communities from their wilful criminal behaviour. Ankle bracelets do not work; excursion visits to the courthouse do not work. We need them taken out of society until their ways have mended and their acknowledgement of right from wrong has matured.

Savoyards Musical Comedy Company

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (7.29 pm): Gilbert and Sullivan—I am sure those names need no introduction to this crowd. The works of the most well-known writer and composer duo continue to entertain crowds more than 100 years after they were first written, but they were responsible for far more than just their enormously popular plays. Without Gilbert and Sullivan there would not be Savoyards. In 1961 Olwyn and Jim Foley founded a community theatre group driven by community demand to perform and enjoy plays like the *Pirates of Penzance*, *The Mikado* and *HMS Pinafore*. When it came to choosing a name Savoyards was chosen in homage to the famous Savoy Theatre, which was built in Victorian London to perform the works of Gilbert and Sullivan.

From the first performance of *The Mikado* at Wynnum library hall on 2 November 1961 Savoyards have come so far. They have survived wars and the current pandemic. They have even performed non-Gilbert and Sullivan productions! It is estimated that more than a quarter of a million people have attended Savoyards shows and I, like many other baysiders and Queenslanders, am one of those. I have enjoyed many performances, and this year I laughed along to *The Drowsy Chaperone*. If you get a chance to see that, I definitely encourage you to go and see it. As Savoyards celebrate their 60th anniversary they should be proud of the fact that they are Brisbane's longest continuously running musical theatre company, and it is proof that the arts always survive. The public's need for entertainment and escapism always endures.

How has musical theatre survived when more modern forms of entertainment like the Imperial and Star theatres, which existed in Wynnum during the first half of the twentieth century, did not? It is because Savoyards is driven by passionate and talented individuals, and the passion that drove members of the community to build Savoyards is the same flame that keeps it burning more than half a century later. I acknowledge all of them tonight who are here in the chamber. Welcome!

It is a particularly special time for me to stand here and talk about the importance of the arts in Wynnum Manly on the launch day of the second Wynnum Fringe Festival. Much like Savoyards, Wynnum Fringe was founded by a passionate local, Tom Oliver, who wanted to provide artists with opportunities to perform. Although the drag queens and contortionists of Wynnum Fringe might seem like they are a world apart from the absurd satire of Gilbert and Sullivan, both provide much needed and much appreciated outlets to Wynnum Manly's creative community. Without Gilbert and Sullivan we might not have Savoyards, and without Savoyards we might not have the Wynnum Fringe Festival.

To quote WS Gilbert, 'While I'm anything but clever, I could talk like this forever,' so I will wrap this up by thanking Savoyards for providing baysiders and all of Queensland with high-quality theatre experiences. Congratulations on the past 60 years, and I look forward to the next 60 years.

The House adjourned at 7.32 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyce, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Camm, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Katter, Kelly, King A, King S, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, MacMahon, Mander, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Perrett, Pitt, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Skelton, Smith, Stevens, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Watts, Weir, Whiting