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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT


Wednesday, 1 December 2021

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WEDNESDAY, 1 DECEMBER 2021


 The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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


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

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Speaker of the United Kingdom House of Commons, Video Call

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, the security of MPs is critical to our functioning democracy. The recent murder of British MP Sir David Amess and this year's storming of the Capitol Building in the USA are both tragic reminders of the security threats that we as legislators face. Yesterday evening, I was able to meet via video call with my good friend the Rt Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle, Speaker of the United Kingdom House of Commons. In 2019, Sir Lindsay was a keynote speaker on the security of MPs at the Presiding Officers and Clerks Conference held in this chamber. We discussed the issue of security of MPs, staff and the public at our respective parliaments. The meeting was a great example of how parliaments can provide support to each other to meet common challenges. I thank Sir Lindsay for his offering his time, candour and insights into this important matter. I reaffirm to the House the important friendship we have between our two parliaments.

Parliamentary Precinct, Coronavirus Vaccination


 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, since the announcement by the government on 9 November that double dose COVID vaccination may be a requirement to enter certain venues, the Clerk and I have been working on appropriate requirements for staff and on entry into the parliamentary precinct. Recent media reports which suggest that this matter was only being considered after the Premier's response to a petition is incorrect. The parliamentary precinct is a place of work—not just for the Parliamentary Service but also members of parliament, ministerial and opposition staffers and members of the media. It also receives over 40,000 visitors each year from the public.

The development of a consistent COVID vaccination entry policy requires wide consultation. This is a process that cannot and should not be rushed. I make no apology for the time it is taking to develop this policy. The Clerk and I also have legislative consultative procedures to be undertaken. This work has already been occurring for several weeks and will soon be concluded.

Further, this is not a question of MP privilege. Members, almost unanimously, are already vaccinated. To assert that the Clerk and I are somehow creating a double standard for politicians ignores this basic fact. It is my feeling that this House overwhelmingly supports vaccination against COVID-19. Any COVID vaccination entry policy for the parliamentary precinct will reflect this.


In closing, I strongly encourage all members of this parliament and the community we are part of to ensure that we are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. We need to protect ourselves, each other and, very importantly, the people we serve.

Parliamentary Annexe, Christmas Tree

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, last week Timber Queensland installed a live Christmas tree in the Parliament Annexe foyer, which I am sure many have been admiring. No, you cannot take it home! The tree has become a permanent fixture here at Christmas time at Queensland parliament. I thank Timber Queensland for its work in making this happen each year. I also commend the members for Maryborough and Gympie for their efforts in support of Queensland's timber industry as co-chairs of the Parliamentary Friends of Forest and Timber Industry.

Tonight from 6pm, Timber Queensland and the Parliamentary Friends of Forest and Timber Industry are hosting a cocktail event to launch the tree for 2021. The function will take place on the level 3 colonnade. I encourage all members to attend.

School Group Tours

 **Mr SPEAKER:** I wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Seven Hills State School in the electorate of Bulimba.

PETITION

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


Daylight Saving

7,750 petitioners, requesting the House to not introduce daylight savings time in Queensland [\[2028\]](#).

Petition received.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS


Coronavirus, Update

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.35 am): I can advise Queensland that there are no community cases of COVID today. There are two new cases in hotel quarantine: one interstate travel and one overseas acquired. There are now 16 active cases. In good news, 10,428 tests were conducted yesterday; 9,658 vaccines were delivered by Queensland Health in the past 24 hours. Some 86.46 per cent of Queenslanders have had one dose and 76.44 per cent are fully vaccinated.

Yesterday I attended a national cabinet meeting where I received an update about the Omicron variant. I am happy to take the advice of Professor Paul Kelly that more work will be conducted over the next 14 days. I will let the Prime Minister and Professor Kelly comment on this variant as they will have the latest and will have full carriage of that advice.

Queensland's cautious approach is the right approach. While New South Wales yesterday strengthened its quarantine requirements, Queensland's cautious border settings have already put us in a good position. No changes have been made to our road map. Queensland will continue to monitor developments and listen to the expert advice. We will continue to keep Queenslanders safe. The best thing that Queenslanders can do is get vaccinated prior to 17 December.

Weather Event

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.36 am): It is the first day of December and the first day of summer. The wet season is well and truly here. This morning I was briefed by the Bureau of Meteorology, the Police Commissioner and the QFES Commissioner. The Deputy Premier was in attendance as was minister Ryan. The wet weather situation is affecting much of southern and south-eastern Queensland, including the township of Inglewood. Overnight, Inglewood residents were evacuated following a decision of the local disaster management group after 122 millimetres of rain in a very short time with 90 millimetres received in just one hour. I am advised that waters reached a peak of 11.2 metres at 4 am; thankfully, less than the expected peak of 11.7 metres. Water levels are now receding.


Some 14 patients at Inglewood Hospital were evacuated to Warwick Base Hospital and 140 people were accommodated at designated assembly points. I thank the LDMG, mayor, residents and emergency services staff and volunteers for their swift action during this time. There is no doubt that some people's homes will be impacted. Damage will be assessed today.

QFES and rural volunteers are ready to help residents get back to their homes and assist with the clean-up. The flooding is of course the result of prolonged heavy falls in southern and south-eastern Queensland over the past few days. I am advised that over the past 24 hours falls of up to 180 millimetres have been recorded in some parts of Queensland. Our emergency services personnel including SES volunteers have been working to keep Queenslanders safe. The heaviest falls in the south-east were at Mount Glorious and Ocean View with heavy rain also on the Darling Downs. There have been 320 calls for assistance with nearly half of those jobs in the Greater Brisbane area. QFES

advises that there have been 30 swift water rescues in the past 24 hours. Swift water rescue crews have already been deployed from Brisbane to Roma, Chinchilla and Goondiwindi, with local teams already established at Toowoomba and Inglewood. Further deployments to Warwick and Texas will also occur today.

The weather bureau has advised that showers and severe thunderstorms are possible for the south-east today. The trough has moved offshore which means the heavy, wide range rainfalls will become more isolated. As at eight o'clock this morning, there are extensive flood warnings in place across Queensland; in particular, emergency services are keeping a close eye on Goondiwindi as the flooding from Inglewood recedes. I urge Queenslanders to listen for updates, always heed the advice and please remember: if it is flooded, forget it.

Renewable Energy


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.39 am): Today is an important step forward in our plan to make Queensland a renewable energy superpower. In late 2018, we partnered with global renewables giant Acciona to build Queensland's largest solar farm in Aldoga, west of Gladstone. In November last year I announced a landmark partnership between Iwatani and Stanwell to build a large-scale, three-gigawatt hydrogen facility also in Aldoga.

Today, I am pleased to announce that the state owned Stanwell Corporation has this morning signed a memorandum of understanding with Acciona in a deal that could see the solar farm provide renewable power to the hydrogen facility in the future. This is an important development. We know there is growing demand for renewable hydrogen in burgeoning export markets like Japan and South Korea. To create renewable hydrogen, we need other reliable sources of renewable energy.

We are investing in projects like this because we know that more renewables mean more jobs. I am advised that the Stanwell-Iwatani hydrogen project has the potential to create more than 5,000 new jobs over 30 years, with strong flow-on benefits for local workers in a range of sectors, including: construction, heavy manufacturing, utilities and local service industries. That is not all. Today's memorandum of understanding comes only a month after we made another landmark hydrogen announcement for Central Queensland, partnering with Dr Andrew Forrest's company, Fortescue Future Industries, to build one of the world's largest hydrogen equipment manufacturing factories in Aldoga.

For decades people have talked about Queensland's future as a hydrogen superpower. The future is already here. Queensland is not just in the race for clean energy, we are in the lead. We will continue to invest in renewable energy and advanced manufacturing to create jobs and capitalise on the green energy revolution.

Queensland Sport Awards and Hall of Fame; Sport

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.40 am): Allan Langer is a legend and now it is official. It was a fabulous night at the QSport Awards where it was my honour to present Alfie with his trophy as the latest Legend of Queensland Sport—a much loved Rugby League great who had the audience applauding his outstanding record and laughing at his hilarious stories, and wiping away tears as he thanked his parents. In a great Queensland sport moment, Wayne Bennett and Kevin Walters shared their appreciation of Alfie after Kevin joked about which supercoach should speak first.

The night was a tremendous celebration of the depth, strength and spirit of Queensland sport. Hall of Fame inductees this year included Toutai Kefu—another very moving moment after what happened to his family earlier this year. As for the Sports Star of the Year, there were 12 nominees—so much Queensland talent. It was such a difficult choice that for the first time in QSport history, the judges named joint winners: Ash Barty, who won Wimbledon this year; and Emma McKeon, who won four gold among her seven medals in Tokyo. They are outstanding women who deserve every accolade. I was joined by the sports minister.

The past 12 months also tell the great story of Queensland as the home of sports events during COVID. There were more than two million attendances at our stadiums and arenas, including: the NRL finals and grand final; all three men's and the women's State of Origin; the NRL Magic Round; rugby internationals; 24 AFL and five AFLW matches; 21 Super Netball games; and, of course, test match cricket—Australia and India men's and women's. We are looking forward to the Ashes next week. I am advised that at the Gabba we have a sold out day 1 starting the cricket summer where it belongs. Let us hope the rain eases for next week—fingers crossed.

All of that in the historic year we also won the right to host the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. It is like the icing on the cake.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.


Ms Grace: Delusional.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Absolutely. I was proud to go to Tokyo with the Lord Mayor and Minister Colbeck—all three levels of government working together. She does not know about working together as a team. Thank you member for Nanango for interjecting during my ministerial statements talking about our strong health response and how Queensland is the sporting capital of the nation. I was absolutely provoked, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: On that point, let us just pretend that we may be anticipating debate on a bill and we will leave it at that.


Ms PALASZCZUK: Queensland is the home of sporting champions. Queensland is the home of sport. To the member for Nanango I say: Queensland is the home of the Olympics for 2032.

Currumbin Eco-Parkland

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (9.44 am): I am pleased to announce that the Palaszczuk government has secured 148 hectares of land at Currumbin on the southern Gold Coast for transformation into one of Australia's biggest eco-parklands. The community's message was clear: they asked us to protect and preserve this beautiful property and its unique, natural features. That is exactly what we are doing.

We can now work with the community to deliver one of the largest eco-parklands in Australia and protect koala habitat and local flora and fauna. This is not just about protecting land but improving it. We now have an enormous opportunity to create something special. The eco-parklands could be enhanced for recreation such as hiking, bushwalking and mountain biking, picnics and rehabilitation of both native wildlife and bushland. Community consultation on the future of the site will be key. The next steps will be seeking initial community views on the future use of the site and how it should be used to ensure that the project will deliver on community needs.

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) (9.45 am): As the Premier just announced, Queensland has taken another step toward becoming a renewable hydrogen superpower. Last year the Premier announced a landmark partnership between Iwatani and Queensland's Stanwell Corporation to build a large-scale, three-gigawatt hydrogen facility in Aldoga near Gladstone.

Today, Stanwell and international renewables company Acciona have signed a memorandum of understanding that could see the hydrogen facility powered by Queensland sunshine. Acciona is one of the world's major international renewable companies and has plans to develop Queensland's largest solar project. The Aldoga Solar Farm will create up to 350 jobs during construction and 14 ongoing jobs once operational. Under the MOU signed today, a direct connection could be established between Acciona's Aldoga Solar Farm and the large-scale hydrogen facility. Queensland's largest solar project could provide clean and renewable energy to Queensland's largest renewable hydrogen project. We will continue to grow Queensland's renewables and hydrogen industry to ensure more high-skilled jobs for Queenslanders in regions like Gladstone.

Jobs and Investment; Vanadium

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.46 am): The Palaszczuk Labor government is supporting new industries that will create new jobs in Queensland for generations to come. Unlike Prime Minister Scott Morrison, who says he wants governments doing less, our government is backing the evolving technologies that are key to the new Queensland economy. That is why last week, along with the Minister for Resources, Scott Stewart, the member for Mundingburra, Les Walker, and the member for Thuringowa, Aaron Harper, I announced that our government will invest more than \$10 million to build, own and operate a vanadium processing facility in Townsville.

Australia has the world's third largest deposits of vanadium, but right now our country does not produce a single kilogram of processed vanadium. It is forecast that demand for vanadium will grow by more than 20 per cent each for the next decade. Our government's investment will help junior resource companies to produce tonnes of vanadium pentoxide, the key ingredient in redox flow batteries. These large batteries have the potential to provide grid-scale power solutions to capture and store renewable energy, and will be a key part of the energy revolution sweeping our nation and the globe. The vanadium will be mined in the North West Minerals Province and processed in Townsville, creating jobs through the production chain. The Minister for Resources has already approved the \$250 million St Elmo vanadium mine near Julia Creek, which will support 400 jobs over the 20-year life of the mine.


While so many of these new economy jobs will be in regional Queensland, it will also open up opportunities in the south-east. That is why I am pleased to report to the House today that Greater Springfield will soon become home to Australia's first hydrogen fuel cell manufacturing facility. Energy innovator LAVO Hydrogen Technologies Ltd has chosen Queensland as the place to do business. Together with the Minister for Hydrogen, Mick De Brenni, and the assistant treasurer and member for Jordan, Charis Mullen, I was able to announce LAVO will set up its \$15 million manufacturing facility in Queensland. That factory will create 200 construction jobs over the next 12 months, and 168 operational jobs by 2026. Once this hydrogen fuel cell manufacturing facility is established, LAVO also has plans to further expand its Springfield operations, with the potential to create even more jobs. The Palaszczuk Labor government is supporting LAVO through our Invested in Queensland program.

The new economy also means more than just energy. Our government is also backing what will become Australia's most advanced animal genomics laboratory, to be built in Bundamba. Neogen Corporation first came to Queensland in 2017 supported by our government's Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund. Neogen established their first Australian foothold at Gatton.

The new facility will provide vital research for the food and agricultural sectors including food manufacturing. It will see Neogen's current workforce of 48 grow to about 75 highly skilled positions within six years, with more growth to come. I know this investment and these jobs are strongly supported by government members in the Ipswich corridor, particularly the member for Bundamba, Lance McCallum, who recently joined me when I visited the construction site.

Companies like LAVO and Neogen can build their factories and facilities wherever they choose, but they choose Queensland because, when it comes to investment, they know the Palaszczuk Labor government will not step back. We will step up and we will get the deal done to support Queensland jobs and businesses.

GPs in Schools; Student Wellbeing

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.49 am): The Palaszczuk government is getting on with the job of implementing the \$100 million student wellbeing package we took to the last election to provide students with free access to health and wellbeing professionals at their school. As part of this package, the Premier and I recently announced the expanded list of 50 schools that will take part in the GPs in Schools pilot program. These schools are busy getting things ready for next year. This includes using \$20,000 per school provided through the pilot to make the necessary infrastructure changes to establish a fit-for-purpose clinic at their school.

As part of the pilot, GPs will also receive funding to assist in the smooth and effective running of the clinic. This includes employing a clinic nurse to work with the GP and provide extra support to the students. The inclusion of the clinic nurse role was based on the successful experience of Mabel Park State High School, which has had a GP and a clinic nurse in place for some time now. Pilot schools also receive funding to employ an administrative person to manage appointments and oversee the waiting room. Some schools are planning to start their GP from the start of the new school year including Murgon State High—the Premier and I visited their welfare centre and it is truly outstanding—Maryborough State High, Ipswich State High and Woodridge State High, with all 50 anticipated to be in place by May 2022.


In relation to the other component of the wellbeing package, I am delighted to report that the first new psychologists are now employed and working in Queensland schools. Recently I had the pleasure of visiting Meridan State College in the electorate of Kawana—I know the member's children go to Meridan—where psychologist Robyn Flemming is based. Robyn is one of seven new psychologists—the member for Kawana's children are benefiting from this service, of course only if they require it—

now working in primary, secondary and special schools and in the north coast region at Tin Can Bay, Agnes Water, Conondale and Coolumb. We also have psychologists and other wellbeing professionals now working in Central Queensland, Far North Queensland and metropolitan regions.

Over the next three years we will be employing an additional 464 health and wellbeing professionals—mainly psychologists—so that every child in every state school has access to support when they need it. Having support available will make a real tangible difference to the mental health and wellbeing of our students. This is particularly welcome given the challenges our students have experienced during COVID. This is yet another way in which the Palaszczuk government is supporting our students to reach their full potential.

Mr Speaker, members of parliament have received an early Christmas present in the form of the farm safety calendar for 2022 with illustrations from students in primary schools right throughout Queensland. I hope members hang it proudly in their homes or in their offices. It is a great calendar.

Dempsey, Ms G; Coronavirus, Vaccination

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.53 am): Yesterday Australia had some tragic news. Gillian 'Jill' Dempsey, an emergency department nurse from Angliss Hospital in Victoria, was Australia's first nurse to pass away due to COVID-19. Jill was a mother of three and a frontline hero who worked the night shift caring for her fellow citizens. She was by all accounts the epitome of the compassionate approach to patient care that defines the nursing profession. I want to extend my condolences to her family, friends and colleagues at this incredibly difficult time.

Sadly, globally Jill's story is not an isolated one. The World Health Organization estimates that at least 115,000 health professionals have passed away due to COVID-19, often contracting it in the workplace while they care for COVID patients. As the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation says, 'Nurses and midwives don't want to be heroes. They want to go home to their families and loved ones at the end of a shift.' They went on to say, 'Please know nurses, midwives and personal care workers are doing everything they can to care for you. Please take every measure you can to take care of them.'


As Queensland continues to open up, we know that COVID-19 will come to our state. We know that our health staff will be at greater risk. While we have protected these staff members with our health worker vaccine mandate, every Queenslanders can assist in providing further protection to our health heroes. They can roll up their sleeve to get vaccinated. They can go to their GP. They can go to their pharmacy. They can go to any of our Queensland Health vaccination clinics in the community. If you are having any doubts or want to talk about any concerns, talk to a trusted medical professional—not Facebook. Vaccinations do not just help us protect ourselves; they have helped us get back to the things and people we love.

After Queensland hit 70 per cent double dosed, we were able to facilitate returning Queenslanders' entry into home quarantine, rather than hotel quarantine. We now have 6,266 people who are in home quarantine since we hit 70 per cent double dosed. I want to thank those people for getting vaccinated, for getting their PCR test as required and for their compliance with home quarantine. We know it is not easy, but they are doing their bit to keep us safe. As we have seen recently, when you do breach quarantine you could be fined and you could be put in hotel quarantine where you will be paying for that quarantine.

Our transition to home quarantine is a prime example of how the Palaszczuk government's measured and cautious approach is protecting our community and economy and ensures Queenslanders can come home. Queensland's vaccine numbers are continuing to grow. We now have 86.46 per cent of Queenslanders who have received at least their first dose of the vaccine. We now hear that the Commonwealth is seeking advice as to whether we should reduce the time between your second dose and the booster.

While we talk about people getting even stronger protection through a booster, let us remember that we still have close to 14 per cent of eligible Queenslanders aged 16 and above who have yet to have one jab. We know that this virus will hunt down the unvaccinated. We want to see those people protected. We want to see them protecting their friends, their families and our health workforce. So come on, unvaccinated Queenslanders, roll up your sleeve and get the vaccine—it is safe, free, and effective.

Weather Event

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (9.56 am): As we heard from the Premier, what we are seeing right across Queensland is the influence of the La Nina weather event—lots of rain. It is wet and we are seeing flooding in many communities. Last night people in Inglewood were forced to leave their homes and move to an evacuation site as the floodwaters rose swiftly. As the commissioner said this morning, it was an extraordinary downpour that hit the catchment around Inglewood—90 millimetres of rain fell in just one hour.


I commend the local response. Within about 90 minutes local authorities had begun the evacuation of homes and began putting in place the facilities residents would need at the evacuation site. As the rain continues, I urge all Queenslanders to keep an eye on the forecast and any weather warnings for their local area. Queensland is so saturated now that it will not take a whole lot more rain to start localised flash flooding. There are rivers already subject to major flood warnings.

While Queenslanders have been through these scenarios many times before, the potential dangers do not go away. We keep on saying it—but it is so crucial to adhere to that slogan: if it's flooded, forget it! In the past 24 hours, the State Emergency Service has received over 320 requests for assistance. In the past 24 hours there have been over 30 swiftwater rescues. Nearly half of all of the SES jobs in the last 24 hours were in the Greater Brisbane area. We also had a lot of activity in south-west and other parts of South-East Queensland.

Unfortunately, we saw more incidents where vehicles became stuck on flooded roads, with some people requiring the help of our swiftwater rescuers. We have had swiftwater rescue crews pre-deployed to the areas of most concern, including Roma, Goondiwindi and Chinchilla, for a number of days now to assist local crews. Our SES flood boat teams have also been pre-deployed across the state to assist local crews.

We need people to stay alert and across the warnings, as flash flooding can occur almost anywhere in Queensland with very little notice. Major flooding is now occurring in the border rivers and the Condamine River area, with major flood warnings also in force for the Logan River, Bremer-Warrill and Dawson rivers. Widespread minor to moderate flooding is occurring across many inland rivers south of about Rockhampton. Showers and thunderstorms are expected to contract south-east today, with much lower rainfall totals across flood-affected areas until the end of the week, but localised flash flooding as a result of thunderstorms remains a risk today. I ask all Queenslanders to pay attention to the forecast, act when authorities ask you to act, and if it's flooded, forget it.

Road and Transport Infrastructure

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.00 am): Across the state we are reaching milestone after milestone on major projects delivered as part of our sixth record \$27.5 billion road and transport plan and stimulus projects as part of our COVID economic recovery plan. Due to our effective COVID response, major projects like the Smithfield bypass and Cross River Rail are helping relieve pressure on our roads and transport systems.

Just last Thursday we saw tunnel-boring machine Else break through at the northern portal on the exhibition line. The Deputy Premier and the member for Kurwongbah were on the ground alongside more than 100 Cross River Rail workers as Else came crashing through, marking the end of her 3.8 kilometre tunnelling journey from Woolloongabba outside the cricket ground, below the Brisbane River and the CBD. I see that even the member for Toowoomba North is promoting the Cross River Rail project on his Facebook page this morning. It is great to see Toowoomba locals working on the project as acknowledged on his page, and I do look forward to more regional opposition MPs promoting Cross River Rail. We now have one complete 5.9 kilometre rail tunnel stretching under the river from Boggo Road through to Spring Hill.

Honourable members interjected.


Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr BAILEY: The chamber is excited, Mr Speaker. I know it is a very exciting project. Tunnel-boring machine Merle is not far behind and is expected to break through this month, marking the end of a year of tunnelling for Cross River Rail. The twin tunnels will be lined by 27,000 individual concrete segments made at Wagners by local workers in Wacol. Wagners have made each and every one of the 4.2-tonne segments right here in Queensland, bolstering local jobs and supporting Queensland businesses.

The focus now shifts to building our new underground stations at Boggo Road, the Gabba, Albert Street and Roma Street and upgrading key stations along the line. The station upgrades will ensure some of the older stations on our rail network are accessible for all before trains are running in the tunnels in 2025. Cross River Rail will completely transform travel in South-East Queensland and its twin tunnels will also unlock the Merivale Bridge bottleneck. Cross River Rail will also mean a quicker commute into the heart of the city for our workers, ensuring the success of projects like Gold Coast to Logan Faster Rail and the Sunshine Coast rail duplication.

As the key to securing our 2032 Olympics and Paralympic Games, Cross River Rail will help cement Brisbane as one of Australia's most recognised cities worldwide. Thanks to our world-leading COVID response, Queensland is a growing state that needs a growing transport system, and that is exactly what the Palaszczuk Labor government is delivering. It's awesome!

Small Business

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.03 am): As Queensland nears the next stage of eased business restrictions, the Palaszczuk government is stepping up its support of small businesses to help them navigate their way through this new normal. As we know, from 17 December hospitality and entertainment venues with fully vaccinated customers and staff will be free to return to normal operation without any capacity restrictions. This is welcome news ahead of the holiday season. As the year comes to an end, how wonderful it will be to get out and support our pubs, clubs and cafes at full capacity.

Although we know the majority of businesses are extremely happy to see this new way forward, we do acknowledge that businesses will need help to navigate their way through it. That is why we have been working hand in glove with industry bodies and unions to deliver a range of resources that support businesses to manage the new measures. I particularly thank the CCIQ, National Retailers Association, Queensland Tourism Industry Council, Queensland Hotels Association and the SDA, along with others, for their feedback and support. Today I can confirm that a range of materials are right now being distributed to businesses around the state to support them through the vaccination rules, including information sheets, Q and As and signage to display so customers are clear on vaccination requirements before they enter, ensuring there is the same clear message for all patrons across Queensland and that we take pressure off busy business owners.

I think most people now know about downloading their vaccination record to the check-in app to get the green tick. The Minister for the Digital Economy spoke yesterday about how well that rollout is going. Of course, that is going to make it so easy for people to indicate their vaccination status before they even walk in the door of a business.

I can also confirm that TAFE Queensland's free online courses to help businesses implement the new measures, including how to de-escalate aggressive customers, will be available by close of business today at tafequeensland.edu.au. This is similar in format to the initial micro-credentials course when COVID first hit, which as of September this year almost 234,000 people had completed. We know this change will be challenging for some patrons, and the government is assuring business owners and their staff that they are not expected to act as police. Aggressive and abusive behaviour is not acceptable, and if a noncompliant customer refuses to leave the premises we urge business owners to contact the Queensland Police Service. A \$1,378 fine will apply for those patrons who do not comply.

I know that all members of this House will appeal to their communities to always deal in a courteous manner with the people whose businesses we interact with. If you choose not to be vaccinated that is your decision; however, it does not give you the right to abuse people who are there to uphold the vaccination rules. An advertising campaign will launch in the week leading up to 17 December calling for Queenslanders to respect workers in businesses operating under mandatory vaccination rules who are working hard to keep Queensland safe. The Palaszczuk government will continue to do all we can to support small businesses and keep Queenslanders safe.

Sporting Events


 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement) (10.07 am): Our response to managing the global pandemic's health impacts means that Queenslanders have lived with far fewer restrictions than other states. That has delivered another big year of first-class sport, with elite codes keen to be in Queensland to play in world-standard COVID-safe venues in front of super-enthusiastic Queensland spectators. More than two million fans watched live sport this year in a Queensland stadium or arena.

We made NRL history, with all three State of Origin matches played on Queensland soil for the first time. Townsville and the Gold Coast hosted their first. The women's State of Origin also found a home on the Sunshine Coast. NRL premierships were fought in regional Queensland's Rugby League heartland. Queenslanders have always wanted an NRL grand final at Suncorp Stadium, and in 2021 the dream came true. The Provan-Summons grand final trophy's tour of duty through regional Queensland came with job hubs as local football clubs moved to kickstart community vaccination campaigns. You could vaccinate at the Women's Big Bash cricket in Mackay, and sporting stars turned out in force for the Super Schools vaccination blitz.

Queensland's exceptional year of sport included men's test match cricket, women's international test match cricket and 12 T20 BBL games. Queenslanders enjoyed 27 Super Netball games, including the grand final. Rugby became the game they play in paradise: eight Super Rugby matches, including the final; two tests against France; and eight Rugby championship games found a COVID-safe haven here in Queensland.

Sport kicked goals for our COVID-19 economic recovery plan, supporting thousands of jobs at stadiums, regional grounds and accommodation providers. With your indulgence, Mr Speaker, 2021 is historic for another significant sporting achievement: securing the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Next week Queensland caps off 2021's spectacular smorgasbord of sport with the return of the first Ashes Test, back where it should be—at the world-famous Gabba pitch.

Torres Strait Islanders, Cultural Recognition Order


 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (10.09 am): Our historic path in our state's reconciliation journey has seen the Palaszczuk government establish the Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa (Torres Strait Islander Traditional Child Rearing Practice) Act 2020, which came into effect on 1 July 2021. Many significant steps have been taken. Earlier this year we saw: the appointment of the inaugural and independent commissioner, who commenced his duties on 12 July this year; the opening of the commissioner's office in Cairns on 17 August; and then our first application process opening on 7 September.

Today I am able to advise the House that the commissioner has made the first cultural recognition order in Queensland. In fact, this is the first in the world. This world-first outcome heralds a new era of opportunity for Torres Strait Islander children and families to experience the same basic rights as every other Queensland—enrol in school, to access services and support, and to pursue aspirations in work, study and life. A cultural recognition order enables a birth certificate to be issued that reflects a child's cultural identity and lived identity experience. It permanently transfers the parentage to the cultural parents.

Today we share in one of the strongest acts of reconciliation in our state's history as we progress a Path to Treaty in Queensland in the granting of legal recognition of Torres Strait Islander traditional child-rearing practice. This significant moment in our state's shared history speaks volumes for the tireless dedication, commitment and advocacy by generations of Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders, including over 30 years of advocacy by the Kupai Omasker Working Party.

Each step of this journey has been achieved by Torres Strait Islander people working in partnership with the Queensland government through a reframed relationship to achieve legal recognition which recognises Torres Strait Islander people's right to their identity, to practise their own culture, traditions and enduring customs, and for their children to grow up with their family. Queensland and the nation have stood witness to the spirit, diversity, resilience and culture of Torres Strait Islander people as we have progressed recognition of Torres Strait Islander traditional child-rearing practice into law—and now into real life.

Waste

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (10.11 am): It gives me great pleasure to update the House on the Palaszczuk government's war on waste. This Sunday is World Soil Day—I know a very important holiday for many. To celebrate, I am pleased to announce that the Palaszczuk government will invest a further \$11 million over four years to support infrastructure projects that divert even more organic material from landfill. Applications are now open and will be considered by both the Queensland and Commonwealth governments.

My department has been working with potential applicants to progress shovel-ready projects for round 1, with applications due by 5 December. A second round of funding will be rolled out next year, with applications due by 25 February 2022. We are keen to talk to all proponents as soon as possible, so the opportunity is there for the taking. There are three times as many jobs in resource recovery than in landfill, and this funding for new recycling infrastructure will create more jobs in more industries. We have committed \$11 million in this new state funding because we know that is Queensland's fair share—so we certainly hope to see the Commonwealth match that commitment.

Reducing our food waste is also critical for tackling climate change. Around 50 per cent of a household wheelie bin contains organic material. If Queensland can recycle just 70 per cent of our organic waste, we could save over one million tonnes of emissions. Organic waste in landfills generates methane—a potent greenhouse gas that is 28 times stronger than carbon dioxide.

Additionally, I can update the House that on 17 September the state government's draft organics strategy was released for public feedback, with consultation already closed. It is clear that Queenslanders are red hot for recycling and keen to compost. Seven workshops were attended by 250 participants from industry, government, utilities and universities, and we received nearly 1,000 written submissions. We will be working through that feedback, with the final strategy and implementation plan to be released in early 2022. Composting is nature's way of recycling. It is good for jobs, good for our environment and super for soil. I would like to wish everyone a very happy World Soil Day.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Bundaberg, Health Services



Mr BENNETT (Burnett—LNP) (10.14 am): I give notice that I will move—

That this House notes:

1. the decline in the delivery of health services in Bundaberg as evidenced by a 9.9 per cent increase in ambulance ramping since June 2020
2. 44 per cent of emergency department patients at Bundaberg Hospital were not seen within clinically recommended time frames in the September 2021 quarter
3. the election promises by the member for Bundaberg for the Palaszczuk Labor government to construct a level 5 hospital in Bundaberg
4. the Palaszczuk Labor government's failure to provide public breast-screening facilities in the Bundaberg region.

and calls on:

1. the member for Bundaberg to fulfil his election promise to deliver a level 5 hospital for Bundaberg;
2. the member for Bundaberg to support the residents of the Wide Bay region in their efforts to gain access to modern breast-screening facilities; and
3. the Palaszczuk Labor government to listen to the people of Bundaberg and provide all the health services which they expect and deserve.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, question time will conclude today at 11.15 am.

Queensland Health, Sexual Harassment



Mr CRISAFULLI (10.15 am): My question is to the Premier. I refer to the Premier's answer that she was not aware of Queensland Health allowing a senior bureaucrat to return to work after being found he publicly rated women on their sexual desirability. Now the Premier has had 24 hours to catch up, will she act to address sexual harassment and overrule this decision?

Ms PALASZCZUK: From the outset, can I acknowledge that our new officer has been appointed in the Public Service, which is great news. In relation to the member's particular question yesterday, I can advise that every woman has a right to be safe and feel safe at work. That is why all employers must have strong processes in place to investigate allegations of workplace misconduct. I am advised that the matter raised by the member for Whitsunday yesterday has been fully investigated. I am advised the investigation followed usual processes. I am advised that section 44(3)(b) of the Hospital and Health Boards Act prevents the minister from directing a HHS in individual staffing matters.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am unable to provide any further details, but I can say that staff involved have been formally advised of the investigation's conclusion, briefed on the process and provided with necessary support. If the member has any particular issue she wishes to raise, I would encourage her to write to the health minister.

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the Leader of the Opposition, can I remind members that, if a minister is being responsive to the question as asked, I expect to hear that answer and not be interrupted by interjections.

Forensic and Scientific Services

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question is to the Premier. I refer to the overwhelming evidence from leading forensic experts about the dire consequences of the mismanagement of evidence by the state forensic lab. If the government is serious about protecting women and holding predators to account, when will it launch an independent investigation into the systematic failures which are allowing rapists and murderers to walk free?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am advised that this matter occurred in 2013. We were not in government at that stage, so perhaps those opposite would like to look at any cuts they made to the lab at the time.

Honourable members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am also advised that there was a full coronial investigation into this matter.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order relating to standing order 118 on relevance. I do not think the Premier either fully understands the question or is answering it. It is not that matter. It is the forensic lab which is separate to the—

Mr SPEAKER: No, it is not an opportunity to repeat the question as well.

Mr BLEIJIE: The question was about the forensic lab. That is what the question was about. The Premier is not answering that at all.

Mr SPEAKER: I believe the Premier has provided—

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am advised that—

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, please resume your seat. I am still providing a ruling on the point of order. I think the Premier is being relevant to the question, but she still has a significant amount of time to come to the point of the question as asked. Leader of the Opposition, I would appreciate it if you would not continually interject after asking a question.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I stand by—if I am advised that this occurred back in 2013. I am advised that at that time the LNP made cuts to Forensic and Scientific Services and made significant job cuts. I am also advised that there was a coronial inquest into this matter.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left will cease their interjections.

Coronavirus, Vaccination

Ms BOYD: My question is to the Premier and the Minister for Olympics. Will the Premier please update the House on how vaccination rates are going in the south-east and is the Premier aware of any alternative views?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you very much—

Mr Crisafulli: Just grab the right talking points.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Once again, the Leader of the Opposition is rude and showing why another member will become the Leader of the Opposition.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms PALASZCZUK: Time's up! They're all talking. They're all talking.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, I have dealt with the Leader of the Opposition. I do not think it is helpful to then immediately attack the Leader of the Opposition, who is unable to respond in any manner at that particular point.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Pine Rivers for the question. On this side of the House we are very concerned about Queenslanders getting vaccinated. We know those on the other side are not out there campaigning to get people vaccinated. I do not know what they are doing. I do not know what they are campaigning for. There is so much division over there—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: We see the member for Nanango being a lot more vocal these days again. Can I advise the member for Pine Rivers that Moreton Bay South—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK:—is currently at 90.5 per cent single dose, an increase of 1.4 per cent and 81.3 per cent double dose. In relation to the south-east, the vaccination rate levels are going really well. As we saw yesterday when I spoke about regional levels, the regional levels have been going up quite well, too. On the Sunshine Coast, first dose is at 90.5 per cent, an increase of 1.7 per cent; Moreton Bay North is at 90.8 per cent; Brisbane North, 90.2 per cent; Brisbane East, 92.8 per cent; Brisbane West, 90.6 per cent; and Toowoomba, 90.1 per cent. This is exactly what we need. We need to be getting to that critical 90 per cent and above. I urge everyone to go and get vaccinated.

We still need to see increased rates in Logan and Beaudesert. However, in great news, they have had a 2.2 per cent increase and they are at 85.3 per cent. Once again, we still need to see the Gold Coast to lift. They are currently at 85.6 per cent. They are a tourism destination. I absolutely need them to increase vaccination levels on the Gold Coast.

There are elements in the LNP who simply do not support mandatory vaccination. If we are going to protect Queenslanders, we need to make sure that we have particular people who are mandatory vaccinated.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I urge the members for the Gold Coast that rather than interjecting, how about they go out and encourage people to get vaccinated. Go out there! Go out there and talk to the media and tell them that you support mandatory vaccinations. It is very simple.

Mr SPEAKER: The Premier's time has expired.

(Time expired)

Domestic and Family Violence

Ms CAMM: My question is to the Premier. Hannah Clarke, Doreen Langham, Kelly Wilkinson, Mary Benedito—these are just some of the women who have been murdered or allegedly murdered by their partners or ex-partners over the past two years. How many more names will there be before the government stops reviewing and starts acting to protect Queensland women?

Mr SPEAKER: Before you answer, Premier—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! Member, I believe that one of the matters that you have referred to is currently before the courts. Saying 'allegedly' does not change the fact that it is before the courts. I will allow the Premier to answer this, but I advise for future reference to be very careful regarding sub judice.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Any death related to domestic and family violence is an absolute tragedy. I know the member for Whitsunday is new to this parliament, but the Attorney-General stood up in this House the other day and outlined very clearly that she would be receiving the report from Margaret McMurdo tomorrow and that report will be tabled. Secondly, there is widespread support for more to be done in this area. It was great to see over 1,100 people come to the White Ribbon Day Breakfast where people have the opportunity to listen to men talk about what they are doing.

Mr Dick interjected.

Ms Grace interjected.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left! The Treasurer will cease his interjections. The member for McConnel will cease her interjections.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Of course, we had the *Not Now, Not Ever* report. Yes, it was started under the LNP government, but it was this government that actually enacted it and it was this government that put the funding into it and raised it. This government set up the specialist domestic and family violence courts in this state. It is this government that has put \$600 million into combatting domestic and family violence. It is this government that, during the pandemic, put more money into domestic and family violence. It is this government that helped put on the White Ribbon Day Breakfast which I am advised raised over \$20,000 for DVConnect. When it comes to these issues, I thought it was bipartisan. Perhaps those opposite should—

Ms Bates: What about the private member's bill and all of the Labor—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock! Member for Mudgeeraba, you cannot simply start giving your own speech from your chair.

Ms PALASZCZUK: There was a reason the member for Mudgeeraba was a minister for a very short period of time. She was the first nurse who Campbell Newman sacked. I would hope that those opposite would—

Dr MILES: Grow up.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will take the Deputy Premier's interjection—grow up—but also that they continue in a bipartisan manner and they take a look at the cuts that they made to the domestic and family violence services when the member for Clayfield was the Treasurer. Great to see you, member for Clayfield.

Coronavirus, Vaccination and Quarantine Facilities

Mr McCALLUM: My question is to the Premier and Minister for the Olympics. Will the Premier please update the House on the government's vaccine rollout in Ipswich and progress on fit-for-purpose quarantine facilities?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Bundamba. It was wonderful to join the member for Bundamba when we went to Redbank Plains State High School to talk about vaccination. For those on the other side, it is like a scene from *Happy Days* where they cannot say the word—'v-v-v-vaccination'. It takes them a long time to get there.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Go out and talk about it! Go out and encourage people to get vaccinated! It was great to see the students talking about how they were going to protect themselves and their families; that they were doing it because they had grandparents they wanted to protect. This is absolutely critical in order to continue to raise our vaccination levels, and that is why the cabinet and the caucus were out in force over the last month, asking Queenslanders to do the right thing and get vaccinated. They have responded to that call. On that side there is division—

Mr Mander: Increase our travel allowance! We'll travel with you.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock! Premier, resume your seat please. Members, the level of interjection is considerable today. I realise it is the second last sitting day. There is no excuse for this amount of cross-chamber attack. Members will cease their interjections or I will start warning members and potentially acting on a first warning and following people through on standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Perhaps if the members opposite did not use their travel allowance to go to Luna Park, Margaret River and Schoolies, they would have some funds to go and talk about vaccination. The member for Everton seems to forget that.

It is great to see that in Ipswich there has been a two per cent increase in the vaccination rate to 63.8 per cent, which is currently higher than the Gold Coast. The members are doing a great job. I thank all the members representing Ipswich who out there talking about vaccination and keeping their communities safe.

I report that there has been further progress made at Wellcamp which is, of course, the quarantine facility that this government went ahead with building, because we knew that perhaps it would be needed in the future. I can advise that 64 units have already been built, with around 420 workers currently on site. The maintenance and storage warehouse is 90 per cent complete; the security building is 80 per cent complete; the logistics warehouse is 70 per cent complete; and the service roads for stage 1 have been formed and graded. Weather permitting, we expect construction to be completed soon. From this side of the House you get 'action, action, action', while members

opposite cannot even go out into their communities and talk about the importance of vaccination. The borders are due to open on 17 December—we need people to be vaccinated. I urge Gold Coast members to encourage your communities to get vaccinated and keep the community safe.

Mr SPEAKER: I give a reminder that comments will be directed through the chair.

Domestic and Family Violence

Mrs GERBER: My question is to the Premier. Women continue to suffer domestic violence at the hands of their partners. We have seen a domestic violence perpetrator walk free after attempting to choke his partner after following her to a public toilet. Why will the government not introduce laws to broaden the definition of non-lethal strangulation and increase the maximum sentence from seven years to 14 years imprisonment?

Ms PALASZCZUK: This government introduced laws relating to strangulation. This government has acted. A comprehensive report will be handed down by Margaret McMurdo tomorrow, and I encourage all members to read it.

Weather Events

Ms KING: My question is of the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure. Can the Deputy Premier please outline to the House what the Palaszczuk government is doing to assist Queenslanders affected by storm season and is the Deputy Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Pumicestone for her question. I am sure all members are thinking today of the families in Inglewood who were evacuated last night. Their LDMG made the right call to evacuate the area and they are today returning to their homes, many of which will have been flooded. We continue to monitor the situation.

Members will be aware that the Bureau of Meteorology has declared another La Nina, the second consecutive such declaration. I assure the House that the government is well prepared for what that might mean for local communities and how we will need to respond. The bureau has said that it has not seen conditions like this since 2010-11. Members will recall that that was when we experienced that one-two punch of Tropical Cyclone Yasi and the floods that led to billions of dollars worth of damage and, tragically, 35 lives lost.

It led to the creation of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority, which is the nation's first permanent standing reconstruction authority. It was created to manage the mammoth reconstruction task in the aftermath of 2010 and 2011. Since that time, it has assisted Queenslanders to recover from 90 disasters. It has built up very significant technical capability in damage assessment, in grant and funds management, in GIS mapping, in engineering and in recovery planning. These steps will stand Queensland in good stead for the coming disaster season. We have already seen flooding across the southern and western regions and the bureau is predicting that we should expect to see more.

The QRA has officers on the ground right across the state in preparation for whatever might come. Today we are releasing new 3D animations of the kinds of disasters that Queenslanders might experience: storms, cyclones and flooding. We know from our research that 40 per cent of Queenslanders will not prepare for a disaster until it is coming towards them. These hyperrealistic videos simulate what Queenslanders should expect in order to assist them to get prepared. It will show them how intense these disaster events can be, how impactful they can be and also how fast they can come on in an endeavour to encourage Queenslanders to get ready.

Queenslanders should rest assured that the Queensland government and the Queensland Reconstruction Authority are well prepared for the coming disaster season.

Olympic and Paralympic Games, Costs

Mr JANETZKI: My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier guarantee her government's procurement policy will not see the cost of the Olympics follow the \$334 million blowout of stage 3 of Gold Coast Light Rail?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. As we know, there is bipartisan agreement on the Olympics. We are working with the federal government. We had a funding envelope that was agreed to for infrastructure as part of our plan for the Olympics. Of course, we have a Buy Queensland procurement policy. Some of these matters go to the bill that is currently before the House, so I might not say too much more.

I will say to the member that we will continue to work with the federal government, as we do when we carry out road projects and infrastructure. We believe that workers have a right to get paid fairly. It is a basic tenet of any policy that workers be paid decently because there is dignity in work. I know those opposite do not understand that because they axed 15,000 from the Public Service. They do not understand that, and people still raise that with me today.

An opposition member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: You can sit there and laugh, but people still—

Mr SPEAKER: Through the chair, Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK:—raise with me today the big impact of cuts in their local communities. We also believe that people should be able to go to work and return home safely. We will work very closely with the Brisbane City Council and with the federal government in delivering the infrastructure that is needed for the Olympics. Once again, I am very proud that Queensland has been given this honour. It is something that we take very seriously. I will leave my comments there because the Olympics organising committee bill is currently before the House.

Coronavirus, Leadership

Mr WHITING: My question is of the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment. Will the Treasurer please tell the House how important real leadership is for Queensland throughout our continued recovery from COVID-19?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Bancroft for his question—and he has put on a new look for summer. I commend him on his great campaign in raising money for Movember. I know that many members of the House, including myself, have contributed to that important fundraising project.

The pandemic has proven time and time again the importance of strong leadership—the type of leadership displayed by our Premier—to keep Queenslanders safe. That type of leadership means making tough decisions that are in the best interests of Queenslanders, even when those decisions are attacked by vested interests who would undermine the safety of Queensland families, Queensland businesses and Queensland jobs. Throughout COVID-19 our Premier has remained strong. Together with the discipline, the fortitude and the hard work of Queenslanders, the Premier's leadership has put Queensland in the box seat for economic recovery.

With regard to the major economic indicators—economic growth, retail spending, business investment, housing lending, workforce participation and job creation—Queensland either beat the national average or leads the Commonwealth, and you cannot fake those figures. You cannot fake the leadership of this government because it has delivered time and time again for Queenslanders. Real leadership is important because every day we see the alternative from the LNP. There is the fake science from the LNP tin-foil twins—George Christensen and Gerard Rennick—who risk the lives and livelihoods of Queenslanders with fake conspiracies and promoting anti-vax sentiment on their Facebook pages. Then there is the fake miner from the Gold Coast, Matt 'Cosplay' Canavan, who thinks coal face is a costume, not a workplace. Matt Canavan is not a miner. The only thing he has ever mined is data when he worked as an economist at the Productivity Commission, but there he is each morning getting out the hi-vis, rubbing it in the dirt then putting the makeup on and making himself look like a miner and putting a little bit under the fingernails. What an absolute fake! What a great con!

The greatest con of all—the greatest fake leadership of all—has been the member for Broadwater. What a disappointment after 12 months. Remember we were going to have new politics from the Leader of the Opposition. It was all going to be different. Look at the backbench. He was going to win—not just win, he was going to win big. All that has come to nothing. He cannot even say he supports the mandatory vaccination of health workers. He cannot say the two words 'mandatory vaccination'. That is not leadership. That is the shadow of the shadow Leader of the Opposition speaking, and that is the choice—a leader who has kept our state strong and who is building an economic recovery, or an LNP that demonstrates time and again what fake leadership is.

Cross River Rail

Mr MINNIKIN: My question is to the Premier. Cross River Rail will now cost nearly \$2 billion more and will be opened a year later than the Premier claimed in Tokyo. How can the government be trusted to deliver Olympic infrastructure if it cannot deliver Cross River Rail on time and on budget?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question from the party that was against Cross River Rail.

Dr Miles: Knocked back federal funds.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right: knocked back federal funds and this government took the bold decision to go it alone and build the infrastructure. I might just say to the member for Chatsworth: one of the things that went well for us in Tokyo was the fact that we are building this underground network where we can build precincts which are going to be basically facilities that are needed for the Olympics. What foresight that we were actually building the infrastructure needed for the Olympics, and not one dollar from the federal government.

Dr Miles interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right; I will take that interjection: you knocked it back. You did not support it.

Mr SPEAKER: Through the chair, Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: What we saw the other day when the Deputy Premier was down there is that one tunnel is completed. I urge the member for Chatsworth: would you like a tour? We can take you on a tour. We will take you on a tour—

Mr SPEAKER: Premier! Pause the clock. Premier, will you please direct your comments through the chair?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Mr Speaker, the Minister for Transport is more than happy to take the member for Chatsworth for a tour of the Cross River Rail project. In fact—

Honourable members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. We can showcase to the LNP the infrastructure investment by this government in building legacy for the Olympic Games—not only infrastructure but legacy. Because we are building Cross River Rail, we can actually redesign the Gabba—who would have thought?—and have a brand new Gabba showcase for the Olympics. Brisbane Live at Roma Street will completely transform that area and then there is Brisbane's first new underground station at Albert Street. This is a fantastic project. I am so glad you asked me this question. Not only that, it is providing jobs, jobs and more jobs. We know the opposition does not like jobs; it cuts jobs. I had a great sleep last night. I am feeling good, Mr Speaker. Ask me some more questions, because the Cross River Rail project is needed for this city. There is no planning on that side. You wonder why you are out of government. Honestly! You knock back projects, you knock back funding.

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock.

Mrs D'Ath interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you, Leader of the House. That reminded me of the tunnel the LNP wanted to build from 1 William Street to Parliament House. They could not go and press the button to cross the road; they wanted to have a little tunnel. No wonder they wanted to hide from the public.

(Time expired)

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for Transport and Main Roads, you are warned under the standing orders. Members will be addressed by their correct titles.

Schools, Student Wellbeing

Mrs McMAHON: My question is of 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 and staff and advise of any alternative approaches?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member. I know that she places great importance on the wellbeing and the health of our students. I know that she is looking forward to the GP starting at the Beenleigh State High School who, together with the clinic nurse and the admin staff will ensure that the students in her electorate and the 50 other state high schools will receive the best care. We are serious when it comes to the health and wellbeing of our students. As I said previously, at the last election we said we would put in place a \$100 million project because we knew the challenges that students and families are facing due to COVID and we want to keep all of the school communities safe. That is why yesterday we

mandated vaccinations by 23 January—before the start of the school year—so we can keep those students who are not able to be vaccinated yet and the school community and the early childhood education sector safe.

What a great response we have received from the stakeholders. The stakeholders have been wonderful. We have been in contact with them. We had hook-ups with the health minister explaining this to the stakeholders from the P&Cs, from the presidents and principals associations, from the unions and from the various department people. The stakeholders from the peak bodies across the school and early childhood sector are all very supportive and all want to work together to make sure that we can provide, in line with every other mainland state and territory, the rolling out of the mandate. However, we moved in a cautious way because Queensland is not in the same position as Victoria, New South Wales and other states. We have kept Queenslanders safe and we want to make sure that we continue that.

What did we hear from those opposite? Nothing at all. We have not heard one word from the shadow minister for education, a doctor of medicine and the member for Moggill, in relation to supporting this. He could not bring himself to say the words 'mandate' and 'vaccination' in the same breath. As an ex-president of the AMA's—mind you, it got rid of him at one stage—Queensland branch, he could not bring himself to say anything. I looked at his Facebook posts. He made some post about allegations but apart from that there was nothing at all. Then of course we have the fake unions coming out, aided and abetted by those opposite: 'The sky's going to fall in', 'Those at the Liberal Party are supporting it.'

Opposition members interjected.

Ms GRACE: Honestly, listen to them over there. They are a disgrace. This is what we need to do to keep our schools and early childhood centres safe, yet we hear nothing from those opposite.

(Time expired)

M1, Upgrade

Ms SIMPSON: My question is to the Premier. After seven years of planning, the second M1 project has not had a sod turned, is already half a year overdue, has still not had a major contractor awarded but has had a \$600 million cost blowout. How can the government be trusted to deliver Olympic infrastructure if it cannot deliver the second M1 on time and on budget?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. I caution the member. We have not been in for seven years. It is coming up, but we have not been in for seven years. I think the member might be deliberately misleading the House. Seven years of planning? It has not been seven years of planning. We have not been in for seven years.

Mr Janetzki: That's 30 seconds gone.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Grow up!

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, can I ask you to withdraw that last comment. I feel it is lowering the tone in the chamber.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I withdraw. I am sorry, Mr Speaker.

Mr Harper interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: The Coomera Connector will be the single largest road project in Queensland. It is going to take 60,000 cars a day off the M1 once stage 1 is built and it will support over 1,000 jobs. Once again it is this side of the House coming up with new ideas and implementing the ideas, making sure that we have the infrastructure that is needed for the Olympics. The LNP know a lot about infrastructure because they had one infrastructure project during their term of government—1 William Street.

I can advise that early works have started. There will be some construction activity ramping up between Coomera and Helensvale towards the end of this year. I am also advised that the federal government still needs to sign off on the final environmental approvals and conditions. We are expecting to award a major contract and start construction next year, which is when it will be seven years. It is this government that builds things, not those opposite. I know the Townsville members love the Townsville stadium. In fact, that was the first infrastructure commitment our government made and delivered. Then, of course, we had the Commonwealth Games and we thought we needed to extend

the light rail. Once again it was a decision made by this government and completed and delivered by us. We will continue to build the infrastructure that is needed for this state, with a pipeline of over \$40 billion over the next four years, which will keep Queenslanders in jobs. We know the value of the dignity of work. We know how much the infrastructure is needed across the state. We will not have fake ideas like those opposite had. Remember the Bruce Highway? We all remember that.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Chatsworth, you are warned under the standing orders. You have had a good go today. Time to retire.

(Time expired)

Coronavirus, Vaccination Mandate

Mr SULLIVAN: My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Can the minister please update the House on the implementation of Queensland's vaccine mandates and any alternative views?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for Stafford for his question. He understands the importance of our mandatory vaccination policies that have been implemented. Our vaccine mandates are protecting Queenslanders. They are lifting our vaccination rates and allowing us to have confidence as we reopen our borders. We have seen that uptake since we have announced broader mandatory vaccination applying to certain businesses which will take effect on 17 December. We have mandated the vaccine for our health workforce, one that we are very proud of. We know it is the right decision—I spoke earlier today about the passing of a nurse in Victoria and the many lives lost in the health workforce around the world—to protect them from the worst impacts of the pandemic as they treat the most vulnerable patients.

Of our active HHS employees, we now have 98.38 per cent of staff who have had their first dose and 97.24 per cent who have had two doses. We are so pleased that our health workers have rolled up their sleeves and been vaccinated to protect themselves, their loved ones and the patients that they look after. As we heard yesterday, the Chief Health Officer will also be mandating the vaccine for people working at schools, early childhood learning centres, correctional facilities and airports. We have heard one of those fake unions, the teachers union, coming out making all sorts of claims in this space, such as we will have 50 kids to a class now. We saw the same sort of wacky territory with Scott Morrison's comment about the end of the weekend, Barnaby Joyce's lamb roast comment and Tony Abbott's Whyalla wipe-out. We have heard all this ridiculous rhetoric before. The Leader of the Opposition, as I mentioned yesterday, said he has been asking practical questions about the vaccine. Not many, can I say. He also made the comment that we have people at both extremes and what is needed is a dose of reality in the middle. What is that middle that he thinks is acceptable?

What are both of these extremes? George Christensen has extreme views. George Christensen referred to vaccine mandates as being akin to apartheid, yet the Leader of the Opposition is willing to hold a fundraiser that is authorised by George Christensen. What sane person, who supports and understands the importance of mandatory vaccination—or vaccination at all—would be willing to have George Christensen's name authorising the flyer for that fundraiser? Who would do that? Anyone else would say no. The Leader of the Opposition should return the funding that he raised because he will not call out these anti-vaxxers.

(Time expired)

Youth Crime

Mr DAMETTO: My question is to the Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs. The parents of some Queensland youth offenders are crying out for the ability to control their children aged between 13 and 18. Will the minister advise what support is available for these parents and guardians in managing their children, in particular in instances where they are leaving their house without permission to commit crimes with other known youth offenders?

Ms LINARD: I thank the member for the question. I would say from the outset that we expect young people to be law-abiding and if they are not we expect them to be held to account. That is why our government has invested over half a billion dollars in youth justice since coming to government. We know that you have to invest heavily in facilities to detain when required but also programs to divert.

That is why in February this year we listened to the community and took very tough measures that have resulted in 100 additional young people being in custody now than there were a year ago and serving longer sentences. Member, I take your point about young people who are offending.

Mr SPEAKER: Through the chair.

Ms LINARD: I take it in the question the member is referring to young people who would be subject to the Youth Justice Act. We obviously deal with those young people who go before the courts and are remanded in custody or are given an order under our act. In regard to our programs, as I mentioned earlier, you have to invest in facilities to detain, but equally you have to invest in services to divert and change the story. That is what we want for young people. Every Queenslanders wants young people to be law-abiding, but they also want them to have a future and hope.

Mr Dametto interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Hinchinbrook, you have asked the question. I expect to hear the answer from the minister.

Ms LINARD: I hope the member is aware of our Working Together, Changing the Story strategy. We are investing more in services and programs to divert young people away from offending than any government before us. One of those programs, which I am sure you are aware of, is Transition to Success. It is an evidence based program. It is about getting young people into training, back into school or into work. Recently I was in Townsville talking to five young men who had just graduated that program. Some of them already have traineeships. They are back into work. That is about stopping offending. It is about breaking the relationships with other young offenders.

Mr Dametto interjected.

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

Ms LINARD: Another program is Integrated Case Management, an evidence informed, intensive program which is very effective, and proven to be so, in reducing youth offending. That is about specialist case managers working intensively with families. I have not heard your interjections, but I am not sure if that is what you are talking about.

Mr SPEAKER: Through the chair.

Ms LINARD: The member referred to parents. That is about sitting with parents.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

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

Ms LINARD: It is about talking to parents about what are the interventions required to get those young people meaningfully back into education and work. In addition to that, family-led decision-making is about sitting down with parents. Our co-responder teams are engaging and diverting young people from offending, being out there where young people are. The member talked about young people leaving home. Bail support services and the conditional bail program are intensive interventions that do involve the family in trying to get young people away from offending and back into those meaningful pursuits that we all as Queenslanders expect young people are doing.

Social Enterprises

Ms RICHARDS: My question is for the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development. Will the minister please update the House on the Palaszczuk government's support for Queensland social enterprises?

Ms FARMER: I thank the member for her question because today I am announcing the recipients of the Palaszczuk government's Social Enterprise Growth Grants. Thirty social enterprises are going to share in more than \$635,000 to grow their operations. I know how excited the member was to give that news to Bay Islands Community Services. Our government is backing the social enterprise sector with the \$8 million Social Enterprise Jobs Fund because social enterprises are looking after some of the most vulnerable people in Queensland, including First Nations people, the socially isolated, people with disabilities, refugee and migrant women, asylum seekers, the homeless, victims of domestic violence and people on long-term stays in hospital and their families. Those are the people we have a duty to look after because often they are unable to look after themselves. In the midst of the vaccination debate, they are exactly who we are talking about protecting because their circumstances often compromise

their health so much that they are unable to be vaccinated or they are extremely vulnerable to the virus. We need to protect those people. It is why we are elected. Members on every side of this House need to step up and talk about protecting them with vaccination.

However, that is never going to come from the Leader of the Opposition. On any day of the week we can talk about the disgraceful LNP anti-vax tactic of the day. We can talk about George Christensen likening state premiers to genocidal dictators. We can talk about Gerard Rennick—where did they find that one?

Dr Robinson interjected.

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

Ms FARMER: We can talk about sharing content from an anti-vaxxer figure who calls for the execution of world leaders. We know that the Leader of the Opposition is never going to take a stand on those people to protect vulnerable Queenslanders and I can tell the House why. I will call this out for what it is. It is because the LNP and all of those other groups are after the same vote, that is, Clive Palmer, Campbell Newman, the LNP and One Nation—and watch that space for Andrew Laming joining One Nation. He was there with his bestie, Malcolm Roberts, at the Redlands meeting the other day. Watch that space. We know that they are all after the same vote and they are going to race to the bottom to agree with the anti-vaxxers.

Leadership is all about standing up for things even when you are being attacked. The Premier has said what we need to do to keep Queenslanders safe and the majority of Queenslanders are behind us. We are going to keep Queenslanders safe despite the attacks, because that is what leadership is all about.

Consent Laws

Dr MacMAHON: My question is to the Attorney-General. The New South Wales coalition government has legislated an affirmative model of consent and Victorian Labor has committed to do the same. Why are Queensland Labor's recently passed consent laws the most conservative in the country?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for the question. No doubt the member will remember that we did modernise our consent laws earlier this year. I am very proud that we took recommendations from the Queensland Law Reform Commission to make some very important statements about consent: that silence is not consent and that the consumption of alcohol should not be considered when considering consent and mistake of fact. At the time we debated the reforms I made it very clear, as did almost all speakers on this side of the House, that we are not opposed to further reform and an affirmative action consent model; however, we would leave that to the experts. That is why the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce has been asked to look specifically at any further legislative reform in this area.

I have watched with interest the reform in New South Wales. I note that the New South Wales common law model around rape and sexual assault is very different to our Criminal Code. In New South Wales you have to prove intent to rape; in Queensland you do not. It is a very different system. I have also noted with interest the recommendations in Victoria. Obviously the department will be looking at what happens in those jurisdictions. We have said that we are open to further reform in this space, but we do not want to get it wrong and we do not want unintended consequences.

The amendments that the member for South Brisbane brought in here during that debate would have made it much harder to successfully prosecute. We have to leave this to the experts. Any amendments to the Criminal Code have to be done in consultation with all stakeholders, including our domestic and family violence and sexual assault services as well as the Law Society and the Bar Association. That is what we have committed to doing. We have committed to consulting. We have set up a task force with experts to look at the best way to make sure that women are protected. That is what the task force that is looking at women's experiences in the criminal justice system has been set up to do.

I do not think that you can say that this government has not done enough to protect women from sexual assault. The funding that we have provided to sexual assault services is more than ever before. I know that those services have done it tough. Many more women have come forward in the past 12 months and we are supporting the sector. We recently announced \$150,000 to fund the first peak body for the sexual assault sector so that they can work more effectively with us to advocate on behalf

of policy and legislative change. We are absolutely committed to doing everything we can to end men's violence against women, whether it is sexual assault, rape or domestic and family violence. This government has been absolutely firm in our support for women and our support for ending men's violence against women.

(Time expired)

Electric Super Highway

Mr KELLY: My question is of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Can the minister update the House on the Palaszczuk government's Queensland Electric Super Highway expansion?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the honourable member for the question. Queensland is the first state with an Electric Vehicle Strategy. We understand the need for electric vehicle transformation because it involves better technology, it reduces emissions and it is the way of the future. That is why we have developed the Queensland Electric Super Highway in two stages, from Coolangatta to Cairns and out to Toowoomba. We are making sure that the infrastructure is in place for the new technology that is coming in to this state. Members will know that in the budget we announced stage 3 of the Queensland electric vehicle superhighway which will extend it to places such as Mount Isa, Longreach, Barcaldine, Blackall and Roma. Stage 3 will extend the range of the electric vehicle superhighway to almost 3,800 kilometres across a state with the largest road network in the country.

I was amazed when I read recently that the Prime Minister had said that we could not build electric vehicle charging stations along the Outback Way. I had a quick look at stage 3, because I was sure that we have planned for an electric vehicle charging station at Winton—and we have. Do members remember when the Prime Minister said that an electric vehicle will not tow your boat or your trailer? He does not understand new technology. He is not just bad on renewables; he is also bad on electric vehicles. Winton is one of our great outbreak tourism destinations with the dinosaur centre, the Waltzing Matilda Centre and the Diamantina Heritage Truck and Machinery Museum—one of my favourites—which people love.

Already the Prime Minister has a reputation for dishonesty, whether it relates to the Brittany Higgins affair, saying that we are at the front of the queue—do members remember that—the quarantine issue or telling the federal Leader of the Opposition that he had said where he was going on holiday but he had not. He went to Hawaii in the middle of a bushfire. The Prime Minister has a reputation for dishonesty and this is another example. He does not understand or want to know about new technology. He does not understand how important it is to our economy and our tourism industry. I note that the member for Burleigh was recently pictured charging his vehicle and enjoying his weekend. It is good to see that even the member for Burleigh understands this issue, but the Prime Minister does not. He is clueless on the modern economy.

It is all spin with Scott Morrison. He needs to take a spin in an electric vehicle and maybe find out something about it instead of engaging in political spin. His wheels are spinning because he spins everything. He takes no responsibility for anything. This is another example of him not understanding the modern economy. It is time for a change.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Burleigh, I think that is called a backhanded compliment!

Renewable Energy

Mr WEIR: My question is to the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen. I refer to the minister's commitment to keep Queensland's coal-fired power stations open while meeting the government's 2030 renewable energy target. Given leading energy expert Assistant Professor Steven Hamilton has said the minister's commitment is fanciful, does the minister intend to walk away from his target, or does the minister have a secret plan to close coal-fired power stations?

Mr de BRENNI: I thank the member for the question. I reiterate our commitment that there is no plan to close coal-fired power stations in Queensland. We will deliver on our commitment to achieve 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030. We will meet the target in the energy plan that we have announced to the House and outline exactly how we do that. Today we have heard significant announcements from the Premier and Deputy Premier about increasing the amount of renewable energy and about increasing new manufacturing opportunities. Of course, encouraging that new

investment into Queensland, whether it is in hydrogen or new large-scale renewables, is important because it means jobs for Queenslanders. We heard this morning of around 5,000 jobs in that particular project in Central Queensland.

Our target that we have outlined, 50 per cent by 2030, also involves the government looking at the future of our government owned energy businesses. We want to make sure that they continue to play the vital role they do in Queensland's electricity system. What that vital role has delivered to Queensland households and businesses since this government came to office was a 20 per cent reduction in power prices. In terrific news, the regulators forecast a further 10 per cent decline in electricity costs for Queensland households and businesses over the next three years—in stark contrast to the 43 per cent increase that those opposite presided over. During their entire term in office, there was not one single large-scale renewable project.

Under this government, over \$10 billion of investment in new renewable energy projects will deliver cheaper energy, more jobs for Queenslanders and lower emissions. We will continue to deliver on those. There is no secret plan. Our only plan is to create more jobs and to keep downward pressure on electricity prices.

Women and Girls

Ms LUI: My question is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. During the 16 days of activism against gender based violence, can the Attorney-General advise what the government is doing to promote respect for women and girls? Is the Attorney-General aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for Cook for her question and for her advocacy and leadership right across her very broad electorate in Far North Queensland, supporting women and girls. The Palaszczuk government takes respect for women incredibly seriously. Not just that, we have acted on it. We have exceeded our women on boards targets. We have invested more than any other government to tackle domestic and family violence and we value women in leadership roles. We have a woman Premier, we have a woman Chief Justice, we now have a woman Governor and we have a woman Police Commissioner. It is this government that absolutely values women in leadership and, sadly, this is in stark contrast to the LNP.

I want to talk about what happened in federal parliament last week where the LNP's most marginal MP, Bridget Archer, crossed the floor to support an Independent's motion to debate an anticorruption body—heaven forbid they would want an anticorruption body—but it was no surprise that after Bridget Archer crossed the floor she was hauled into the Prime Minister's office for what he described as a 'friendly' meeting.

Mr Mander interjected.

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

Ms FENTIMAN: This was despite Bridget Archer very clearly saying that she was not ready to meet the Prime Minister. Treasurer Josh Frydenberg, on the pretence of offering Bridget some personal support, literally misled her to the Prime Minister's office for her to get a standing down. Courageously Bridget Archer has spoken out about her experience, saying she felt ambushed by the meeting and was disappointed that her clear preference for meeting at a later time was not even considered. This is a request that even the most respectful human being would consider—to give someone some time. But the Prime Minister is not respectful; he is a bully.


I note that George Christensen and Senators Canavan and Rennick did not get hauled into the Prime Minister's office; in fact, Senator Rennick was rewarded for his bad behaviour. The treatment of Bridget Archer even spurred Australian of the Year Grace Tame to tweet in anger that this was textbook coercive control by the Prime Minister. This is how he treated Julia Banks, Christine Holgate and Brittany Higgins. This is how he treated women who marched across the streets when he said they were lucky they were not shot at when protesting. Clearly, Jenny has not been around enough to remind the Prime Minister that he needs to treat women with respect! Yesterday we saw Kate Jenkins report that one-third of staffers in Parliament House have experienced sexual harassment. It is not good enough. Australian women deserve better from this government. They deserve better than this Prime Minister.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

HEALTH AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (11.15 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Ambulance Service Act 1991, the Criminal Code, the Environmental Protection Act 1994, the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011, the Mental Health Act 2016, the Public Health (Infection Control for Personal Appearance Services) Act 2003, the Radiation Safety Act 1999, the Termination of Pregnancy Act 2018, the Transplantation and Anatomy Act 1979, and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes. I table the bill, explanatory notes and the statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Health and Environment Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 [\[2029\]](#).

Tabled paper: Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021, explanatory notes [\[2030\]](#).

Tabled paper: Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[2031\]](#).

The Palaszczuk government has a proud track record of investing in frontline services and infrastructure so that Queenslanders receive quality health care no matter where they live. Queensland has a world-class public health system, and the Palaszczuk government is committed to keeping it that way. That is why I am pleased to introduce the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 into the parliament today. The bill has been informed by consultation with representatives from the medical, nursing, pharmaceutical, mental health and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sectors as well as government agencies and statutory offices. I thank them for engaging in the process to date.

The bill will make a range of amendments to improve the operation of health portfolio legislation, support the provision of health services in Queensland, and make some minor and technical amendments to legislation. The bill will make a range of amendments to the Mental Health Act. This act regulates the treatment and care provided to people with mental illness, including those people who do not have capacity to consent to treatment. It is essential that the Mental Health Act respects and promotes the rights of persons who require involuntary treatment for their mental illness.

While the vast majority of these patients have no connection to the criminal justice system, a minority are diverted from the criminal justice system because of unsoundness of mind or unfitness for trial. For this group, the act also appropriately balances their rights with the needs of victims of unlawful acts and the safety of the Queensland community.

The bill will amend the process for approving electroconvulsive therapy, or ECT. ECT is a regulated treatment and it can be effective for some types of mental illness, including severe depressive illness. The Mental Health Act provides that ECT cannot be performed on a person who has not given informed consent, unless approved by the Mental Health Review Tribunal.

Some people for whom ECT is proposed may be subject to involuntary orders under the act such as a treatment authority made by an authorised doctor, or a forensic or treatment support order made by the Mental Health Court. Even though the current framework in the act is compatible with the Human Rights Act, the amendments will give greater human rights protections for persons receiving ECT and better support for decision-makers, while ensuring necessary treatment is not withheld from people who lack capacity to consent.

The bill will also enable the Mental Health Review Tribunal to approve an international transfer of involuntary patients. Currently, the tribunal can only approve a patient's transfer to another state or territory in Australia. The international transfer amendments aim to ensure a patient may access support from family and carer networks while also providing adequate oversight by the tribunal to ensure that patient transfers are appropriate and safe.

Other amendments to the Mental Health Act that promote the human rights and dignity of people with a mental illness include replacing references to a patient's best interests with a requirement that a decision-maker consider whether the decision being made is appropriate in the person's circumstances and the person's views, wishes and preferences to the greatest extent practicable.

The bill also expands the categories of authorised persons who may apprehend or transport a person absent from an interstate mental health service. Currently, only a Queensland police officer can do this. The bill will allow authorised persons to undertake this task where a clinical response is more appropriate and the level of risk does not warrant police involvement. This provides greater flexibility and ensures the actions taken consider the individual patient's needs and circumstances.

The bill also makes a range of amendments to the Mental Health Act to streamline and clarify procedural requirements to support the efficient conduct of Mental Health Court hearings, provide more flexibility for patient transfers to or from interstate services, ensure consistency and clarity in the provisions that apply to the confidentiality of personal information, and improve the ongoing support provided to victims of unlawful acts.

The bill will amend the Hospital and Health Boards Act to allow a regulation to prescribe additional categories of allied health professionals who may access the Viewer. The Viewer is Queensland Health's read-only web-based application that displays a consolidated view of patients' clinical and demographic information. In 2016, the Hospital and Health Boards Act was amended to allow registered health practitioners to access the Viewer. Extending access to GPs has facilitated information sharing and collaboration, and helped to ensure patients receive consistent, timely and better coordinated care. In 2019, access to the Viewer was expanded to nurses, midwives, paramedics and registered allied health practitioners, bridging the information gap between public hospitals and community health practitioners and providing patients with better coordinated care and reducing duplicate tests and clinical assessments. Previous amendments have taken the Viewer from being simply an internal system for Queensland Health staff and turned it into a powerful tool for coordinating multidisciplinary care.

To further improve the transfer of patients from acute care to the community care setting and to achieve the best possible health outcomes and quality of life for patients, the bill will expand access to the Viewer to allied health professionals who are not required to be registered under the health practitioner regulation national law. These additional categories of allied health professionals must be prescribed in regulation before they can access the Viewer. It is intended to prescribe audiologists, social workers, dietitians, speech pathologists, exercise physiologists, orthoptists, orthotists and prosthetists. These groups are all appropriately regulated and routinely work with Queensland Health during the transfer of patient care between acute and community settings.

The same safeguards and processes that currently apply for all health professionals to access the Viewer will be maintained. For example, health professionals can only find patients on the system using a unique patient identifier rather than personal details such as the patient's name. This ensures that health practitioners cannot search for or access personal information unless they are providing health care to the patient. It is also an offence under the Hospital and Health Boards Act to access information that is not directly related to providing care or treatment to a patient. This offence has a maximum penalty of 600 penalty units or nearly \$83,000. By providing additional categories of allied health professionals with access to the Viewer, improvements in continuity of care and health outcomes for patients can be achieved.

The bill will amend the Public Health (Infection Control for Personal Appearance Services) Act to make administrative processes easier for licensees under this act. Businesses such as body piercing services and tattoo parlours will benefit from greater flexibility in the licence renewal process, with extended renewal time frames and the ability to apply for a restoration of a licence that has expired. The amendment will reduce red tape for both business owners and the local governments that administer the legislation without any impact on the protections to the users of the businesses.

The bill will amend the Environmental Protection Act to ensure that essential community infrastructure such as satellite hospitals may be constructed and operate outside the environmental nuisance limits of the Environmental Protection Act, if regulated by an infrastructure designation made by the planning minister under the Planning Act 2016. The amendment gives the planning minister the same powers as an assessment manager for a development application. The people of Queensland recognise the Palaszczuk government commitment to health care, which is why they supported our \$265 million commitment to build seven satellite hospitals at the 2020 election. Our Satellite Hospitals program is a reflection of how our government innovates and is focused on delivering health care closer to home and meeting the changing healthcare needs of the community.

I will briefly note some of the other important reforms in this bill. The bill will amend the Ambulance Service Act to ensure the framework for managing confidential information is robust, clear for officers and aligned with the Hospital and Health Boards Act. It will also remove the requirement for the Queensland Ambulance Service commissioner to be no more than 65 years of age. The bill will remove the prescriptive identity verification requirements in the Radiation Safety Act and be addressed through departmental policies, informed by the Commonwealth Department of Home Affairs best practice guidelines for identity verification.

The bill will amend the Termination of Pregnancy Act and Criminal Code to allow students on clinical placement to assist in a termination. This will ensure these students are not restricted in their ability to learn and gain experience. As with other prescribed practitioners, no student will be required to assist in a termination if they have a conscientious objection to doing so.

The bill will amend the Transplantation and Anatomy Act to clarify that the prohibition on trade in human tissue does not include donated human milk, which can be critical for the treatment of vulnerable pre-term infants.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to ensuring our health legislation is serving the needs of Queenslanders. This bill will support the efficient operation of our health system and ensure people are treated with respect and dignity when they receive treatment, to achieve the best possible health outcomes for Queenslanders. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (11.25 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 Health and Environment Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Health and Environment Committee.


Before calling the Clerk to read the next order of the day, may I remind the following members that they remain on warnings until lunchtime. They are the members for Broadwater, Nanango, Mudgeeraba, Miller, Thuringowa, Chatsworth, Hinchinbrook, Kawana, Oodgeroo and Everton.

BRISBANE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES ARRANGEMENTS BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 30 November (see p. 3846), on motion of Ms Palaszczuk—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr TANTARI** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (11.26 am), continuing: I wish to finish my contribution to this debate. With the granting of the games, our venues like the enhanced Gabba and infrastructure like Cross River Rail, utilising trains built by workers in the Fraser Coast region, in particular Maryborough, will make our capital city the envy of the nation and elevate Brisbane to the world city status she deserves. I note that many speakers in this debate have asked what is in it for the regions. In the regions, infrastructure utilised by visiting teams and athletes will enhance regional areas as places for individuals to work, live and play, all the while having access to state-of-the-art facilities, whatever their chosen pursuit or passion.


The world media's attention alone will promote the Fraser Coast region to the world, particularly with K'gari as its centrepiece. Our cultural history, many thousands of years in time, will be on display so that our country and the world will be better able to understand its significance and appreciate its diversity. May I say—and I am sure the member for Maryborough will agree—that a new facility or two may need to be developed in our region to accommodate this enormous interest leading up to and beyond the games. The world media's attention will be on Brisbane and our regions for the next 11 years. That is priceless and that is the consequence of Premier Palaszczuk having the forethought to lead the charge with leaders to win the games. Again, they should be congratulated for showing leadership in the face of criticism from many opposed to the games.

As a member of the committee that oversaw this bill, my understanding was that submitters were generally welcoming of the bill and made a broad range of suggestions that the committee deliberated on. The committee has made seven recommendations. Five of the seven recommendations have been accepted by government. One recommendation will be the subject of an amendment in consideration

in detail. It will deal with the government's concerns around federal members being exempt from crime and corruption scrutiny. One recommendation is supported in principle but is deemed not to be necessary.

I thank the committee for its deliberations on this bill, ably led by the committee chair, the member for Logan, and the committee deputy chair, the member for Mermaid Beach. I also mention the magnificent work done by the committee secretariat, led by the wonderful and tolerant, Ms Lucy Manderson. I do not know how she does it, particularly with the motley crew she has to deal with. She is always professional and responsive and on the mark. Well done to her.

With this bill and the setting up of the Brisbane Organising Committee for the games, a golden era of jobs growth and economic stimulus has commenced for our state including for our regions. Our strong health response was at the forefront of this win. Our strong economic future—jobs now, jobs tomorrow and jobs for the next two decades—is the beneficiary of our leadership. I support the bill before the House.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (11.29 am): I too rise to contribute to the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021. I declare at the outset that I am incredibly excited about the opportunity that this announcement of the games coming to South-East Queensland, indeed to Queensland, in 2032 means for our state, for my kids and for my future grandkids.

As a child, my parents took us away from Queensland for a period. I remember visiting in 1988 during World Expo and the excitement that that brought to the city and the changes that that brought to the state. It was indeed in that same year that we returned to Queensland having been away for a number of years. I was privileged to be part of watching the state transform as a result of holding World Expo. I suspect that this presents an even bigger opportunity to transform South-East Queensland, indeed the state, particularly around two aspects—infrastructure and tourism, but I will come back to those in a moment.

At the outset I want to acknowledge a couple of people who I know have been intrinsic in ensuring that South-East Queensland, that Brisbane, has secured the games. I have to start with the former lord mayor of the Brisbane City Council, Graham Quirk. It was his foresight, his initiation and his leadership of the SEQ Council of Mayors that put this on the horizon in the first place. To Graham and his team, thank you so much for doing that. He was followed up by Lord Mayor Adrian Schinnerer. Thank you, Adrian, for continuing to keep that dream alive and for seeing it through to fruition.

He is going to hate me for mentioning him in parliament, but I also have to acknowledge the SEQ Council of Mayors CEO Scott Smith—the man behind the men in this instance—who for many years drove the Olympic bid. In my term as shadow minister for infrastructure we had a lot of conversations around what this would mean for South-East Queensland and Queensland and what it would mean for Brisbane.

I want to acknowledge my federal colleague Ted O'Brien, the member for Fairfax, and congratulate him on his appointment to important roles around the Olympics. He was the champion of the Brisbane Olympics within the federal government. He brought the federal team on board and ensured that Prime Minister Scott Morrison became part of the bid and got enthusiastic. I know he has had a lot to do with securing the 50 per cent funding commitment to the projects that will become part of the Olympics.

I also want to acknowledge another mayor, Karen Williams. I know she has now been appointed to the board of the organising committee, and she is an exciting addition. Karen and I have also had many conversations over the years. I know she is passionate about things that I am passionate about—infrastructure and tourism. I know she will be a huge addition to the team.

I am incredibly excited because, whilst I represent an area to the north of Brisbane, we have secured a number of important sports. The Sunshine Coast will play host to football. To the uninitiated, that is the round ball game, the world game—that is, soccer. We look forward to holding some of the round games of the round ball game on the Sunshine Coast. I know one that is near and dear to the Minister for Tourism's heart is basketball.

Mr Perrett interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order, member for Gympie!

Mr POWELL: Thank you for protection, Mr Deputy Speaker, from my own members. Basketball is coming to the Sunshine Coast. The marathon is coming to the Sunshine Coast. I can already picture the footage—running along the ocean front at Alexandra Headland and Maroochydore. It is going to look fantastic, as will the road walking. We have mountain biking coming to Parklands. We have kite boarding—again, it is the perfect location for it.

The one I am most excited about, because I am hoping that it features in the electorate of Glass House, is the road cycling. You do not want road cycling to be all about the flats. It has to go up hills. The best hills on the Sunshine Coast are in the west, as the member for Greenslopes knows. He has trekked up a few of them. I am very confident that in both the men's and women's road races, we will be seeing the Olympics literally on our doorstep in the Sunshine Coast hinterland, and that is truly exciting.

I want to go back to where I started. I am excited about these Olympics because they are going to deliver two things, I hope—that is, 20 years of infrastructure and tourism. It is going to allow us not only to catch up where we have lagged in infrastructure but to get ahead of population growth. It is also going to allow us, if we do this right, to have a 20-year plan for tourism. This is our opportunity to showcase, particularly on the back of COVID and the shutdowns we have had, Brisbane, South-East Queensland and Queensland as a whole in the lead-up to the Olympics and at least for a decade after the Olympics.

Turning back to infrastructure, I think there are some key projects that need to be delivered to ensure that not only the athletes can get around and they can enjoy their time here in South-East Queensland but those who come to watch the Olympics—the officials and the viewers—and also we as locals can get around. Obviously there is the Bruce Highway. Again, I commend Ted O'Brien, Andrew Wallace and Terry Young for their advocacy in getting 80 per cent funding for a number of projects on the Bruce Highway. We have recently opened the section between Caloundra Road and Sunshine Coast Motorway. We have the roadworks going on between the southern end of Steve Irwin Way and the Caboolture-Bribie Island exit. Hopefully we will ultimately see, when we see a state government commitment, the three-laning of the Bruce Highway in each direction between the southern end of Steve Irwin Way and the northern end of Steve Irwin Way. That has to happen.

We also need to progress, I believe, the western alternative. I acknowledge that the government has finally started consultation on that. They have secured the corridor through the vital Caboolture West development. They are currently talking to people on the southern side of Caboolture River Road through my part of the electorate of Moorina and Rocksberg. I do acknowledge for those residents that this is a very stressful time. I will be meeting with them next week to try to engage how I can best assist in that consultation. Equally, we have already started conversations with constituents north of the D'Aguilar Highway where the potential western alternative will link up through to maybe Beerburrum Road or maybe Steve Irwin Way. We are not too sure. To those constituents impacted by the western alternative to the Bruce Highway, please know I am here to represent you, I am here to hear your concerns and I am here to convey them to the government.

North coast rail is a must. I know we are now seeing that commence—thanks again to a significant contribution from the federal government, a contribution that for 10 years they were not required to make because this Labor government was going to build it 100 per cent state funded. We have seen the car park at Landsborough start. We have seen contracts awarded for the moving of Steve Irwin Way. I anticipate we will see works commence very soon on the duplication of the north coast rail through to Beerwah. Obviously work needs to be done north of Beerwah through to Nambour, particularly through some of those hinterland communities that need certainty, and cleaning up some of the traffic messes such as at Palmwoods at the intersection of Woombye Palmwoods Road, Jubilee Drive and Chevallum Road. We need that critically.

Equally, this gives us the opportunity—and I am pleased again to hear that the Minister for Main Roads has jumped on board—to link through to Maroochydore town centre. We need to see heavy rail all the way from Brisbane through to Maroochydore, where we will be hosting an athlete's village. Yes, we need to see mass transit on the Sunshine Coast, particularly east of the highway. I am not a huge fan of the light rail option. I noted in the outcomes put forward by the Sunshine Coast that there are a number of much cheaper and much more flexible options. They certainly have my backing. We have an opportunity now with the Olympic Games coming to get that right.

Of course we are the one region without an entertainment and convention centre. This gives us the opportunity, particularly with sports like basketball—

Mr Watts: You'll find there is more than one region.

Mr POWELL: Toowoomba does not need one. You have that theatre up there. That suits fine! The Sunshine Coast desperately needs an entertainment and convention centre. I know there are discussions about where the basketball is going to be held. This is the opportunity for us to get that right.

As I said at the start, this is an incredibly exciting opportunity. If you are a sports nut like me, this is going to be one hell of a couple of weeks. I will be there in some capacity, whether it is in an official capacity if I am still fortunate enough to be the member for Glass House or in a volunteer capacity. I know my kids and hopefully my grandkids—

Mr Bleijie: I don't think you'll be an athlete!

Mr POWELL: I will not be an athlete, member for Kawana. My days for that are long gone.

Mr Stewart: A volunteer.

Mr POWELL: I will potentially be a volunteer. I take that interjection from the minister. I am very happy to consider that. I want to be part of an opportunity to get the infrastructure our region desperately needs. I want to be part of an opportunity to showcase our region, our state and our nation to the world and to leave a true legacy for all Queenslanders long into the future.

Mr KELLY (Greenslopes—ALP) (11.39 am): With your indulgence, Mr Deputy Speaker, before I start my contribution I would like to express my condolences to the family and friends of Jill Dempsey, who is the first nurse in Australia to die as a result of caring for people with COVID-19. We have seen this around the world. It is shocking for our professional colleagues, but when it happens on home soil it brings it so much closer. Please get vaccinated.

Here we are, debating yet another bill and apparently we are all in furious agreement. The LNP is on side, as they always are with many of these bills, but—there is always a but—they have to write a statement of reservation. It does not surprise me. Does anybody remember 'hope over fear'? I have heard that 'hope over fear' speech about 16 times in the last 12 months. 2022 was going to be the year of 'hope over fear'. We were going to have a new type of politics. We were going to try something brand new, but it seems that every time we agree on something, they find something so they can say 'but'—but—'we have a statement of reservation'. I have not heard much hope in the speeches of the LNP in relation to bills in the last few sitting weeks. All I have heard is fear, really. When I talk to people in my community about 'hope over fear', I think what they fear is anybody who was involved in the Newman government ever being allowed to be involved in anything to do with running the state of Queensland again, and they sincerely hope that it never happens.

The statement of reservation was put together by the member for Mermaid Beach, the member for Coomera and the member for Ninderry, some of whom have been here longer than I have. I do want to take the opportunity to point out that when you put a statement of reservation together you are usually meant to have some reservations. I thought somebody had stapled the wrong page to my report because they seem to have identified exactly what the Palaszczuk Labor government is doing in the run-up to the 2032 Olympics. Normally I have to work hard to write my speeches—I am not a natural writer—but I did not bother this time because they have written it for me. I am going to quote directly from part of the statement of reservation—

To this end, it is imperative that Queensland capitalise on this once in a generation opportunity.

Here we go! This is where it gets interesting. It continues—

To do so, our state must:

- Build infrastructure required to deliver the games which can leave a lasting legacy for all Queenslanders. It's critical that Queensland's investment leaves a lasting and meaningful infrastructure footprint.

Mr Whiting: Tick!

Mr KELLY: I will take that interjection. That is a big tick. Consider what the LNP did in that mercifully short time they were in government: they built themselves the LNP pamper pack. What did they build? Queenslanders said, 'We want all this stuff.' Those opposite said, 'What are we going to do? We're going to go and build ourselves one nice big building in the middle of town.' Realistically, if you only get into government once every 20 years you have to look after yourselves, don't you? The member for Burleigh kept the pamper pack. He tried to keep the pamper pack going even when the government changed. When he found out we were announcing the next stage of the light rail, he tried to make sure we built a bit of it to run past his brewery so he would not have to use his car to get there. Unbelievable!

Members opposite talk about delivering infrastructure, but when you look at the infrastructure rolling out across the state in education, housing and roads, they really have a hide to come in here and suggest that this is what we should be doing. It is exactly what we are doing! It is a big tick, and the biggest tick underpinning all of this is Cross River Rail, a transformational piece of infrastructure. If those opposite had not been in government for such a mercifully short period of time we would not have

Cross River Rail; we would all be jumping up and down about the BaT tunnel that does not work. That is the reality. They had no interest in Cross River Rail and they have undermined it ever since we have been trying to put it in place. Let's go to dot point No. 2.

As stated in the statement of reservation, it is imperative for our state to—

- Use the opportunity to skill and train Queensland's workforce. Our state will need construction, hospitality and tourism jobs—along with other key industries. Upskilling the local Queensland workforce should be an important facet of our preparation for the games.

Seriously, you cannot make this stuff up. This is gold! Well done to the members of the committee. I usually congratulate them, but this time I am going to double-down on that: I really congratulate them. This is the party that cut Skilling Queenslanders for Work. They slashed Skilling Queenslanders for Work! What do they think Skilling Queenslanders for Work does? They decimated TAFE. Just last week I met with the three organisations in my electorate that received the latest round of Skilling Queenslanders for Work funding, and guess what they are delivering? Construction, hospitality and tourism jobs! If there was an LNP government in office now they would not be delivering those things because that program was cut, slashed, burned.

Should I go on? Yes, let's get to dot point No. 3. I only have two more to go. I hope I get there in my four remaining minutes. I am glad the Minister for Tourism is here. The statement of reservation continues—

- Develop a 20-year tourism plan which can benefit the width and breadth of the entire state. It's critical that the state capitalise on this opportunity when the eyes of the world are cast on Queensland. As such, Queensland should be working on unlocking and expanding world class tourism products which are ready before, during and after 2032.

This is revolutionary stuff, I know. The Minister for Tourism is sitting there looking perplexed because he probably had not thought of it. As if the 2032 Olympics is not a 20-year tourism plan, for goodness sake! Wait on, we have another dot point here that states—

- Promote and foster a generation of Queenslanders to live active and healthy lifestyles off the back of hosting the Olympic games. In doing so, Queenslanders can reduce the morbidity and mortality of chronic illnesses associated with sedentary lifestyles.

Let's think about what the LNP did when they were in government. How many of those non-profit organisations that stick up for people affected by chronic illnesses like Diabetes Queensland and the Kidney Foundation had their kidney—their funding cut?


A government member: They might as well have taken it; they took everything else!

Mr KELLY: I am taking that interjection: they took it all! They took all of their funding! Not only did they take their funding but they said, 'If you stand up and raise your voice, we're going to take even more stuff off you.' They did not just take their funding—they were not content with that—they gagged them as well. I tell you what: that is not how you build a generation of Queenslanders who are going to live active and healthy lives. You do what the Palaszczuk Labor government has done: you refund those organisations and you do not gag them. Then you go ahead and set up Health and Wellbeing Queensland. You go into the public health system and reset the health services that were decimated by the LNP. If the three health ministers had not backed the current Governor, the former chief health officer, to rebuild those sections of Queensland Health our capacity to deal with this global pandemic would have been zero and none. In terms of promoting and fostering 'a generation of Queenslanders to live active and healthy lifestyles off the back of hosting the Olympic Games', we certainly agree with that and we are certainly working towards this.

I cannot believe that I will be able to get on a bus near my house and be at the games in under five minutes. When I moved to the area in 1996 it used to take me 50 minutes to get into town on the 175 bus. I can now get there in about 10 to 15 minutes. The bus goes right past the Gabba, which used to have the hill. It is now a world-class stadium and it is going to get even better. It is right on the doorstep of our community. We are excited. It is the light on the hill for Queensland. We were awarded these games because as a government we are building the infrastructure we need for these games. As a government we have managed the global pandemic, and people around the world have sat up and taken notice of that.

If the alternative government was in place we would have none of that infrastructure built. We would have opened the border 46 times and let the pandemic out of the box in Queensland which we have managed to keep contained. We are continuing to keep it contained. I can tell you that the IOC looked at all of these things when they were making their decision about where to award the Olympics. It presents huge opportunities to the electorate of Greenslopes, but it also presents huge opportunities for Queensland because these are games for the entirety of Queensland. They will benefit people

whether they are in Townsville, Mount Isa, the Torres Strait or Greenslopes, a five-minute ride on the 175 bus from games HQ. It is an exciting time for Queensland. This is our light on the hill moment to get out of COVID. The Palaszczuk Labor government is already delivering. I support the bill before the House.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (11.49 am): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill. The primary objective of the bill is to establish the Brisbane Organising Committee for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games to undertake and facilitate the organisation, conduct, promotion and commercial and financial management of the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

I want to say that I love the Olympics. Back in 1972, I was six years old and living in the coalmining town of Collinsville when Shane Gould won three medals. I took an interest because she had the same name as me. The people from regional and rural Queensland were very competitive, but we had crappy sports stadiums and fields and we could not believe it when we came down here and played against Brisbane—and beat them—and there were beautiful sports stadiums with grass fields. A lot of the fields we played on up there were dirt. People who live in rural and regional Queensland are very good at sports. They are looking forward to the Olympics as well, but they have crappy stadiums.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for Hill, I ask you to refrain from that. I think it is unparliamentary language, even in that context. Could you withdraw, please?

Mr KNUTH: I withdraw. While I acknowledge the effort and the work put in by our Olympic and Paralympic athletes and the opportunity to be able to compete at home, I question the impact this will have on regional Queensland for the next decade. In regional Queensland, health services are disappearing, roads are falling apart and much needed water infrastructure and major transport infrastructure projects are still being ignored. Billions of dollars are required, and it will be pumped into sporting stadiums, roads and building infrastructure in the south-east of the state at the expense of rural and regional Queensland.


The Premier and the government cannot honestly stand in the House with their hands on their hearts and declare that expenditure on the Olympics in the south-east will not affect spending in regional Queensland and that all of Queensland will benefit. I believe this is misleading people in rural and regional Queensland. The money has to come from somewhere.

If the government are truly serious that regional Queensland will not miss out, then they should announce investment into shovel-ready projects, such as the North Johnston transfer scheme, Ootann Road or the Silkwood Japoon Road. The state government can also appoint to the board of directors and management committee of the games representatives who are based in regional Queensland, who are not puppets of the government and who can ensure that regional Queenslanders are represented and do not miss out on the funding or any opportunities the games could bring.

For example, it is vital we identify immediately what sporting venues in regional Queensland require upgrading to give our youth in regional centres an equal opportunity to represent our nation at the Olympics in 11 years time. I know of two venues in my electorate alone which require urgent upgrades that could make them viable to host international teams or games during the Olympics. I do not want to see sporting venue upgrades fall behind in regional centres at the expense of major stadiums in Brisbane and the Gold Coast.

Representation on the board and organising committee from regional Queensland should be included as part of the selection and nomination process. I know that I and many other regional MPs in the House today will be watching closely whether vital sporting or infrastructure projects we are seeking funding for will be granted or will be put aside in favour of South-East Queensland projects.

If the government were serious about ensuring the wealth is spread across the state, then the first step needs to be regional appointments on the board and organising committee. The next step is writing to all regional MPs requesting their input into what valuable sporting and state building projects they wish to identify that require priority funding and that have the potential to be used for the Olympics. I want to bring that to the attention of the House.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (11.54 am): This bill is a very significant bill for a very significant event that will change this state forever in a very good way. To have the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Queensland is a great honour, but it also shows where this state is at in terms of being able to put on the biggest event in the world. As a kid who grew up in sleepy old Brisbane under Joh Bjelke-Petersen, that is well beyond most people's imaginations but here

we are because of the strong leadership of this Premier and this government. We believe in this state. We do not believe in cutting things to ribbons like those opposite; we believe in building, jobs and infrastructure. That is what we have done from day one right across the state.

Mr Harper: Hear, hear!

Mr BAILEY: I take that interjection from the member for Thuringowa, who understands what infrastructure is all about, with Riverway Drive and Townsville Ring Road 5.

Mr Saunders interjected.

Mr BAILEY: The member for Maryborough understands that as well. They are both great advocates. We are debating a bill that is setting up and getting ready for the games. The games is about the sporting event, but it is also about the infrastructure for a growing state. This state has been incredibly successful in combatting COVID; we are one of the best jurisdictions in the world for doing so. That meant that, when the borders opened towards the end of last year and earlier this year, we saw a stampede of people from the southern states coming to our state because we are the future. As the borders open up, that will accelerate even further—as people desert Melbourne and Sydney and come to Queensland for the opportunities not just in South-East Queensland but across regional Queensland too.

We need the infrastructure for those people as well as our residents to ensure that we keep up. With the Olympic and Paralympic Games, this city and this state will become as well known as Sydney worldwide—think about that for a moment. As we ramp up towards the games, Brisbane, Queensland, the Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast will be on the world stage. It will change this state forever in a very good way.

How did we get here? Because this government invested in the infrastructure that was crucial to us winning the bid—like Cross River Rail. That was 100 per cent funded by us after the federal government let us down terribly and would not work with us. We know they do not work with us on quarantine, the vaccine or the COVID response. They did not work with us long before that on infrastructure. One of the good things about the Premier landing the Olympic and Paralympic Games is that it locks the federal government into 50 per cent funding for major infrastructure. Hopefully, some of those arguments and that lack of cooperation will be reduced going forward. Let us hope we have a different federal government and it will be a lot easier working with a federal government that understands Queensland and does not work against us at every opportunity. Cross River Rail was essential to the bid. As I outlined earlier today, it is transformational. It has created a lot of economic value right across the state in terms of suppliers and it will continue to do so.

One of the great things about the games is that all parts of the state will benefit. There will be an enormous number of things to supply in terms of infrastructure for the actual event itself, in the lead-up, in the venues, right across this state. I note the member for Hill was putting in a bid for some roads and things in his electorate, as other members are doing. That is to be expected, but the fact is that there has never been more money going to regional roads than there is now under the Palaszczuk Labor government. We have had six record budgets out of seven, plus four stimulus packages.

Anyone who has been on regional roads cannot miss it. They cannot miss how much is going on right now. We are committed to that infrastructure and we will keep doing it because we do not believe in the cuts we saw from those opposite for the three years they were in government when the member for Broadwater sat around with then premier Newman, who he called 'someone special', and cut to ribbons things in our state. If they had been re-elected, we would not have the games—there is no doubt about that—we would not have had the infrastructure, we would not have had the leadership and we would not have been ready.

I remember that the management of the Commonwealth Games was highly contested. As the Minister for Transport, I stood up regularly to defend our transport plan which was thoroughly organised and researched. Day after day, there were attacks from those opposite. When the games came, it worked incredibly well and it was very smooth. The effective running of the Commonwealth Games showed that we had the skills and the wherewithal to do something larger—and not with any help from those opposite, who were constant critics of our Commonwealth Games strategies. The games ran very well. That gave us the stepping stone to be able to get the Olympic and Paralympic Games. This bill sets up the governance around that and how we work with the federal government going forward and how we look at the coordination of the venues with the transport infrastructure.

I note that the member for Glass House spoke earlier. He rewrote history there a little because the Sunshine Coast got nothing under the Newman government. They did not even start a business case for the Sunshine Coast rail duplication, yet here we are under the Palaszczuk government with a

record spend on road and rail infrastructure in the Sunshine Coast region. There are two new members on the Sunshine Coast who are doing a fantastic job, in Caloundra and Nicklin. The Mons Road and Maroochydore Road Bruce Highway upgrades are going very well. There was a near billion dollar investment to finish the Caloundra Road to Sunshine Motorway. The Bells Creek Arterial and the Mooloolah River Interchange were funded and done by this government, not by those opposite. The Gympie bypass is well and truly underway. We are seeing incredible amounts of infrastructure. The six-laning of the Bruce Highway from Steve Irwin Way to the Bribie Island turn-off was started and done by this government—

Ms King interjected.


Mr BAILEY: I take the interjection from the member for Pumicestone, who is a huge advocate for that infrastructure. We believe in jobs and infrastructure. That is an essential part of our commitment to the Olympic and Paralympic Games. It is a parallel strategy about not just putting on the best event in the world but also building a decade of infrastructure and jobs for this state.

I note as well that, of course, it is a statewide games. We will be having events in Cairns and in Townsville. Where we will be having events in Townsville? At the stadium that this Premier and this government created. It is an awesome stadium. It is a distinctive stadium. It looks fantastic. It is a great stadium to enjoy. It is a great stadium on TV. It will be a great venue when it comes to the worldwide telecast of the Olympic and Paralympic Games from Townsville, Cairns, Whitsundays, Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast and Brisbane. We have to think about the profound nature of what is going to change in this state when the world looks at us and sees what we have. It is going to be something very special. This bill sets us up in terms of that governance and I look forward to us being able to knit that together in our relationship with the federal government.

There is a lot of work to do, of course. The venues will need to be finalised. There will be a lot of consideration. While some of those venues are very clear, not all of them are finalised. We will need to see those decisions made formally, and then flowing from that will be implications for transport infrastructure. For instance, the extra trains that we are ordering—built in Maryborough by Maryborough workers—will be an important part of growing the rail network, as will the rail upgrades such as Kuraby to Beenleigh; faster rail between the Gold Coast, Logan and Brisbane; the Sunshine Coast rail duplication; and Cross River Rail on tap in 2025. The foresight of this government to 100 per cent fund Cross River Rail has paid us dividends to the max. We are well placed.

There is a lot of work to do. We have an 11-year time frame. It will be a productive and challenging but fruitful process of working through the sequencing in terms of the venues and the infrastructure, but I look forward to the great opportunities that are there, particularly with the new or revamped venues, Brisbane Live and the Gabba. The Gabba is already a well-renowned cricket stadium. There is a great opportunity there for design innovation and for this games to be something that gives our state a wow factor when people look at the coverage of the games. We want to people to say, 'Oh my God, I have to come to Queensland. I have to come to all of these different places.' They will be enjoying a part of the world that has never had so much coverage.

I commend the bill to the House. It is the first bill here in relation to the games. It will set us up very well. For us to be hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games is a profound achievement and I look forward to working on that with all members of this government, the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Sport. It will be an incredible time for this state.

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (12.04 pm): I rise to make my contribution to the debate of the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021. From the outset, I indicate my support for the idea of the Olympic Games, but I stand in this House raising concerns and an alternative point of view to that which most people in this House have raised over the last couple of days. The reality is that there are a lot of regional Queenslanders who are petrified about what this will mean for infrastructure spend in the regions. They are absolutely petrified.

Mr Healy interjected.

Mr DAMETTO: Guess what? There are better places than Cairns out there. There are other regional centres that need a bit of money spent every now and then. They are missing out. Members should go out to Mount Isa and check it out. They should go and see the football field they are playing on and we will talk later.

This bill establishes the Brisbane Organising Committee for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games—the corporation—to undertake and facilitate the organisation, conduct, promotion and commercial and financial management of the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The establishment

of the board of directors of the corporation will ensure the corporation performs its functions to proper and effective standards. We understand that that is a necessary function to be established in order for the games to go ahead.

The committee will include five independent directors in addition to the Brisbane Lord Mayor. I will repeat a point the member for Hill raised in his speech not 10 minutes ago. If the Queensland government is committed to making sure that regional Queensland has a voice during, firstly, the planning and, secondly, the delivery of the Brisbane Olympic Games, then it should appoint someone from the regions to this board, to make sure regional Queensland has a voice—and not someone from regional Queensland who will tell them exactly what they want to hear and just have another cosy spot on a board. It should make sure there is someone from regional Queensland who will stand up and fight for regional Queensland's involvement in the games.

The Queensland Premier and the Prime Minister are also able to nominate four other directors who can be MPs or government ministers, meaning there could be 14 directors in total of which 50 per cent have to be women. There also has to be an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander. It is a great thing having Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders involved on this board. I would suggest that, if the Premier or the Prime Minister are interested in appointing a member of parliament to this board, they choose someone from the regions, perhaps someone from outside of government from the regions, to be part of the planning, if they want to make sure this is a transparent process.

Mr Tantari: Is that your pitch?

Ms Boyd: Whatever.

Mr DAMETTO: I will take that interjection: 'Whatever.' Who said that?

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Gerber): Member for Hinchinbrook, please put your comments through the chair.

Mr DAMETTO: The reality is that we need to make sure this board has people on it who represent regional Queensland. That is my pitch. The committee will also be called BOCOG—formally the Brisbane Organising Committee for the 2023 Olympic and Paralympic Games. It will be set up to operate at arm's length from government. That is interesting, with so many members of parliament on there! Its responsibilities will include accommodation, transport, venues, the sports programs, ticketing, volunteers, marketing and broadcasting.

I may not sound too optimistic about this, but the reality is that we have heard words like 'Gabba' used 100 times in speeches and Cross River Rail has been brought up 100 times. Have we heard anything about what will happen in Hinchinbrook? No. We have not heard anything about what will happen north of the Tropic of Capricorn. There might be a couple of preliminary games at the new Townsville stadium, but I will soon draw on some of my own experiences after the Commonwealth Games.

It is also important to note that the 2032 games committee will be different from previous similar committees like those for Gold Coast 2018, Melbourne 2006 and Sydney 2000. The Queensland and Commonwealth governments are running it in partnership, which basically indicates that Queensland could not afford to do this on their own. It is good to see that the federal government has pitched in because we sure could not afford it on our own.

During the committee process the Queensland Crime and Corruption Commission revealed they had concerns with the management of conflicts of interest—and I note that some of the speakers have spoken to that in the House over the last couple of days—because elected officials will not have to declare conflicts of interest. That is not acceptable as far as I am concerned. The Premier's office has urged that the provisions are necessary because elected representatives such as ministers could have competing interests of virtue through public duties and other roles. I understand that, but being completely exempt from having to notify their conflict of interest goes a bit sideways to me. The reality is that every one of us registers their interests. Most of us sit on committees in this House and before every committee meeting we notify people of any conflicts of interest. That keeps everyone aboveboard and provides some transparency.

It has also been noted that the legislation is shrouded in secrecy, which poses corruption issues. Every dollar spent on this—and billions of dollars are being spent by federal and state governments—should be as open and transparent as possible. The Olympics will blow a black hole in the state's budget. We have seen Olympic Games run over budget time and time again throughout history and I am worried about this as we head towards a forecast \$127.3 billion of debt in this state in 2024-25. That is alarming to people in Queensland. I have been on the record before saying that holding the Olympic

Games is like having a big party. Regional Queensland is happy for Brisbane to have a big party, but allow us to build the nation-building infrastructure to pay for it and to also pay for our own prosperity in the north.

We have the project CopperString 2.0 which is about to take off. I will add that it has government support and it is growing legs. There is an opportunity for that project to take off very soon and actually reach the construction phase. Why not have Queensland be the largest equity partner in it? We have equity partners from all around the world in this project and Queensland through Powerlink is a 20 per cent equity party. The Queensland government should be investing completely into this to ensure it returns dividends for years to come.

It is said that the Olympic Games will provide about an \$8 billion economic benefit to Queensland. That does not take into account the flow-on from that, but I will speak to that in a moment. The reality is we have infrastructure projects that will cost a lot less than the Olympic Games and that will generate an income surpassing whatever the Olympic Games would be able to produce. Those projects should have the government as a full equity partner not just a part equity partner.

I also draw on my time in tourism in Townsville. During the Commonwealth Games we were told as tourism operators that we would benefit from all this flow-on traffic travelling north. We were told that people would be coming in droves and as tourism operators we would be able to cash in on the benefits flowing from the Commonwealth Games held on the Gold Coast. After I became a member of parliament I talked with tourism operators who turned up to some of the meetings and workshops. They said, 'We saw no-one come north—very little'—


Mr Healy interjected.

Mr DAMETTO: Maybe they went straight to Cairns. I will take the interjection. I would like to see the figures. There was very little return in the regions. I will accept that some basketball games were held up there, and I can see the minister smiling across the chamber. He enjoys his basketball. We enjoyed it, too, but did we have any major economic boom?

In closing, I say that I am not the only one concerned about this. Professor Colin Dwyer, a North Queensland economist, was also very concerned about money being spent in the south-east corner and regional Queensland missing out on the benefits from Brisbane winning the Olympics. That is why we raised the petition which was signed by over 1,000 people—North Queenslanders—who were also concerned. Most people in North Queensland are concerned about the economics; most people there who want to see the place prosper are. We have asked for an account to be set up side by side to offset the Olympics Games spend. I would have introduced an amendment to ensure that happens, but I have some respect for the House, unlike the Greens, which had their bills thrown out a couple of weeks ago. That amendment will not be introduced in the House today, but I want to put that on the record.

Mr KELLY: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. It may have passed, but given there is a motion on the *Notice Paper*, was that anticipating a debate?

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Gerber): Member for Greenslopes, his time has expired and he is sitting down.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (12.14 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021. It was a seismic moment in Australian sport when on 21 July 2021 it was announced that Brisbane was confirmed as the host of the third Australian Olympic Games. It should be our aim that the legacy of the Brisbane Olympics will play out well beyond the games' closing ceremony.

The Olympic host contract signed by the state government requires that within five months following the execution of the contract, being 21 December 2021, the state government must form an organising committee. In accordance with this requirement, the bill establishes the Brisbane Organising Committee for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games as an independent statutory body with a board of directors overseeing and facilitating the organisation, conduct, promotion and commercial and financial management of the 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The bill was tabled by the Premier on 27 October 2021 at which time it was declared an urgent bill and referred to the Economics and Governance Committee with the committee to report to the House by Friday, 26 November 2021. The Economics and Governance Committee held an inquiry into the bill and tabled its report on 26 November 2021. The bill included seven recommendations including that the bill be passed.

In 2032 all eyes will be on Brisbane in Queensland, providing a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to market our state as a global destination and a great place to do business. The announcement that Brisbane will be hosting the 2032 Olympics was the start of a process where Brisbane can re-imagine

the way people move around the region, celebrate our nation's cultures, enhance our amazing livability and elevate the region's profile as a place to invest in, visit and call home. From the increase in tourism to building more inclusive and active communities through to major transportation infrastructure projects, there will be so much opportunity for the Sunshine State.

One of the submitters that addressed this issue at the committee's inquiry was the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland, the CCIQ. As outlined in the CCIQ submission, the Brisbane games will create a positive economic legacy but this will clearly take effort and collaboration at all three levels of government.

Beyond the planned multibillion dollar infrastructure projects, the economic legacy of Brisbane 2032 should also be regarded as an opportunity for improved business conditions in Queensland such as enhanced trade and investment, government supporting the scaling and growth of Queensland businesses, business friendly government through the reduction of red tape and, finally, improved procurement processes and capacity building for Queensland businesses. As well, the Brisbane Olympics also allows the opportunity for Brisbane to position itself as a tourism hub for the Asia-Pacific region.

The Brisbane Olympics will be the first games contractually obligated to operate as climate positive, which is part of a bid to avoid the legacy of the huge debts and abandoned stadiums faced by previous host cities. While all upcoming Olympics have committed to being carbon neutral from 2030 onwards, host cities will be contractually obligated to go one step further and operate as climate positive, and the Brisbane Olympics will be the first games to be held to this standard. A climate positive Olympic Games has to offset more carbon emissions than it produces. In the process of trying to achieve a 2032 climate positive games, Brisbane will transform itself.

It is estimated the games is set to deliver \$8.1 billion in benefits to Queensland, including a \$4.6 billion economic boost to tourism and trade and \$3.5 billion in social improvements such as health, volunteering and community benefits. Hosting the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games will create an Olympic legacy which aligns with our commitment to making the Brisbane of tomorrow even better than the Brisbane of today. City-shaping projects such as the Cross River Rail, the Brisbane Metro, the Green Bridges Program and the transformation of Victoria Park are already under way, ensuring that Brisbane will be ready for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

I experienced a taste of the Olympics when I served as a volunteer at the 2000 Sydney Olympics and assisted in field hockey, table tennis and taekwondo. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity that I really enjoyed. In my time off, I was able to attend a number of events including: Cathy Freeman's win in the 200-metre final at the Olympic Stadium, beach volleyball at Bondi Beach and the equestrian events at Penrith. Not all events were held in Sydney. The Brazil team played Cameroon—the ultimate gold medal winners—in football at the Gabba on 23 September 2000. Cameroon won the game 2-1 and went on to win the gold medal. That is what I want to see with the Brisbane Olympics: rectangular field games such as football and Rugby Sevens—and hopefully Rugby League as a demonstration sport—played right across Queensland's major cities.

Ipswich has the perfect venue for rectangular field Olympic sport—the North Ipswich Reserve, which is located in my electorate of Ipswich West. The North Ipswich Reserve has long been a sporting and cultural centre for Ipswich residents. Not only is it the home of the mighty Ipswich Jets and the headquarters of Rugby League Ipswich, but it is the major venue for events such as the Ipswich Anzac Day service and Christmas celebrations. The Ipswich Corporate Centre is located at the North Ipswich Reserve and is used for a wide range of events, including sporting award ceremonies, Australia Day awards and citizenship ceremonies.


The state government and Ipswich City Council have been working together to upgrade the main ground at the North Ipswich Reserve as a major sporting stadium. The Ipswich City Council received \$53,310 in 2018 from the former department of state development, manufacturing, infrastructure and planning as part of the Maturing the Infrastructure Pipeline Program for the development of a strategic business case for a major regional outdoor stadium at the North Ipswich Reserve. On 23 August, I wrote to the Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement requesting that the North Ipswich Reserve be considered as a venue for rectangular field sports in the 2032 Brisbane games.

I pointed out that the North Ipswich Reserve has, for many years, been the home for Rugby League Ipswich and the Ipswich Jets Rugby League team. The North Ipswich Reserve could also host other sports such as the Western Pride Football Club games. The reserve recently hosted a game where the Brisbane Roar Football Club played. This would be an ideal time to develop the North Ipswich Reserve as both a multisport venue and to assist with the 2032 Olympics.

The population of Ipswich is set to double from the present 230,000 in the next 10 to 15 years, with the Ipswich City Council being the fastest growing LGA in Queensland. As such, an Olympics event held in Ipswich at the redeveloped North Ipswich Reserve would be guaranteed to be a sellout. If there is anything I can do to advance the Ipswich City Council business case for the redevelopment of the North Ipswich Reserve, I would be pleased to assist the minister. I would be grateful if he could keep me informed of any developments.

Ipswich is blessed with a number of strong and successful football clubs including the Western Pride Football Club, the Ipswich City Football Club and the Ipswich Knights Football Club. Ipswich has produced many Australian football representatives, including Col and Spencer Kitching, Cliff Sander, Al Warren, Duncan McKenna, Graham Kruger, Ross Kelly, Graham Kathage, Les Keith, Stanley McCrea, Chris Brown, Brian Vogler and Ian Johnston. I want to see our future Australian football and Rugby League World Sevens Ipswich representatives given the opportunity to represent Australia in their home town of Ipswich during the Brisbane Olympics. I will continue to work with the state government and the Ipswich City Council to ensure that the long overdue redevelopment of the North Ipswich Reserve is realised.

In closing, I would like to thank the Premier for introducing this important bill to the Queensland parliament, the Economics and Governance Committee, the committee secretariat, the submitters and Hansard. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (12.24 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021. The LNP will not be opposing this bill and continue to offer bipartisan support for our great state of Queensland hosting the 2032 games. The primary objectives of the bill are to establish the Brisbane Organising Committee for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games to undertake and facilitate the organisation, conduct, promotion and commercial and financial management of the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games; and to establish a board of directors of the corporation to ensure the corporation performs its functions in a proper, effective and efficient way.

The opposition does hold some reservations with respect to the management of the conflict-of-interest issues outlined in the bill. It is important that the behaviour and actions of the Brisbane Organising Committee for the 2032 games are beyond reproach. Over the years we have seen some international sporting events mired in controversy and scandal which has done enormous damage to reputations. Several World Cup soccer events spring to mind. International cricket tournaments have also had their moments. There are other examples. The Queensland public must have and deserve to have complete confidence that the organising committee is subject to a rigorous and robust process, with the necessary checks and balances in place. Guaranteeing appropriate mechanisms for managing conflict-of-interest matters are accomplished effectively should be a key consideration of the state government.

There are some concerns with the provisions of the bill which exempt documentation from the Right to Information Act 2009. These were identified in a number of submissions to the committee, and the opposition does share some of these concerns. Exemptions to the Right to Information Act 2009 should only be used in exceptional circumstances. Clause 65 of this bill should not be used to shroud in secrecy information which would otherwise be freely available to the public.

There are many potential benefits to Queensland from hosting the 2032 games, and hopefully these benefits will last for decades, not moments. There needs to be a strong focus on an infrastructure, tourism and economic plan to allow Queensland to capitalise on this opportunity. The infrastructure required will be substantial, and it is critical that the capital investment in this infrastructure ensures a lasting legacy is left for our state and not just for Brisbane, the Sunshine Coast or the Gold Coast. I would envisage and hope for significant infrastructure in our regional areas.

I am aware and absolutely supportive of the campaigning by Toowoomba Regional Council and the local business community for fast rail to be advanced to link with Brisbane ahead of the games. This infrastructure project would be welcomed by many people who commute on a daily basis and would allow regional Queenslanders to be part of the crowd cheering on our athletes in the 2032 games.


The Toowoomba Regional Council is supporting the development of a sports precinct at Charlton which would have the capacity to host a range of sporting activities. Whilst the athletic oval, or Clive Berghofer Stadium as it is now known, has served the Toowoomba city well over many years, its location makes expansion very challenging. The Charlton land would provide a greenfield site that could be constructed on to meet the growing needs of the Toowoomba city area and the Condamine electorate as the population increases.

The 2032 games should be an opportunity to reskill and retrain our workforce, with key positions being required in the construction, hospitality and tourism industries. This has the potential to enhance employment opportunities and prepare us for what hopefully will be an influx of tourists to Queensland for years to come, long after the games are over, and to all parts of our state, not just the south-east corner.

The 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games coming to Queensland has the potential to encourage us all to live healthier and more active lives, with our athletes leading the way. Any reduction in chronic illness associated with a sedentary lifestyle is welcome to take the pressure off our ailing health system.

As the member for Condamine, an electorate only two hours from Brisbane, I would encourage investment over the range for all of the potential benefits mentioned earlier—infrastructure, tourism, employment and of course the bottom line, our economy. Our regions need investment to enable us to grow and to provide the necessary services and facilities that urban areas have at their fingertips. Many athletes are from rural and regional areas. Having facilities to train and compete at would encourage our younger generation to remain in their local community for as long as possible without having to relocate, taking them away from their support base, family and friends. Importantly, the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games should be for all Queenslanders, not just a few parts of our state. Hosting the games will be a great honour. It will be an opportunity to showcase Queensland and leave a lasting legacy that endures for generations to come.

I cannot conclude my contribution without acknowledging the work done by former lord mayor Graham Quirk. The first briefing that I received on this games was from Graham. Graham had a vision for a games that would be region-wide and different from the mould of traditional games which had cost various cities around the world a lot of money and left them with a debt burden. It is fair to say that Graham's proposal met with some opposition from the government at the time but he continued, and together with the South-East Queensland Council of Mayors that vision has been realised. When we talk about these games, there will be a lot of people who will play a large part in the development and the running of these games, but the contribution by Graham Quirk should not be understated and should be recognised and congratulated.

 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—ALP) (12.31 pm): I rise in support of the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021. This bill represents a procedural but very important next step in Queensland delivering the biggest show on earth, the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Personally, I cannot wait for 2032 and collectively we should do everything that we can to deliver a successful games, not just for our city but for the South-East Queensland region and for our entire great state. This bill is one that could be considered technical in nature but which is really crucial to the significant endeavour that we are undertaking as we look towards 2032. As parliamentarians I believe we have the responsibility to enact those structures and those statutory bodies that are, by necessity and for good reason, based in state legislation, and the 2032 organising committee is such an entity.

The contract with the International Olympic Committee, the Olympic host contract, or OHC, sets out that an organising committee is established within five months of the OHC—in our case, by 21 December this year. It creates a legal entity of the organising committee and establishes in it the creation of certain persons as members of its highest executive body with full voting rights. So, in accordance with these requirements, the bill establishes the Brisbane Organising Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, the corporation, as an independent statutory body with a board of directors overseeing its operations. Again, this might be seen as a technical legislative vehicle in nature, but it is a very substantive step in hosting the world's biggest event right here in Queensland.

If I could reflect personally for a moment, I have said before in this House how proud I am of my siblings. They have made and continue to make significant contributions in their own fields and as early as my first speech I reflected—about a year ago as it works out—that me being sworn in as the member for Stafford was just my chance to add to their collective effort of service. Importantly for this bill, that relates to one of my younger brothers Dom.

As a then qualified lawyer and public servant in his mid- to late 20s, he decided to change careers, successfully completing an MBA and secured work in a range of charity and sports administration that led him to take a significant role working for Queensland's extraordinarily successful Commonwealth Games and then for a few years now working for the Australian Olympic Committee. He successfully completed his role as a team manager for a few sports in Tokyo and was an overall jack-of-all-trades for the team. As an aside, that also included him doing two weeks in quarantine with the rest of the Olympic team on his return. So it is obviously with some family pride that I recognise the

important role that the Australian Olympic Committee will play in the lead-up to the 2032 Olympic Games, and that is reflected in the structure of the Brisbane Organising Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games in line with the requirements of the Olympic host contract conditions.

I congratulate the Premier for her impressive leadership in this endeavour in securing the games. I am sure we will all remember with fondness her excitement on behalf of us all when Brisbane was appointed the host city for 2032. I know that the Premier also did the two weeks quarantine on her return and I am sure in years to come she will happily reflect that it was well and truly worth it. Until 2032 comes around, I just say thank you. I also thank the Deputy Premier, the Treasurer and the Minister for Sport for their respective roles in the preparation for 2032.

I particularly recognise the Minister for Sport in the House today, the member for Sandgate. If ever there was a case where the stars aligned in terms of experience, dedication, genuine passion and interest, surely it is the minister's portfolio at this important time. I am just a little bit shocked, I have to admit, that there is not a clause in this legislation that mandates that a basketball player—he or she—must carry the flag at the opening and/or closing ceremonies. I am sure the minister would probably retort that with people like Patty Mills, Lauren Jackson and Andrew Gaze we probably do not need such a legislative provision. In fact, it might be time for basketball to give someone else a go!

In terms of details of this legislation, the key changes made to the bill following consultation include removing the cap on the number of board directors to reflect that there may be more than one IOC or IPC governing board member residing in Australia; allowing the AOC to nominate either the president or honorary life president of the AOC to the board; importantly, ensuring the gender diversity of the board is part of those appointment-making processes; including reference to independent directors and requiring that these directors not be elected office holders or employees of games partners; and including provisions to ensure the protection of confidential IOC and AOC documents. These are all very worthy. These are all important foundations for getting the settings right for what will be a transformational event for our beautiful city.

This legislation, as I said, is technical in nature but also speaks to the broader reaches that hosting an Olympics will bring, and I know that the committee inquiry went into those broader issues. I think of the fantastic example of Cedric Dubler, with his inspirational sacrifice in the 1,500 metres in the decathlon where he focused on bringing home his teammate Ashley Moloney. Those across the north side know the name well, because he had his start running around Bowden Park in Geebung for the Little Athletics club. The club is just outside my electorate and in the seat of my good friend the member for Aspley, but the club serves the broader north side well. It is also where I spent some years in my youth running around the field in the gold and maroon of the Aspley Little As. They are rightly proud of Cedric's achievements, as they were in 2016 when he performed in Rio. It goes to show what inspiration and positive influence our athletes have on our youth and I cannot wait to see the excitement in the lead-up to 2031.


As this legislation establishes the governing body to deliver these important games, I have already seen the excitement and interest at the grassroots level. At every swimming carnival I support and every community sporting club I visit, everyone is excited about the dream of performing on the world stage right here in Brisbane. It is not just overenthusiastic parents; there are kids as young as eight or nine now dreaming that the Olympics are coming to them and that they can be part of it.

I also want to mention some of the intangible benefits of recognising our Olympics stars, especially with a view to 2032 and the structure of the organising committee that specifically recognises the role of former Olympians and former Paralympians. I want to give just one example of the leadership and mentoring that our elite athletes can take on. I had the privilege of meeting our all-star silver medallist beach volleyball team at the City Hall reception and then at our Parliamentary Friends of the Olympics and Paralympics Movement events that included Taliqua Clancy. Rather than coast on her achievements, along with her beach volleyball partner Mariafe Artacho del Solar, she has also taken on a role in promoting the importance of vaccination, especially through the great work of Deadly Choices, to communicate with our Indigenous communities and particularly including our regional Indigenous communities. I thank her for her leadership in that field and it is a great example of how Australian athletes leading up to, competing in and then following the 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games can use their fantastic and justified public status for the purpose of a broader community good. I should note that, considering that they were one of the teams that my brother helped to manage, when they met me they were immediately shocked that they could actually look down on someone called 'Sullivan'. My brother is one of the few people that the volleyball team can look up to!

In terms of federal support, in the limited time that I have left I would like to comment on the fact that this organising structure provides significant appointments to the federal government. That is to reflect the very public commitments made by the federal government—and that they are now on the sticky paper—that it will contribute financially equal to that of the state. Rather than handballing, this needs to be a real commitment and an enduring commitment. If we have a Prime Minister who does not hold a hose, I hope that by 2032, metaphorically at least, we have a Prime Minister who is willing to hold the Olympic flame.

Locally, as a member of parliament proudly representing a community with fantastic sporting organisations, aspiring athletes, coaches and administrators, I cannot wait. The Premier delivered this massive first step in winning the games for Queensland and, in my humble opinion, it should not be forgotten that there are four key elements to that success: the successful delivery of the 2018 Commonwealth Games that showcased Queensland to the world and showcased our ability to successfully deliver truly international events; the extraordinary health response to the worldwide pandemic that showed our response was above and beyond; the infrastructure that this government has delivered since 2015 and is continuing to deliver—not just sport related but transport, social infrastructure, health and other; and maturity and proper diplomacy.

It is embarrassing looking at what the Morrison government has done to our country's proper reputation as a proactive, honest middle power. I think the Premier and her team have done a great job in showing them what genuine, honest engagement can yield. We are all the beneficiaries of that. In conclusion, I thank the Premier for delivering the massive first step of winning the games. This legislation fulfils our next step to collectively do our part to get it done. I thank the committee for its deliberation and I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (12.40 pm): I rise to express my support for this bill which puts in place the legislative framework that will allow preparations to commence for the 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games. This will be a transformative opportunity and I am pleased that the Premier has said that the opportunity and privileges due to the host will be shared by all Queensland not just Brisbane or the south-east corner. I would like to contribute a few comments regarding issues on behalf of regional and rural Queenslanders. One of the most exciting privileges of hosting the Olympics is the increased opportunity for our athletes to compete at an Olympics—and to compete at an Olympics on home ground.

When I leave here this week I will be heading to a little outback town called Stonehenge to celebrate the end of the school year with students and their parents and teachers. I would like to think that I can look those children in the eye and tell them that the only thing standing between them and the chance to compete in the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games is their talent and hard work. As things stand, this is a bit of a fairytale. Gregory is full of talented young athletes, but they have poorer training and playing facilities than children in the south-east corner or in the coastal cities. Despite this, our parents pay the same fees to the state sporting bodies as parents in the south-east corner. Our parents are all too likely to discover that the state body has allocated one development officer to cover an area from Goondiwindi to Moranbah and all points west. It is no surprise that the children never receive professional coaching or a masterclass under a system like this, a system that acts as if Queensland is the size of Victoria.

Gregory parents spend weekend after weekend in the season driving children to compete in other towns and cities. They have to devote the time and find the money for transport, accommodation and supervision as their children travel long distances to compete against competitors who have not left home. In Emerald we have an extremely talented group of female weightlifters who are doing very well at the higher level of competition in the sport. I have heard of the dedication it takes from their parents and their coach to get them to competitions. Virtually every school holiday for the last year has been taken up this way. If the Premier and the Minister for Sport are sincere in saying that the 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games are for all Queensland, I ask them to put in place a 10-year program to support regional and rural athletes in a journey of development towards competing at the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games. I would love to see not just a record number of Queenslanders in the Australian team but a record number from rural and regional Queensland. This is an opportunity for a statewide revolution in how Queensland conducts sporting development and competition for the permanent benefit of all Queensland children.

I note in their statement of reservation to the committee report the LNP committee members stated that if Queensland is to capitalise on this once-in-a-generation opportunity we need to start work now on developing world-class tourism products. For a long time I have called for the expansion of the

tourism air packages that can combine the wonders of the reef with the wonders of the outback. We must have this in place in time for the 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games. Outback tourism now boasts major attractions and events.

A lot of work has been done to develop both the capacity and the product. That work can be seen in what happened on Tuesday when the Mount Isa rodeo came to Parliament House where we launched the Road to Rodeo, which will be staged in Longreach at the end of April and 1 May. This is a great opportunity. I have put on notice to the minister that I am going to advocate that rodeo goes into the Olympics and we can hold it in Mount Isa and Longreach. There would be nothing I would be more proud of than seeing some of those bull riders wearing a gold medal around their neck. They are absolutely professional sportsmen. They work hard and they deserve an opportunity. If you can have synchronised swimming in the Olympics, I think you can have rodeo—and, of course, I have nothing against synchronised swimming.

The 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games offers an opportunity to take this to the next level. I urge the Palaszczuk government to action this now. The 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games will provide major infrastructure opportunities in the south-east corner. Rural and regional Queenslanders need to be a part of this. I urge the government to be aware that good transport links to the regions will also need to be fixed. We need to reap those benefits to increase tourism in 2032 and the decades that follow. At all stages in this effort I urge the state government to lift its gaze and not become solely fixated on the needs of the south-east corner when it comes to these games. I urge the government to put together a top-level tourism task force now to ensure Queensland regions receive the full benefit of this opportunity.

One of the key needs will be the training and skilling of the workers in our tourism industry, from IT to interpreters to frontline workers such as guides, receptionists, cooks and wait staff. I was delighted that the Minister for Education, Grace Grace, was able to fund the Big Red Truck that provides vocational hospitality training at five western high schools. I urge the government to consider expanding these programs right across the state. The students who are starting as waiters and apprentices today will be our hospitality industry workforce team leaders by the time the Olympics comes around. If the loss of the backpacker workforce due to the COVID-19 border closure has taught us nothing else, it is that we must train our own skilled workers. I urge Minister Grace and Minister Farmer to work together on this for the benefit of the whole state. We must have a high level of competency so that we can staff the south-east corner and our key tourism regions as well.

This bill represents the starter's pistol for what should be an effort that unites and delights all Queenslanders. The 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be a game changer for the state. There must be a governance framework, which is what this legislation implements. It is a shame that it falls to the opposition to highlight two major flaws in the legislation. The first concern is in relation to a provision that exempts documentation from the Right to Information Act 2009. In such a major undertaking there are legitimate reasons to grant specific exemptions. I understand that. For instance, it would be sensible to exempt documents relating to the security and safety arrangements pertaining to every aspect of the games—athletes, officials and spectators. I can see there may even be a need for specific exemptions to be granted to cover certain strict commercial arrangements, but these should be carved out in specific exemptions. It does not require a cloak of secrecy to be thrown over every aspect of the committee's dealings and arrangements.

In a democracy the right to information is the foundation of an honest government. Transparency is not just about making corruption less likely, it is about improving outcomes. Everyone involved in the organising of these games will be on a major learning curve because every games is unique. Transparency will ensure that Queenslanders can learn and improve as we go, just as honest consultation with stakeholders always leads to better legislative and policy outcomes.


While there can be exceptions to the right-to-information laws, there should be few and there should be a clear explanation given to Queenslanders about why such an exemption is being made. This makes clause 65 very disappointing. It essentially drops a cloud of secrecy over all. This is not in keeping with the Olympic spirit, nor is it in the interests of Queenslanders. Queenslanders must be able to have full confidence that the organising committee is competent and proficient at carrying out the responsibilities entrusted to it. Transparency is fundamental to both public confidence and the outcomes of the committee's efforts.

For similar reasons I hold reservations with respect to the management of conflicts of interest as laid down in this bill. Having appropriate mechanisms in place to manage the inevitable conflicts of interest that will arise should have been a key consideration for the state government. Having said that,

the 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games offer Queensland a once-in-a-generation opportunity to shine and to grow. We have some great people in Western Queensland who are doing a fantastic job preparing those athletes who will hopefully be at the 2032 games.

I want to pay tribute to a bloke called John Palmer. John Palmer owns the BP in Longreach. He is involved in the Longreach Athletics Clubs. If he is not doing something with the athletics club, he is doing something with the Scout group. John is one of those key people in a community that every community needs. His children and grandchildren have benefited from that passion for athletics, as has the whole community. They are very good at their sport. I am hoping to see some track runners and swimming stars coming from regional and rural Queensland. We have great clay shooters in regional Queensland. Blackall has a fantastic facility. I hope that the Queensland government considers the clay shooting facility at Blackall as a great training area to be used prior to the Olympics so that teams from overseas can experience a bit of the outback and also experience the great infrastructure that we have.

The Olympics will be a real game changer for Queensland. I am very excited and happy to support this bill and I am excited and happy to support the Brisbane Olympics. People in regional and rural Queensland have said that the Olympics will not do anything for them, but I say that is wrong. It will be an opportunity for us to promote rural and regional Queensland. People will be heading to Brisbane for the Olympics and the media, especially the international media, will undoubtedly want to spotlight outback Queensland. We will be happy to host them whether in Winton, Longreach or even Birdsville. Come to Brisbane for the Olympics but make sure that you stay a lot longer and spend your money in rural and regional Queensland. We are ready for you. I say to the minister that we have to get bull riding to the IOC and hopefully we will see a gold medal come out of Queensland.

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (12.50 pm): I am very pleased to rise and make a contribution to the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021. I wish to take a moment to reflect on this incredible moment in our history. Our state will be delivering the Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games. As someone of Greek heritage, the Olympics is more than an event every four years. It is a significant part of our history and a gift to the world of which we take great pride—and you're welcome!

We know the history of the games goes back around 3,000 years to the Peloponnese in ancient Greece. Whilst we do not know exactly when they started, the date of 776 BC is often cited in written sources. The Olympiad, the four-year period between two successive celebrations, became a chronological measurement and system of dating used in the Greek world. I vividly recall as a child visiting the archaeological site of Olympia with my parents. It is not only an outstanding example of a great Pan-Hellenic sanctuary of antiquity; it is a truly magical place. Clearly UNESCO agreed, recognising Olympia as a World Heritage site in 1989.

We know through the revival of the modern Olympics, from Athens in 1896 to the most recent 2020 Tokyo Olympics—of course, held in 2021 due to the global pandemic—we will witness an incredible and rich demonstration of courage, strength, fairness and transformation. In 2032, Brisbane and Queensland will have the opportunity to showcase to the world the very best of those traits and perhaps some uniquely Queensland ones as well.

We know the decision of the IOC to give Queensland this opportunity in 2032 provides the certainty and the confidence needed for increased investment in our state. The KPMG report that was prepared for the International Olympic Committee in early 2020 as part of the value proposition assessment clearly identified that, over the next 20 years, the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games are forecast to generate some significant economic benefits, whether it is increased international tourism and trade estimated at \$4.6 billion for Queensland and \$8.5 billion nationally or the approximately 91,600 full-time-equivalent jobs for our state alone. Importantly, there will be \$3.5 billion in social benefits to Queensland, including improvements in health, community connectedness and civic pride, which is something that we should never underestimate. There is also the 10-year pipeline of construction jobs, trade and investment opportunities, and legacy projects that will benefit Queenslanders for decades to come.

I appreciate that expectations are very high for what those legacy projects will be, whether it is the competition venues themselves, the training facilities, the accommodation requirements for visiting teams or, of course, how that is all interconnected. Our government has made it clear that the transport infrastructure required to support Brisbane 2032 will, first and foremost, be designed to meet the needs of Queensland's growing population. Our Olympics proposal was clearly based on upgrades to and the expansion of public transport infrastructure already planned and underway. By 2032, the transport corridors connecting the three games zones across South-East Queensland will have increased road and rail capacity connecting the Gold Coast, the Sunshine Coast and Brisbane.

Of course, the signature project in all of that will be Cross River Rail. That project will unlock the bottleneck at the heart of our rail network and allow us to increase system-wide capacity of more than 50,000 passengers per hour per direction. We also know that Cross River Rail will play a key role in our Olympics by providing a direct rail connection to the upgraded Gabba stadium and will also see the new underground station at Roma Street improve connectivity to Suncorp Stadium. Discussions are also occurring between funding partners to examine opportunities to bring forward additional transport infrastructure in time for the Brisbane 2032 games.

I note that the South-East Queensland Council of Mayors recently launched their 'Let's get moving' campaign, which certainly involved a lot of banner waving and excitement. I am equally excited to see the commitment of funding our SEQ councils will be providing towards the important infrastructure we will need to deliver the 2032 Olympics. Of course, as we get closer to Brisbane 2032, there may be opportunities for additional sports to be added to the program, which is at the discretion of the IOC.

Mr Healy: Bull riding.

Mrs MULLEN: Yes, bull riding. The Queensland government has indicated that it will continue to work with games partners to refine the delivery of the venues program because we want to ensure that all new and upgraded venues have been selected to meet long-term growth demands. I am pleased to see that the Brisbane Lions AFLW stadium, which is currently under construction in Springfield, has been identified as an Olympics 2032 venue for the modern pentathlon. I was on site only this week with the Brisbane Lions and Hutchinson Builders to see construction progress on the 10,000-seat stadium. It is going to be a really incredible facility for our region. My priority is and will always be how our government's contribution of \$18 million towards the stadium build will directly benefit our local community. Currently identified as 'Ipswich Stadium' under the Olympic Venues Master Plan, my fellow Ipswich members of parliament and I are looking forward to working with the Ipswich City Council on how we can get moving on maximising this incredible economic and social opportunity for our region.

Of course, it all begins with good planning and the bill before us sets the framework for a successful 2032 games. The bill establishes the organising committee for the games to undertake the organisation, conduct, promotion and commercial and financial management of the games, and will establish a board of directors to ensure the organising committee performs its functions in a proper, effective and efficient way. As the Premier and Minister for the Olympics has stated, the legislation was closely consulted on and was approached in a collaborative manner, which is indicative of how our government proposes to progress with the planning for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for our state.

The organising committee will proceed as a statutory body rather than as a government department and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, via the parliamentary committee report, has outlined why this has been the preferred legal form. This includes enabling the corporation to operate at arm's length from the state with control over its own funds; and being subject to the public sector accountability regime rather than the Corporations Act 2001, which is appropriate given the public money and interest in the successful delivery of the Brisbane 2032 games. Ultimately, as the Premier indicated, this structure will provide the organisation with the necessary operational and financial independence and flexibility to achieve its objectives and to ensure it is subject to an appropriate level of public accountability.

The membership of the organising committee has been of particular interest to many, especially some who have clearly been briefing the media on their inclusion. We have already seen some jockeying, interestingly only between LNP mayors—Brisbane, Gold Coast, Redlands, Ipswich! The bill provides for a total of up to 17 nominated directors to be appointed as board members by the Governor in Council. The AOC will be able to nominate either the president of the AOC or an honorary life president. Bronte Barratt has been confirmed by the AOC and Kurt Fearnley by Paralympics Australia to represent the athletes and they are welcome additions. Five independent directors will be nominated by the state minister, subject to a joint nomination process with the Prime Minister of Australia. Up to another four directors will be nominated by the Prime Minister, four directors will be nominated by the Premier of Queensland and one director will be nominated by the Lord Mayor of Brisbane.


Pleasingly, the bill does require that regard must be given to gender diversity. In fact, this is reinforced by a specific requirement that 50 per cent of the nominated directors are female, recognising the Palaszczuk government's very strong policy on gender equity on boards. Equally, it is terrific to see our First Nations people represented with the inclusion of at least one independent director nominated to be of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent.

The parliamentary inquiry heard from a number of submitters who want to see a range of additional representatives included on the board, including local community representatives, school representatives, urban and city planning experts, architects, public transport and sporting experts. Whilst it is not feasible for the board to be broadened to such an extent, there is certainly scope for such individuals to provide input to the planning and organisation of the games through the commissions that can be established by the board and provided for through this legislation.

In fact, the parliamentary committee noted that it expects there will be a broad range of specific professional skills and expertise upon which the board will need to draw in undertaking its legislative functions and notes the capacity for commissions, in particular, to provide a mechanism for this. We want that knowledge, we want that experience and we want the innovative ideas that will make the 2032 Olympics uniquely Queensland and enduring. The interest we have already seen from our communities and the thought-provoking ideas that have emerged since the announcement that Queensland will be hosting the Olympics in 2032 are very important. I believe it speaks to a sense of responsibility that we all share of wanting the 2032 Olympic Games to be a transformative and enduring legacy for South-East Queensland and our regional cities.

As has been written, the ancient Greeks understood the significance of the Olympic Games, where athletes benefited from a three-month sacred truce and came together from all the Greek cities of the Mediterranean world to compete, demonstrating peaceful and loyal competition between free and equal men—of the time—who were prepared to surpass their physical strength in a supreme effort, with their only ambition being the symbolic reward of an olive wreath. We know that the modern Olympic Games continue to illustrate the lasting nature of the ideal for peace, justice and progress. We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to provide that progress for our state and I am confident that we will grasp it with both hands. I commend the bill to the House.

Sitting suspended from 12.59 pm to 2.00 pm.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (2.00 pm): In regard to the Olympics and Paralympics bill today, I make some remarks particularly in respect of infrastructure. There has been a lot of discussion from members of parliament today about the types of events and sports that will be involved in the Olympics, about what is in and what is not in. There have been some unkind remarks about certain members of this House being athletes or being inspired to participate in the 2032 Olympic Games and what would they be? I am reliably informed by—

Mr Bailey: Is amateur thespians a sport?

Honourable members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: You have won the theatre sports over me any day of the week. The member for Surfers Paradise has drawn my attention to the fact that, at the 2024 Paris Olympics, breakdance is an Olympic sport. Just before the break, I had the member for Surfers Paradise Google whether rock'n'roll dancing was an Olympic sport. He informs me that breakdance has just been put into the 2024 Olympics. He also tells me that rock'n'roll was on the list to be a sport but did not make it past the first cut. As a rock'n'roller and former dance sport champion of Queensland, I can say that there is hope for people such as me in 2032, because a lot of people are saying that young Queenslanders now in our primary schools will be able to participate and that this will be their dream. I am not ageist. I suspect if anyone can do it, no matter what age, they should as long as it is an Olympic sport in 2032.

I place on record that, if breakdance can happen in Olympic sport in 2024 in Paris, so too should rock'n'roll dancing. Members on this side of the House know that I met my dear wife rock'n'roll dancing. We were dance partners when we were teenagers. Some 20 years later we are still dancing, which is fantastic.

An honourable member: Meanwhile, back to the debate.

Mr BLEIJIE: It is a pretty big element of the debate! I refer to infrastructure. The Olympics will present an opportunity for infrastructure right around Queensland. The Olympics is an amazing opportunity for Australia, Queensland and the Sunshine Coast. It does sadden me to say that, while we now are talking about infrastructure on the Sunshine Coast, international sport means we will finally get the infrastructure on the Sunshine Coast that we have been crying out for from the Labor government for many years, because the Labor Party has continually failed to deliver for the Sunshine Coast community. The current Minister for Transport and Main Roads has been the minister failing to deliver a large proportion of that infrastructure on the Sunshine Coast. I heard before the minister take credit for the MRI, the Mooloolah River Interchange. The minister failed to tell the parliament this: that the MRI was promised to be delivered by LNP governments if we were to win the election—

Mr BAILEY: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The MRI business case was not even done before we were in power. What is the member going on about?

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Gerber): That is not a point of order.

Mr BLEIJIE: I am glad the minister took that point of order, because it goes to the next point about the business case. The minister claimed credit for the MRI delivery but failed to tell people that, if we were elected, in two elections we were basically going to deliver it because it is a state road. The minister has spent 6½ years delaying the MRI with a business case. Guess what? The federal government came to the party six months ago and said, 'We will fund half of the Mooloolah Interchange despite it being a state road.' Then the state said, 'Okay, we will fund the other half of \$320 million for the total project.' Guess what? It is happening.

Has the business case even been released? I do not think so. This seven-year delay occurred under this minister because he was doing a business case—ended up not even having a business case released—just funded half of the project because the federal government came to the party in terms of delivery. I will never let the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Minister Bailey, stand up and suggest that he is responsible for the MRI, considering the federal government is funding 50 per cent of the state road, because for seven years the minister failed to deliver infrastructure on the Sunshine Coast.

I refer to other infrastructure projects. The minister has been quoted in the media in terms of rail. In hosting the Olympics, we want to be open to the whole of Queensland but particularly Brisbane as most of the games will be held in Brisbane. The Sunshine Coast rail network will not cope at the moment with that.

Mr Mickelberg: It doesn't cope now.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the member for Buderim's interjection: it does not cope now, so it definitely will not cope. The coast needs heavy passenger rail through to Caloundra, Kawana and then into Maroochydore.

Government members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members! The member for Kawana has the call.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. We were in government for 2½ years. The Labor Party mob has been in power for about 26 of the past 30 years and has failed to deliver the CAMCOS corridor. Paul Lucas said the CAMCOS rail corridor would be delivered by 2009! Of course, Labor are good at promising but never at delivering. We want the heavy passenger rail on the CAMCOS corridor. For the record, I note under standing orders 260 and 262 in that my family house abuts the CAMCOS corridor, so I note my conflict in that respect. We want the heavy passenger rail to the Sunshine Coast not just to stop at Caloundra but to go from Beerwah to Caloundra to Kawana and into Maroochydore. I tell the minister what we do not want: we do not want light rail on the Sunshine Coast.

No athlete competing at the games or at basketball on the Sunshine Coast will want to jump on a light rail from Alexandra Headland to Caloundra and go back and forth. The international athletes will get into Mooloolaba—Mayor Jamieson's vision of this light rail—they'll jump on what they suspect is a train to take them back to Brisbane, it will take them 10 minutes down the road, stop at Caloundra and be told, 'All stations finished.' That is no public transport system. Yes, we need better buses. Yes, we need more buses. Yes, we need buses to go where people want them to go. Yes, we need more reliable buses, we need more services and we need them to be more frequent, but we do not want a glorified steam train down Nicklin Way on the Sunshine Coast as this equates to light rail.

We might as well use the Mary Valley steam rattler if the government agrees to Mayor Jamieson's light rail system. The Mary Valley steam rattler would service the Sunshine Coast better than a light rail that would service hardly anything. It will bring density and a population explosion to our coastal community. We want the heavy passenger rail and for it to be the priority. Do not invest in light rail; invest in the heavy passenger rail.

On that note, I refer to issues sporting. I am really concerned about Mayor Jamieson's presentation to a business council forum concerning the basketball centre that was meant to be in Maroochydore. It has not yet been decided where it will be located, yet there is a big tin shed right in Kawana on the Kawana sports fields. It will mean that the Kawana Junior Rugby League and the Kawana Rugby League will lose their home ground. The reason I suspect Mayor Jamieson wants that is so he can say to the state government, 'Hey, just put heavy rail to Caloundra and the light rail will pick up everyone from Caloundra to Maroochydore.' No way Jose! We will not accept that.

I say to the government that if, under this bill, they are going to build infrastructure then build the convention and exhibition centre we desperately need in Maroochydore CBD. Leave the Sunshine Coast Stadium alone. Leave the Kawana sports field alone so our Kawana Junior Rugby League Club and Kawana Rugby League Club still have their home ground. They should put the basketball in the convention and exhibition centre as was originally planned and not do what council are trying to do. I know that behind the scenes council are trying to get that moved to the Kawana Sports Precinct.

Mr BAILEY: I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker. As fascinating as these sporting fields are, I fail to see how this is related to the Olympics bill that is before the House.

Opposition members interjected.


Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Gerber): Members, I will hear the point of order in silence.

Mr BAILEY: We are having a very broad debate, which I support, but some sort of fight with the mayor about some sporting field is totally unrelated to the bill.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, as you have noted, it is a very broad debate. I will allow the member on his feet the latitude to come back to the long title of the bill.

Mr BLEIJIE: It is in the Olympic infrastructure plan that basketball is going to be held in Maroochydore or Kawana. This is directly relevant to the Olympics unless you think basketball is not an Olympic sport, champion. Guess what? It is an Olympic sport. This is directly relevant to the bill. Look at him. I do not think he is much of a sportsman. He would not have a clue. He thinks he can talk about every issue under the sun but no-one else should have the opportunity to.

The reality is that we should get rid of light rail and build heavy passenger rail on the Sunshine Coast. Do not impact the Kawana Sports Precinct. Put the convention and exhibition centre in Maroochydore where it was originally planned.

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (2.11 pm): I rise to support the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021. The Brisbane 2032 games will put Queensland in the international spotlight, creating opportunities to grow our economy through increased tourism and trade and accelerating the delivery of long-term plans needed for sustainable growth across Queensland, particularly in the South-East Queensland region.

It will market our state as a global destination and a place to do business. It will be a catalyst to enhance social, economic and environmental outcomes for our state, amplifying everything from health and active community initiatives to arts and culture, sustainability initiatives, tourism, trade and local business opportunities. Importantly, hosting the Brisbane 2032 games will be a transformational event that will unlock \$8.1 billion in economic and social benefits for Queensland and create 91,600 full-time-equivalent jobs across the state.

It will generate a 10-year pipeline of construction jobs, trade and investment opportunities and legacy projects that will benefit Queenslanders for decades to come. The games will deliver for all communities across the state, including Ipswich. Our proximity to Brisbane means that our local businesses can tap into a range of games related procurement opportunities.

The Palaszczuk government is supporting local businesses to get involved in Brisbane 2032 by developing a forward procurement plan for the next 11 years in partnership with our games partners. I talked about this yesterday in my MPI speech. We are encouraging businesses to register for the Buy Queensland supplier updates via the Brisbane 2032 webpage so that they can receive updates about Olympic procurement. As I said yesterday, as at 18 November, 2,435 supplier representatives had already registered their interest.

Ipswich has a proud sporting history, with over 150 grassroots sporting clubs producing many outstanding professional sportspeople who have competed nationally and internationally. We can lay claim—and we do—to Ash Barty, the world No. 1 ranked tennis player who recently won Wimbledon and won the 2019 French Open. I take a moment to congratulate Ash on her recent engagement to her long-term partner, Garry Kissick—a good Ipswich boy. I wish you both many long and happy years together.

We also proudly lay claim to Rugby League greats Allan Langer, Kevin and Kerrod Walters and Ali Brigginshaw; cricket players Steve Watson and Craig McDermott; and Olympic swimmers Heath Ramsay and Leah Neale. Ipswich was also home to the late, great Paralympian Roy Fowler, who participated in four Paralympic Games over three decades from 1964 to 1988, winning six gold medals in lawn bowls and para swimming and three silver medals and one bronze in para archery. He also participated in the Sydney Olympic Games torch relay in 2000 at the age of 80.

At many of Ipswich's local sports clubs, kids are already aspiring to be future Olympians and Paralympians at the Brisbane 2032 games. That is why it is great to see that over the next two years the Queensland Academy of Sport will undertake a statewide search for around 400 talented young athletes, paving new elite sporting pathways all the way to the Brisbane 2032 games.

Another exciting reason to look forward to the Brisbane 2032 games is that it is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to unlock critical transport and sporting infrastructure that will have lasting benefits into the future. This will have enormous flow-on benefits for Ipswich. Transport infrastructure required to support Brisbane 2032 will first and foremost be designed to meet the needs of Queensland's growing population, and Ipswich is certainly growing. I want to make mention, as many on this side of the House have, of the huge impact Cross River Rail had on the games decision and how much it will benefit all those coming to the games and our growth.

Ipswich, as I am wont to tell everyone in this House whenever they listen, is ranked the fastest growing LGA in Queensland, with thousands of families and individuals moving to Ipswich each year. Over 6,000 people moved to Ipswich in the last financial year. It is critical that we support that rapid population growth through public transport infrastructure. This government has done a fantastic job.

I want to mention the \$200 million allocated to the Ipswich Motorway upgrade. It has changed people's lives.

Ms Pugh: Hear, hear!

Ms HOWARD: I take the member for Mount Ommaney's interjection. I know that the work that we have done on the Centenary Highway has helped unlock a lot of the traffic.

Ripley Valley, in my electorate, is the fastest growing SA2 area in the whole of Queensland. This area will be home to over 120,000 people by 2041. A rail line servicing this area will reduce private vehicle usage, improve traffic flow on our major arterial roads and deliver a more efficient transport network for South-East Queensland, particularly as we head into the 2032 games. I acknowledge our government's contribution to the Springfield to Ipswich train line. Thousands of people make Ipswich their home for reasons such as the affordable housing and the laid-back lifestyle our city has to offer.

As more people call Ipswich home, we need transport options in new greenfield suburbs. We do not want people to develop the habit of using their private vehicles to commute. We want them to have a public transport mindset to help our environment. Ipswich's growth is having an impact on our major arterial roads. The Centenary Highway is very busy during peak hour. I am pleased to see our investment in that space in the time to come.

I am pleased to see also that in the lead-up to the 2032 games there will be more discussions to come between funding partners to examine opportunities to bring forward additional transport infrastructure in time for Brisbane 2032. Enhancing our road and public transport network will mean that our athletes, spectators, workers and volunteers can get around to venues more efficiently and enjoy comfortable travel times and service levels. More importantly, these transport infrastructure enhancements will achieve long-term benefits for all Queenslanders after the games are over. In the lead-up to the federal election, I express my disappointment that the federal government has not put any money on the table for the essential transport infrastructure that we need in Ipswich.

Brisbane 2032 will also unlock sporting infrastructure that will achieve long-term outcomes for communities beyond the games. New facilities will be purpose designed to meet local community participation needs first and foremost before being converted to games competition venues and then returned to the community. Under the Brisbane 2032 games venues master plan, Ipswich is set to host the modern pentathlon event at Ipswich stadium, also known as Brighton Homes Arena, currently under construction in Springfield, in the member for Jordan's electorate. The games could also potentially see more Ipswich venues considered as the 2032 games masterplan develops. I would be a strong advocate for using the North Ipswich Reserve Stadium as an additional games venue to host sporting events or to be used—

Mr Madden: Hear, hear!

Ms HOWARD: I take the interjection from the member for Ipswich West who is a vocal advocate for that stadium.

Mr Saunders: Good local member.

Ms HOWARD: He is an excellent local member. This would catalyse the upgrade of the North Ipswich Reserve Stadium turning it into a world-class sporting facility that will serve Ipswich's long-term sporting needs into the future. The upgrade of North Ipswich Reserve Stadium was part of the Ipswich Jets' recent NRL bid. Although the Jets were not able to secure that bid, there is still a strong desire to see the stadium upgraded.


A stadium in the heart of Ipswich is what is needed to revitalise our city, create jobs during and after the construction phase and deliver a world-class sporting facility that will put Ipswich on the map as a major drawcard destination. Considering the federal government in its last budget overlooked the North Ipswich Reserve Stadium for an upgrade, the 2032 games could be the catalyst that potentially sees this upgrade delivered. I will be sure to fight hard, along with my neighbour the member for Ipswich West, to see this happen.

The Brisbane 2032 organising committee, or corporation, that is being established under this bill will allow for operational and financial independence and flexibility to achieve the 2032 objectives, whilst ensuring an appropriate level of public accountability. The corporation has a massive task ahead of it, with responsibilities ranging from events and ceremonies, such as the Olympic and Paralympic torch relays and the opening and closing ceremonies, to accommodation and transport for competitors, officials and media, and managing the thousands of volunteers who will welcome our athletes and guests to Queensland.

If we want to deliver a games that represents the best that Queensland has to offer to the world then an inclusive board membership is a must. There are few events in our lifetime that bring forth massive opportunities to shape and grow our region. Ipswich, with its close proximity to Brisbane, is in a prime position to capitalise on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that the 2032 games bring. Whether you are a fan of the Olympics or not—and I have not met anyone who is not—we can say with a high degree of certainty that the 2032 games will benefit all Queenslanders either directly or indirectly. They will generate an estimated \$4.6 billion boost to Queensland's tourism and trade.

As many on both sides of the House have mentioned, Brisbane is set to be on the world stage. Just like Sydney was in the 2000 Olympics, we will be recognised across the world as a great city in this state. I am really proud to be a part of it. Hosting this event in Queensland comes with an enormous responsibility, but I know that we are up to it.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (2.21 pm): I rise to support the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021. What an opportunity the Olympics and Paralympics provide for Brisbane and Queensland! As a government, we stand ready to welcome the world to Brisbane for the Olympics from 23 July to 8 August 2032 and for the Paralympics from Tuesday, 24 August to Sunday, 5 September 2032. Although it might sound like that is far away, it is amazing how quickly 10½ years can pass. I think about how old I am going to be in those 10 and a bit years!

Mr Minnikin: You'll still be young at heart.

Ms GRACE: I do wish that those years would go a bit slower. I take the interjection from the member for Chatsworth: I will still be young at heart. Although I cannot wait to have the Olympics in this great state and in this great city, I hope that the next 10 years do not pass any quicker than the last 10 years. If they do, it will be here before we know it!

The Palaszczuk government is now going full steam ahead with its plans to ensure Brisbane is Olympic ready for 2032. I believe that it is going to be a golden age here in Brisbane and Queensland. I think of the opportunities that this will lend this great state and this great city. The world is our oyster, so to speak. No matter what you think of the Olympics, I know we were all glued to the Tokyo Olympics recently. They were disrupted. Nevertheless, when they finally went ahead I know we all thoroughly enjoyed them. As the Premier has often said, Queensland as a state—were we leading the world? We probably were, but I do not know whether that is necessarily correct. We were close to it. The opposition leader and I drew the line when we said we were better than Italy. We had to draw the line there. We were in unison in that regard.

We are accelerating infrastructure projects not only to align with the Queensland COVID economic recovery plan but also to ensure the games will benefit all of Queensland, not just the south-east. That is true leadership. The Premier said from day one, when the presentations were held in Tokyo, it was about all of Queensland. We know the south-east corner is going to gain from the

Olympic and Paralympic Games, but it really is the games for all of Queensland. Plus, it is an opportunity for us not only to showcase our beautiful state—it truly is fantastic and perfect one day and excellent the next, or whatever the saying is. I cannot think of it at the moment.

Ms Enoch: Beautiful one day and perfect the next.

Ms GRACE: Thank you, Minister Enoch. Queensland truly is beautiful one day and perfect the next, and we are going to be able to showcase that to the rest of the world. It will be an incredible experience. In taking the interjection from Minister Enoch, it will be an opportunity to link the true culture of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander First Nation peoples as well and the opportunities that that brings to showcase the wonderful history of our First Nations people in this state and in Australia.

I support this bill to establish the Brisbane Organising Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games and the associated board of directors to ensure the smooth running of the games. Thank goodness this bill puts those arrangements in place. In listening to some of the submissions from those opposite in this debate, they are already starting to fight about venues. This is supposed to be an opportunity for us to come together—for all three tiers of government to come together. Imagine if the Premier were fighting with the Lord Mayor of Brisbane. Imagine if she were fighting with the minister at the federal level. We have not even established the committee and already there are arguments about venues on the north coast. Honestly and truly, this is supposed to be unifying. We are entering a golden era. Let us put the bickering aside and showcase what we truly have in this great state.

The organising committee will be responsible for the delivery of the games including the sports program, the torch relays, the ticketing, the accommodation for athletes and officials, the opening ceremony and the fine conduct of the games here in Brisbane, Queensland. These are big issues we have to address. You do not want to be squabbling over crumbs here. Importantly, the bill includes a requirement that at least 50 per cent of the nominated directors are women. I think that is an excellent step forward in that we can bring all of the elements together and work cooperatively over the next 10 years to deliver a fantastic games. Let us not start bickering already before we have even sat down for the first meeting.

The venue master plan identifies 37 competition venues located within South-East Queensland including 22 in Brisbane. I am thrilled to see that five of these major venues will be located within my electorate of McConnel, barring any redistributions of course and any changes that may be made. A decade is a long time. These are indicative sites. We have a lot of work to do in regard to those. I know others are advocating for various sites. Assuming that the indicative venues are the ones going forward, I think the RNA showgrounds will be fantastic for equestrian. I know they will benefit from the legacy project of upgrading their stands and stables and showcasing that most wonderful and iconic part of Brisbane in the heart of my electorate. I think it will be absolutely fantastic, and what a great opportunity for the RNA to upgrade some facilities that they have had there for a long time. I cannot wait to see it after all the upgrades have been done.

Victoria Park is already on the drawing board for a major upgrade. They are talking about having cycling and equestrian cross country there. What a great use of that facility. It is an amazing park in the heart of my electorate. It used to be a golf course. We are now transferring it into a park, but the people in the inner city of Brisbane can benefit from what happens there. I look forward to seeing where we end up with that wonderful park.


We are already injecting, with the Commonwealth government, \$30 million in upgrades to Ballymore Stadium. I thank the former minister for sport, the member for Springwood, in relation to the \$15 million that we have put in. We are going to be upgrading that facility. Hopefully field hockey will be held there and maybe at some other venues. It is going to be fantastic to see Ballymore used for the Olympics.

There is talk about Albion Park being transformed into a Brisbane indoor sports centre. We will then have to work out what happens to the greyhound and harness racing at Albion Park. Planning for that is well under way, with a fantastic centre soon to be announced with regard to the greyhound and harness racing. It will be wonderful to welcome a brand new venue to be constructed to host our exciting swimming, water polo and diving events—the exciting new Brisbane Live arena on the site of the old Roma Street station.

Cross River Rail is a fantastic opportunity and the Minister for Transport should be congratulated. We did not turn away nearly \$1 billion worth of federal funding at the time, as was the case with the BaT tunnel, which was never going to see the light of day. The Minister for Transport did see the light of day, because Else broke through the other day. They are no longer in darkness; the light came shining through. We are building major infrastructure in this city in my electorate, with a station in Albert

Park and one at Woolloongabba. It is incredible. The RNA will get a year-round station as well. We did not turn our back on this incredible infrastructure; we funded it and went forward. It held us in good stead to get these Olympic Games. It is wonderful, and Brisbane Live will sit right near that Roma Street station. Imagine the events and concerts that are going to happen at that venue afterwards, being able to beautifully transition from the public transport group. It truly is going to be a golden age in Brisbane and Queensland, there is no doubt about it.

I am looking forward to catching up with Chelsea Warr, the CEO of the Queensland Academy of Sport, to work out a strategy for the schools and future Olympic and Paralympic children who want to compete. This is truly wonderful. I cannot support this bill strongly enough. I support the amendments put forward by the Premier; I do not support any other amendments. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (2.31 pm): Sailing, 100-metre freestyle, rowing, BMX and kayaking—these are just some of the events that Australia won gold in at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics earlier this year. This is what we here in Queensland have to look forward to in 2032 when we host the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games. I want to take this opportunity to give a shout-out to the Olympic and Paralympic athletes whom I have the pleasure of representing in the Currumbin electorate: Matt Belcher, Alyce and Jordan Wood, Bernadette Wallace, Katie Hayward, Ellie Beer, Dani Stevens, Aivi Luik, Brandon Wakeling and Thomas Gallagher. Thank you to each and every one of you for the time and dedication you have put into training, representing not only Australia but also our local Gold Coast community.

Currumbin really is the best place to live and Queensland really is home to sporting champions, and our electorate highlights just that. Our Currumbin community is so excited for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and they have been writing to me with many suggestions. Here are just a few: surfing in Currumbin! I want to be on the record in this House supporting surfing as an Olympic sport. Further, I do not think anyone in this House can deny that the electorate of Currumbin has some of the best surf breaks in the world—not just Queensland: the whole world! Minister, I think there would be no better place than the beautiful beaches of Currumbin to host surfing in 2032. In fact, you would be spoiled for choice in trying to choose a beach. Minister, please make sure you let the Premier and her media team know that D-Bah is not actually a beach in Queensland. Make sure you choose a beach that is actually in Queensland.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Through the chair, please, member.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Everybody back on the beach, please.

Mrs GERBER: My community is also a massive fan of the inclusion of BMX as an Olympic sport. Excitingly, this year we saw the Gold Coast's very own Logan Martin take home an Olympic first freestyle BMX gold medal. Currumbin constituents, including Level Up Skatepark & Training Facility in Currumbin Waters, think it would be incredible for Gold Coast youth to be able to perfect their BMX tricks in a purpose-built course in Currumbin. Minister, I would be very pleased to work with you on that project also.

Further, our local Gold Coast community has some of the state's most beautiful and natural cycling roads. Unfortunately, some concerns have been raised by local cyclists because these tracks can be quite dangerous. I am calling on the state government to commit to upgrading cycling infrastructure and roads to support cycling on the Gold Coast ahead of 2032. With improved cycling infrastructure, the Gold Coast would also be the perfect place for an Olympic triathlon event. Also, my community is very excited to see a true Australian sport, beach volleyball, up close. Where better to host this iconic sport than the pristine and beautiful sandy Gold Coast.

As you can see, we in Currumbin are very excited for what the games could bring not just to Brisbane but the whole of Queensland. We have been presented with a unique opportunity to capitalise on this once-in-a-generation opportunity. It must be acknowledged that the reason the whole of Queensland and the regions, as well as the South-East Queensland corner that I represent, has an opportunity to be part of the games is because of the foresight of Lord Mayor Graham Quirk, who not only believed in the games but also got the ball rolling on securing these games for us as a whole-of-Queensland event, not just Brisbane.

Mr Minnikin: And Sallyanne Atkinson before him.

Mrs GERBER: I will take that interjection; thank you, member for Chatsworth. Thanks must also go to the South East Queensland Council of Mayors, led by Lord Mayor Adrian Schrunner, who has also been an ardent supporter of these games right from the beginning. This is not just a one-stop event but

a generationally beneficial opportunity for infrastructure and a golden opportunity for tourism if it is done right. Yesterday we heard the Leader of the Opposition call for a 20-year tourism plan for Queensland. This is what we need to ensure the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games receive the best possible result for Queenslanders.

In Currumbin I will fight to see our home benefit from infrastructure funding, transport improvements and an increase in both domestic and international tourism. Since my first speech in this House last year I have consistently called on the government to improve our public transport capacity by connecting our community to the heavy rail network. Despite our community's persistent advocating, the past five years have seen capacity building on the Gold Coast heavy rail network neglected. This cannot be allowed to continue. Ahead of the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games I will continue to fight to see a heavy rail station at Elanora secured for our Gold Coast community and the preservation of that corridor to the airport. Quite frankly, the lack of progression by the state Labor government in connecting the Gold Coast Airport to rail transport shows a government out of touch with the needs of the local community.

Mr Minnikin: Pretty hopeless.

Mrs GERBER: Yes, I take the interjection from the member for Chatsworth. Before COVID-19 international lockdowns the Gold Coast Airport was the sixth busiest airport in the country. It welcomed over 6.5 million passengers annually. I fully expect that once international travel resumes it will do this again. It is simply archaic that the Gold Coast Airport is not connected to heavy rail. It is indicative of an out-of-touch government.

The LNP has, and will continue to, provide bipartisan support for Queensland hosting the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. We will continue to call for these games to be delivered in a way that creates a lasting and meaningful legacy, including building key infrastructure in a way that will support Queenslanders long after the games are finished and to ensure that Queensland's workforce is appropriately trained and upskilled.

This is also an opportunity to support local Queensland businesses across the state, with the potential for Queensland and small and family businesses to become Olympic and Paralympic suppliers. These 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games are an excellent opportunity to showcase the width and breath of our entire state, driving tourism numbers and capitalising on this unique opportunity. I know that many small and family business operators in Currumbin are very excited for this opportunity and for the subsequent increase in tourism. Right now it is this government's responsibility to ensure work for the development and delivery of world-class tourism products for both the immediate games period and the aftermath of the games. They need to ensure this is underway now. I know that there are local tradies and apprentices in the Currumbin electorate who are eagerly awaiting the opportunity to be part of this great event.

I will address two things in relation to the bill itself. Firstly, the bill establishes a Brisbane organising committee, which will play an essential role in undertaking and facilitating the organisation, conduct, promotion, and commercial and financial management of the games. This is an important role. As legislators, we have a duty to ensure it will work efficiently to reap the best opportunities for Queensland. The make-up of the board of directors of the corporation established under this bill—I will not go into specific details of the proposed board representatives as I know it has already been canvassed by a number of members in this chamber—has attracted some debate.

Of particular concern are the right to information and conflict of interest provisions. This bill means that the board will be exempt from the Right to Information Act, and this is concerning to me and my community. It creates an opportunity for the government to prevent public access to documents that will affect all Queenslanders. Regular Queenslanders deserve access to many of the documents the board will deal with, they deserve to be able to analyse it and they deserve to be able to question the relevant costings.


I am concerned that this government is creating a culture where ministers are prepared to spend taxpayer dollars but are not prepared to share the relevant information with the Queensland public. My constituents in Currumbin, and Queenslanders alike, deserve better than this. They deserve transparency. For a government that promised Queensland voters openness and transparency, they are breaking this promise yet again with this bill.

The other major concern raised by stakeholders relates to the conflict of interest provisions. As the bill stands, it proposes to carve out duties owed by elected officials as a result of their elected office from the requirements regarding conflicts of interest. The CCC has commented that this poses a corruption risk. This committee will be responsible for an event a decade in the making. They will

spearhead a decade's worth of infrastructure and service spending. The public expects that their conduct be beyond reproach—and rightfully so. It is imperative that the organising committee are subject to the necessary checks and balances and that there are appropriate mechanisms for managing conflicts of interest. They must be declared and they must be managed.

Lastly, despite these concerns with this bill, as I have said, the LNP will always give bipartisan support to the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2032 because it is very exciting. I personally am very excited to be able to speak on the first bill relating to the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. I know my community is very excited to see the potential that this might bring for infrastructure and for the sporting events that we might be able to host. Surfing is definitely something that the minister should look at, and there is no better place than the Currumbin electorate to hold a surfing competition. We have Snapper Rocks; in fact, we have a number of breaks that are iconic. Cycling is another sport I would like to see on the agenda for the Currumbin electorate for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. This would entail some road upgrades.

Most importantly for our community, particularly at this time, we would like to see a government commitment to focus on connecting the heavy rail to the airport. That has been lacking and our community has been crying out for this for years. It is really quite archaic that our airport is not connected to the heavy rail. With the Olympics approaching, it is a perfect opportunity for this state government to invest in that and provide us with heavy rail to the airport.

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (2.41 pm): I rise in support of the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021. The Olympics—the most iconic global sporting event in modern history—are coming to Queensland, with 28 Olympic sports, 22 Paralympic sports and 29 days of competition over four weeks. They will be broadcast across the globe to roughly 200 nations and reach a global audience of more than five billion people. This will be absolutely magnificent.

Hosting the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games has never been simply about the weeks of competition. Much more than sporting competitions between the best athletes in the world, the games are an amazing opportunity to showcase Queensland and everything we have to offer. The 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games will be transformative events for our entire state. I am incredibly proud that as a government we are committed to ensuring an inclusive games for all Queenslanders, with the benefits to be shared right across our great state.

The games will provide an opportunity to accelerate the delivery of sustainable growth, particularly across the South-East Queensland region. The games will drive investment, create jobs, drive new skills and boost industry supply chains across every one of our job-creating sectors—like construction, manufacturing and tourism, to name a few. They are a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to showcase what we already know to be true—that our great state is a premier global destination to live, work and invest. The games are an opportunity to accelerate and amplify everything from healthy and active community initiatives to arts and culture, sustainability initiatives, tourism, trade and local business opportunities.

For our local community of Ipswich, this means the brand new Brighton Homes Arena at Springfield Central is at the start line to host the modern pentathlon. This diverse display of fencing, swimming, horseriding, shooting and running will attract athletes, officials, supporters and spectators from around the world. In all, the \$70 million Springfield Central facility will welcome up to 10,000 people, and it is set for completion in September next year. It will be home to the premiership winning Brisbane Lions AFLW team and includes the development of a high-performance training and support centre for both the men's and women's teams. We have already invested \$18 million in this landmark local project, which is delivering jobs as well as improving our local civic amenity.

A little further afield, our neighbour the Scenic Rim will host rowing and canoeing at the Wyaralong Flatwater Centre. This is South-East Queensland's newest dam. The \$348 million project is proudly publicly owned and is one of Scenic Rim's most popular destinations for recreational tourists.

While our venues will be showcased to 200 nations and an audience of more than five billion people worldwide, the 2032 Olympics and Paralympics also mean a huge boost for our local businesses. Already the team at Skylihter Fireworks and their workers from Redbank Plains in my community have played an important part. When we celebrated one of the biggest moments in our state's history on 21 July this year with the official awarding of the games, it was Skylihter which coloured the night as crowds gathered at South Bank and Broadbeach.

Of course, it also means celebrating the success of our next generation of sports stars. At the recent Ipswich Sports Awards, I had the pleasure of catching up with some of our Tokyo athletes: Redbank Plains weightlifter Erika Yamasaki, Paralympic archer Taymon Kenton-Smith and dual gold

medallist swimmer Mollie O'Callaghan. In Tokyo we were also represented by swimmer Leah Neale, boxer Paulo Aokuso, race walker Dane Bird-Smith and of course the women's world No. 1 tennis player, Ash Barty. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate her on her recent engagement to her long-time partner, Garry Kissick. They all have a proud association with our great sporting city, and another chapter of our community's proud history will be written at the Brisbane 2032 games.

The benefits of these games are enormous and cannot be overstated. The 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games are forecast to generate enormous benefits, not just for Queensland but for our entire nation. There will be increased tourism and trade estimated at around \$4.6 billion for Queensland and \$8.5 billion nationally. They will create approximately 91,600 full-time-equivalent jobs in Queensland and almost 123,000 FTEs across the nation. There will be \$3.5 billion in social benefits to Queensland and \$9.11 billion nationally, including improvements in health and community connectedness. We will have a 10-year pipeline of construction jobs, trade and investment opportunities, and legacy projects that will benefit Queensland for decades to come.

The bill establishes the Brisbane organising committee for the games as an independent statutory body with a board of directors overseeing its operations. I am particularly pleased to see that the bill enshrines diversity in the board, including a requirement that at least 50 per cent of directors are female and at least one director is First Nations.


Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned businesses contribute more than \$1 billion a year to the national economy, with revenues growing on average at 12.5 per cent annually. For every dollar of revenue, Indigenous businesses create over \$4 of economic and social value and are 30 times more likely to offer employment to other First Nations people. October was Indigenous Business Month and also marked the start of a 10-year opportunity in the lead-up to and beyond the 2032 Olympics. We want to ensure Indigenous businesses are best positioned to take advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime event and can tap into opportunities to supply their goods and services pre and post the Olympic Games.

Transport infrastructure required to support the games will be first and foremost designed to meet the needs of Queensland's growing population. Our proposal was based on upgrades and expansion of public transport infrastructure already planned and underway. Discussions are occurring between funding partners to examine opportunities to bring forward additional transport infrastructure in time for 2032.

Speaking of funding partners, it is incredibly disappointing that the federal government has not committed to its share of funding the next stage of the proposed Ipswich to Springfield rail loop. The Ipswich City Council has stumped up \$500,000. The state government has put \$1 million cash on the barrel head, but it was absolutely shameful that in this year's federal budget, the federal government could not find \$1 million to contribute to this important project for our city.

We are well on the way to being a global renewable superpower. The games will be a perfect opportunity to ensure that we continue to win gold. Our renewables and renewable hydrogen will power our preparation for the games, and the games themselves, as we create more jobs in more industries through cleaner and cheaper power on our way to the most sustainable Olympics ever. They are a catalyst to enhance social, economic and environmental outcomes for our state and to deliver long-term, statewide benefits to all Queenslanders. They will supercharge our safe and strong recovery and they will be a defining chapter in the history of our great state.

These games will be a games for all Queenslanders and will leave a lasting legacy of sustainability, social support and business success. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (2.51 pm): Like World Expo 88, the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games will herald a golden age for Queensland over the next decade and beyond. This is an exciting time for all Queenslanders, particularly for our young people. Our name will be on the world stage up there with Tokyo, Paris and Los Angeles. Brisbane will now follow in the footsteps of our southern neighbours as well in Melbourne and Sydney in becoming an Olympic host city. It is fantastic to see that the planning is now underway to make sure that we are positioned to have one of the most successful games in history.

The main function of the corporation and the board that is being established under this bill will be to facilitate the organisation, conduct, promotion and commercial and financial management of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. I congratulate the Redland city mayor, Karen Williams, on her appointment to the board. I genuinely hope that it is a great working relationship, one that is productive and collaborative with the Queensland state government.

The corporation will manage the obligations of the planning and delivery of the Brisbane 2032 Olympics and Paralympics at no cost to the Queensland taxpayer, which I think is important. Economic benefits will definitely provide certainty and confidence to invest in Queensland over the next decade and beyond and will certainly be a catalyst to see great innovation across Queensland. It will drive industry investment in new skills. It will enhance and grow our supply chains, particularly across the areas of construction, manufacturing and tourism.

Over the next 20 years, the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games is forecast to generate increased international tourism and trade estimated at \$4.6 billion for Queensland and \$8.5 billion nationally. It hopes to create approximately 91,600 full-time-equivalent jobs in Queensland and 122,900 jobs across the nation; \$3.5 million dollars in important social benefits to Queensland and \$9.11 billion nationally, including improvements to health, community connectedness and, of course, pride in our communities. A 10-year pipeline of construction jobs, trade and investment opportunities and legacy projects will see lasting benefits for decades to come. All eyes will be on Queensland.

I want to talk a little bit about infrastructure and legacy. The Brisbane 2032 games will be an accelerator to fast-track the long-term delivery of statewide and regional priorities. I know that the member for Capalaba and I will certainly be advocating for transport infrastructure upgrades across our region. We know that we have a lot of games venues that are connected from the Brisbane CBD out to our bayside. It will be extraordinarily important to make sure that we are planning that transport corridor and making sure it is a seamless ride out to Chandler, out to the whitewater rafting venue and to the Anna Meares Velodrome.

I have had the great opportunity of working across two decades for Cox Architecture, which is very big in sports planning. I know at the heart of every Olympic and Paralympic Games is the master plan that integrates venues, accommodation and other facilities that form the backbone for hosting events. We were fortunate in 2008 when we were commissioned to design the Beijing sailing venue. In Sydney 2000, we were part of the original process for the Homebush Bay master plan and then commissioned to deliver athletics training venues, the aquatic centre, the baseball stadium and the main indoor arena. We know that our convention and exhibition centres also play a very important role in delivering venue opportunity.

For the Tokyo Olympics, we entered a design competition for the national stadium. It was one of those big things. Unfortunately, we were not successful; however, the design was really quite spectacular.

The master plan at the moment identifies 37 competition venues required for hosting 28 Olympic and 22 Paralympic sports. There are six new venues and eight venues will receive major upgrades. For my region, that means a new Redlands whitewater centre to host the canoe slalom, which made its debut in the 1972 Munich games. Slalom racing did not compete again in the Olympics until the 1992 Barcelona games. This facility will leave an ongoing legacy for our Redlands community.

It will be similar to the ongoing legacy that everybody in our region will concur was left by the Chandler Sleeman Sports Complex, which was built in 1982 for the Commonwealth Games, and also the Anna Meares Velodrome, which Cox Architecture also designed. It is a fantastic facility and continues to deliver an ongoing legacy to our community. I know that many young people love the BMX track out there. It really is a fantastic venue. It holds, as I said, the velodrome, the BMX Supercross track, the Brisbane Aquatic Centre, the Chandler Arena, the outdoor velodrome, and the Chandler Theatre. There are a range of different sports medicine players out in that space. It also has the diving facility there. Chandler will play a very big part in the 2032 Olympics, hosting the gymnastics, diving, artistic swimming and water polo. That is really very exciting for Redlands.

The Brisbane International Shooting Centre, which is also on the edge of Redlands, was built historically in 1968 and used by the Queensland Target Sports Group. It is set to host four international level shooting ranges at the 10-, 25-, 50-metre range and finals. Again, that is another great venue.

In the member for Lytton's electorate, which is also on our border, we have the Brisbane Royal Yacht Club at Manly harbour. I am really pleased to say that one of our young Olympians from the Tokyo Olympics, Mara Stransky, a young sailor and incredible young woman, will get the opportunity to compete on her home ground. I think that is very exciting.


In terms of the opportunity that it provides for our young people, on Remembrance Day I was out at Victoria Point State School with one of the young leaders, who is an incredible young athlete in hurdles and running. He was telling me that he is already thinking in his mind how he plans his pathway to the 2032 Olympics. That is an exciting opportunity for all our young people to think about. These games will inspire the imaginations of our young people and what is actually possible, which is fantastic.

In terms of our Redlands athletes, in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics we had Mara Stransky, as I mentioned. She lives on Russell Island. I want to give a shout-out to BIMSARA, which supports young people across our island community. They did an incredible job of fundraising. It is not cheap to be an athlete: not only is there the time investment but also the money investment. They were key in helping get Mara to the Tokyo Olympics.

Cassiel Rousseau showed promise in the men's diving on the 10-metre platform. He finished eighth in the finals in Tokyo. Melissa Wu scored a bronze medal in the women's 10-metre platform diving final. Taylor Worth of Birkdale made it to the round of 16 in the men's archery. Alannah Mathews of Sheldon competed as part of the five-member rhythmic gymnastics group. Shannon Parry of Cleveland was part of the women's Rugby Sevens squad. Emily Gielnik of Alexandra Hills, in the member for Capalaba's patch, was part of the Matildas Olympic squad. BMX rider Logan Martin took the gold medal in the men's BMX freestyle. That was really fantastic to see.

We also had fantastic participation in the Paralympics with swimmer Jake Michel, who scored a silver in the men's 100-metre breaststroke and swimmer Paige Leonhardt from my patch in Thornlands, who scored silver in the women's 100-metre butterfly. She also finished sixth in the women's 100-metre breaststroke and sixth in the women's 200-metre individual medley. Honourable members can see from that enormous list of Redlanders who are participating across Queensland the benefit of allowing our athletes to shine in their own home space. It is a really exciting opportunity and it is exciting for all Queenslanders to be able to celebrate our incredible athletes.

In conclusion, I support the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021. As I said, this is a golden age and Queensland's best days are ahead of us. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (3.00 pm): I rise to speak on the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021. While the scope of this bill is rather narrow, focusing on the proposed governance arrangements for the organising committee of the 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games, I would like to confirm from the outset, as the Leader of the Opposition has said, the LNP's bipartisan support for Queensland hosting the 2032 games, which has the potential to create significant benefits for our state including increased tourism and new and improved infrastructure as well as enhanced morale for the state. When we think of the last Olympics in Tokyo to be followed by Paris and Los Angeles it is unbelievable for those who have grown up here to think that Brisbane will be hosting the 2032 games.

This aspect of bipartisanship is a very important thing that should be mentioned in this debate. The member for McConnel, the Minister for Education, mentioned this in her contribution. As a former shadow minister for the Commonwealth Games and the Olympics, I think it is really important that, whilst there are things about which we will have disagreements, when it came to the Commonwealth Games at the Gold Coast I was proud to support them. I saw the difference it made in infrastructure and transport for my constituents as well as the great morale boost we had. Even though there were particular issues related to logistics that were not done as well as they might have been, the International Olympic Committee has always stated it is important that all sides of politics be united on these particular issues. I agree with the member for McConnel, who called for that. Aspects of this debate have already brought out things such that an International Olympic Committee member reading the debate might question whether everyone in the parliament or the state wants the Olympic Games to be held here. That is the last message we want to send to the IOC.

The purpose of this bill is to establish the Brisbane Organising Committee for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games and establish a board of directors for the Brisbane 2032 organising committee. The main function of the organising committee is to undertake and facilitate the organisation, conduct, promotion and commercial and financial management of the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, which includes accommodation and transportation, operation of the sports program as well as related ceremonies and events.

The board of directors of the Brisbane 2032 organising committee will be responsible for ensuring the 2032 Brisbane organising committee performs its functions in a proper, effective and efficient way. The proposed composition of the board of directors of the Brisbane 2032 organising committee will include five independent directors, Olympians and Paralympians, representatives from Australian Olympic bodies, the Brisbane Lord Mayor and a further eight directors four of whom will be nominated by the Queensland Premier and four by the Prime Minister.

The bill also provides an exemption from the Right to Information Act 2009 for a document: (a) that is created or received by the Brisbane Organising Committee for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games in carrying out its functions under the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements

Act 2021; and (b) to the extent it comprises information not already in the public domain that was communicated in confidence by all or for the Australian Olympic Committee or the International Olympic Committee. Furthermore, the bill excludes board members who are Commonwealth parliamentarians from the application of the Crime and Corruption Act 2001, the CCA Act.

This bill is important, as it is the first of many subsequent bills that will be brought before this House in relation to the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. It is significant that this is the first bill. I remember having prepared for the 2018 Commonwealth Games bills which were drafted in 2011, so a number of parliaments ago. I read about some of the arrangements for the 1982 Commonwealth Games, which many have cited as the first signs of the maturation of Brisbane and Queensland from a country town into what has subsequently become a 21st century city and state. It was interesting to see some of those issues that were debated in the parliament, including arrangements about who would be on the board and some of the major jobs that were given to particular people who subsequently changed in the lead-up to those 1982 games. They are in the annals of history now, but it was interesting to see they were the sorts of debates that were had then. Of course, that is now nearly 40 years ago. It is important we maintain this bipartisanship even though there will always be arguments at the edges.

It is a bill that must promote the principles of transparency and accountability and allow for public scrutiny of the games. There is no doubt we are in a different era to 1982. That is why in its current form the bill, unfortunately, does not have all of those principles of transparency and accountability that we would like to see. It is concerning that there are provisions present within this bill which exempt documentation from the Right to Information Act 2009. In her submission to this bill, Queensland's Information Commissioner drew attention to the fact that the proposed amendment is inconsistent with the position of two recent reviews that recommended exclusions to the Right to Information Act 2009 be limited. The Information Commissioner clarified that the Right to Information Act 2009 'has a sufficient legislative framework to protect sensitive documents including commercial-in-confidence information'.

The government's justification for this sweeping exemption per the bill's explanatory notes is—

A similar provision was included in the Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games Act 1993 ... which constituted the Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games to stage and deliver the Sydney 2000 Games.

With respect to this comparison, the Information Commissioner made the point that the provision related to the Sydney 2000 games was created some 30 years ago and that the current bill—

... must reflect and be consistent with contemporary Queensland RTI laws ... Community expectations are high, with 86% of Queenslanders surveyed indicating in 2021 that the right to access information was important.

That is very similar to the point that I made about the 1982 Commonwealth Games, that many of those arrangements were not subject to either RTI, right to information, or freedom of information laws, which were only enacted during the intervening years. Using the Sydney Olympics as an example is referring to something that was in the previous century. The Information Commissioner's submission makes clear that where there are justifiable reasons to exempt documents from public scrutiny, the legislative framework already in place offers an appropriate means by which to do so. With this in mind, it is certainly not in the interests of Queenslanders to have a provision in place which has the potential to exempt large amounts of documentation from public scrutiny.

In relation to the disclosure of interest provision, the bill excludes the application of disclosure of interest requirements for directors with a potential conflict of interest if those directors are elected office holders and the interest is held in the director's capacity as an elected office holder, providing that any director who is an elected office holder or representative for Australian internal Olympic bodies does not owe a duty to the corporation to disclose any information they have acquired or have access to that is confidential in nature and has been given to them in their official capacity. The Crime and Corruption Commission submitted that these provisions present corruption risks and that considerations of this nature 'loom large for a body which is likely to be involved in the management of substantial public funds'. The Department of the Premier and Cabinet clarified by saying, 'Once established, the board will be responsible for establishing a framework for dealing with conflicts of interest and must keep a register of interests.'

It goes without saying that the conduct of the Brisbane 2032 organising committee must be watertight. It will be incumbent upon the government to ensure that there are processes in place to manage conflicts of interest that may arise.

This bill provides the first steps for the planning and preparations for the 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games. If these are to be the people's games, then Queenslanders deserve a bill that displays accountability and transparency. The government would do well to heed these principles of

good governance in their legislative framework for the games. I know how much Queenslanders, in the main, are looking forward to this event, even though it is over a decade away. The member for McConnell was talking about how old she will be in 2032. I will be 71, and I look forward to still being here.

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (3.10 pm): Today I am pleased to talk about the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that Brisbane has to host the Olympic Games in 2032. Hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games is a transformational opportunity for Queensland that will unlock enormous benefits, both social and economic, at a speed and size that our state has never before seen.

Thanks to the Palaszczuk government leading the bid process in conjunction with our other games partners, we will achieve a range of lasting benefits for all Queenslanders. This includes an estimated \$8.1 billion in social and economic benefits to be shared across the state. The games will deliver 91,600 full-time-equivalent jobs, \$4.6 billion in economic benefits and \$3.5 billion in social benefits right across Queensland.

These economic benefits include a significant uplift in tourism, trade and employment, while the social benefits to residents—which are just as important—include health benefits, enhanced sporting outcomes, increased volunteering, partnerships between industry and government, diversity and inclusion, positive behavioural change, along with pollution and waste management incentives.

The games provide an opportunity to accelerate the delivery of the long-term infrastructure that is needed for sustainable growth across Queensland and the certainty and confidence needed to support increased investment and innovation now and over the coming decades.

There are also significant environmental benefits associated with hosting the games. The games partners, including Queensland, have committed to a climate-positive games through a range of initiatives, including: repurposing and upgrading existing infrastructure; building on Queensland's environmental credentials and policies in recycling, waste and building the hydrogen economy; and effective transport planning to encourage the use of public and active transport.

The opportunities presented by hosting the games support key areas of focus in Queensland's economic recovery plan, continuing our economic recovery as we respond to the global headwinds brought on by the pandemic. We are planning for the decade to come, preparing for the biggest event ever to be held in Brisbane and Queensland. It has the potential to fast-track and attract investment, facilitate infrastructure growth, increase Queensland's tourism and support Queensland and its people as we recover from the effects of COVID. The recent Tokyo Olympic Games was broadcast to more than 200 nations and territories and reached a global audience of more than five billion people.

In 2032 the focus will be on Queensland, providing a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to enhance trade and tourism and support our state as a global destination. There is no doubt, given our experience in successfully hosting the 2018 Commonwealth Games and the passion and support of Queenslanders all over the state, that it will be a successful event.

We have a clear opportunity to plan for the 2032 Olympics and ensure decades of investment, growth and opportunity for Queensland. The Palaszczuk government is wasting no time in preparing for this once-in-a-lifetime event. I am proud to be a member of a government which has ensured the largest sporting event in history will take place right here in Queensland.

In my own community, news of the Olympic Games being held here in Brisbane and around Queensland has been met with much excitement, perhaps nowhere more than in Stretton's large and growing community of badminton players. Every week, people old and young get together to play badminton at school halls around my local area.

You can play at Calamvale Community College, Warrigal Road State School, Sunnybank Hills State School and also at the Sky Badminton Centre just outside my electorate in Logan. These players, along with coaches and mums and dads, are excited about having gold medal singles and doubles events right here in Brisbane. They are excited about watching a final and, hopefully, watching a final with an Australian competing for a gold medal. It is easy to be excited about badminton. Madam Deputy Speaker, did you know that it is the fastest racquet sport in the world? In fact, the fastest serve in badminton ever recorded was at over 400 kilometres per hour! It is exciting stuff, but not as exciting as the future of badminton in our community.

With the Olympics on the way, it is clear to me and other badminton lovers in the electorate of Stretton that we need to do all we can to encourage the next generation of badminton champions in our community to achieve what Australia has not yet managed to achieve: an Olympic medal in badminton. It is time for Australia to take its rightful place at the top of world badminton, but we have a long way to go.

I am calling on the mums and dads of Stretton: if your child is a promising young athlete, if they have good reach and hand-eye coordination and if they can handle the excitement of badminton, then I encourage you to enrol your son or daughter in one of the many badminton clubs and organisations in my local area. There is the Sunnybank Hills Badminton Club, the Sky Badminton Centre, the Brisbane Taiwanese Sports Club, the Distinguished Citizens Society, the Gujarati community sports club and the Brisbane Maratha Warriors badminton club. Your children will need some serious court time. They will also need good coaching. The good news is that we have many fantastic local coaches in our area, many of whom have high-level international experience. For example, Drewvale local Ricky Yu, who works at Sky badminton, is a former Malaysian national team coach and former Australian team coach. They will need commitment and dedication to deliver gold for Australia, gold for Queensland and gold for the people of Stretton and hopefully our first ever Olympic medal in badminton. This is not impossible.

Recently I, along with the Minister for Transport, had the privilege of hearing from winter Olympic gold medallist and champion Steven Bradbury at the recent Motor Trades Association dinner. He shared his journey from Acacia Ridge to Olympic gold. Yes, he got a bit of luck along the way; however, he said that he took the gold not for his last race but for the thousands of hours of commitment, training and effort that he put in leading up to that point. My message to young badminton players in our local area is: be inspired by Steven Bradbury. You can do it. With a lot of effort and little bit of luck going your way, you could be the person who delivers Australia's first ever Olympic medal in badminton and you could even do it on home soil.


I also want to recognise the Olympians from my local area who went to Tokyo to compete in badminton: Wendy Chen from Parkinson, which is just outside my electorate, in the electorate of Algester; and Simon Leung, who does live in the Stretton electorate. Both of them played very well. They were eliminated in the group stages, unfortunately, but I commend them on their valiant efforts.

Another feature of the 2032 Olympics that many local organisations in my community are looking forward to is the opportunity for community engagement, in particular volunteering. We will need thousands of volunteers to welcome athletes and guests from around the world to Queensland. Local groups like the Sunnybank Hills Rotary club and the Karawatha Marching Band had firsthand experience of this, volunteering at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, with Sunnybank Hills Rotary helping as ushers and providing directions to the crowds and also helping in the athletes village, and the students of the Karawatha Marching Band, which is made up of local school students from around my electorate, entertaining crowds on their way to and from events.

A few locals were even involved in volunteering at the Sydney Olympics. Well-known Lions Club member John Moynihan was proud to volunteer at the Sydney Olympics. He enjoyed the experience immensely and recommends others sign up to volunteer for Brisbane 2032. In fact, he said it was one of the best weeks of his life.

The positive experience they have shared with me and others highlights just one of the many social benefits we will get from hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Volunteering will play a significant role in the 2032 Olympics and will provide an opportunity for many Queenslanders and Australians to be involved in this spectacular moment in world history.

In 2021 the Tokyo games recruited up to 80,000 volunteers and each were expected to contribute 10 to 20 hours over the period of the games, which was equivalent to 800,000 volunteering hours at a minimum. Volunteers provided support in areas such as spectator services, competition operation and media operation and were assigned to various locations including competition venues where a range of sports were staged and the athletes village. Volunteering categories included guides, events, mobility support, personal support, operational support, first aid and health care, media and also helping out at ceremonies. These roles will no doubt be required in 2032 and I would encourage all Stretton locals to get involved. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (3.19 pm): I rise in support of the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021. We are on the brink of a new golden age for Queensland and it is a wonderful moment to be part of as a legislator and a member of this place. Representing an electorate in Moreton Bay, with its fast-developing regional identity and its growing regional economy, I know that the transformative potential of the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2032 is hugely exciting.

I find myself unexpectedly in agreement with the LNP's statement of reservation to the committee report: the promise of the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games is indeed all about creating a legacy of infrastructure and tourism, although why that was offered as a matter of reservation is perhaps difficult to say.

For us in Pumicestone that legacy of infrastructure and tourism is just enormously important. Our Palaszczuk government is unashamedly an infrastructure government, from Cross River Rail to our Bruce Highway upgrades to our endless and consistent upgrades to the Bribie Island Road, and this next decade will see that accelerate even further. We are not talking about the oversized stadiums like the Olympics of the bad old days of past decades. Instead, we talking about the kinds of infrastructure our communities need and value most—that is, transport infrastructure and flexible community infrastructure and tourism infrastructure.

Since 2015 the Palaszczuk government has been on an infrastructure pathway and those infrastructure investments are now paying off. Cross River Rail may not have begun with the Olympics in mind, but as the Premier noted earlier today it was a beneficial part of our successful bid and will have significant ongoing legacy benefits for our rail services all the way to northern Moreton Bay and far beyond. The Bruce Highway has seen hundreds of millions of dollars in investment from our state Labor government as well as, I acknowledge, from the federal government. Unlike the member for Glass House though, I do not credit the current member for Longman with much advocacy in that space. He is struggling to convince anybody about much of anything. The western alternative to the Bruce Highway has seen planning and consultation begin, and that work will be crucial to creating a more connected regional network as we head towards 2032 and will be very much welcomed, while the Sunshine Coast rail duplication has also commenced along with record road spending across the north coast region and up to the Sunshine Coast. Long after the games are over, we will be celebrating the pipeline of transport and community infrastructure that the next decade will bring.

We are a jobs government, and getting ready for the games will provide a local jobs pay-off for our region as we recover from the economic impacts of COVID-19. Foresight and planning helped us win the Olympic and Paralympic Games bid, foresight and planning for our strong health response protected us from the worst impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and foresight and planning will make sure that our Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games delivers the best possible outcomes for Brisbane, for fast-growing areas of the south-east like Moreton Bay and right across the length and breadth of Queensland.

Queensland is absolutely the place to be when it comes to tourism, and the Olympics will showcase our state and my particular part of our Moreton Bay region like never before. Pumicestone is perfectly positioned to benefit from the tourism potential of the games. We have so much to offer in terms of the natural beauty of our national parks and the Pumicestone Passage and potential for new cultural and ecotourism experiences, and we are ideally positioned to be the gateway between the Brisbane and Sunshine Coast games precincts. Of course the greater Moreton Bay region has its own Olympic and Paralympic events to look forward to, with the new \$85 million indoor sports centre at The Mill at Petrie set to host the boxing. This brand new community facility will create a community and infrastructure legacy for the whole of Moreton Bay that will be used into the future to host indoor sports, exhibitions, trade shows, festivals, community events and much more.

Mr Millar interjected.

Ms KING: I feel the same, member. Our area will be well placed for national and international visitors and athletes attending the boxing or simply travelling between events in Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast to stop in and enjoy the beauties of northern Moreton Bay and Pumicestone or stay on afterwards.

More important though is the horizon of hope and opportunity the games creates for young people right across Queensland to imagine themselves as future Olympians. I recently attended the end-of-year service and year 6 graduation ceremony at St Michael's College Caboolture, a school I was proud to, at one time, serve on the board of, and was really moved to hear from Kirra Nicholls, one of the school captains. Kirra is a young equestrian who also happens to live with cystic fibrosis, and she spoke at length about what she has learned from managing her illness while competing at a really impressive elite level in showjumping, dressage and other equestrian events. It was so moving to hear Kirra speak about her Olympic aspirations to represent Australia at the Brisbane 2032 Olympics, knowing that equestrian in particular is a sport where there are many barriers to international representation, particularly around cost and transporting horses across international borders. Our Olympic vision has opened that door for Kirra and so many other young people across Queensland, and I cannot wait to see what they achieve as we work towards 2032.

I am a strong advocate for QSEC, the wonderfully equipped Queensland State Equestrian Centre, that is located at Caboolture and I would love to see it included as a venue, whether for training or preparation or perhaps as an additional competition venue if needed. That would certainly give Kirra and her fellow young equestrians in my region and the member for Glass House a big boost.

This bill creates the structure for the planning and delivery of the games, and the opportunities to maximise diversity and representation in that structure have been well and truly grasped. I welcome the announcement of the 2032 athlete representatives to the board. Bronte Barratt, a Brisbane-born four-time Olympic swimming medallist, was chosen by her athlete peers as their representative, while wheelchair-racing great and three-time Paralympic gold medallist Kurt Fearnley was voted by Paralympics Australia's Athlete Commission as its choice. Kurt Fearnley is a staunch advocate for inclusion, diversity and the rights of people with a disability and he said—

... the transformational effects of an Olympic and Paralympic Games here in Australia can be profound, not just in a sporting context. I can't think of a greater global showcase of diversity and inclusion than the Paralympic Games.


I could not agree more. I am glad to see the representation requirements set by this legislation for the board. Our games will be better and more representative by the equal inclusion of women and ensuring that First Nations Queenslanders also have a strong voice.

Turning to the committee report, I note that the federal government stipulated that any federal government representative be exempt from the Crime and Corruption Act. The government's amendment specifically outlines the remit of the exemption, but it is not clear to me why the federal LNP feels it necessary to exempt federal members of parliament. Sometimes it appears that the guilty flee where no man or woman pursue. The opposition's statement of reservation was quite insistent on the need for increased accountability and transparency in this legislation, but it does seem to have been strangely silent on this key point.

I also note the comments of the member for South Brisbane in the committee report and her submission where she objected to the use of Raymond Park as a warm-up venue for the Gabba venue, I believe it was. Sporting Wheelies in its submission made it clear that the warm-up area for greatest impact for diversity and inclusion must be close to competition venues and that more distantly located warm-up venues actually provide an example of unconscious bias in that they add additional challenges to the participation of athletes who have disability or other complex needs. I found it disappointing that the member for South Brisbane, in her objections to the use of Raymond Park, did not take into account the needs of Paralympians and other athletes with complex needs. I do, though, welcome the community consultation framework that was announced by the Premier that will ensure local residents in the areas closest to the venues have a strong voice and are able to express the impacts that the games will have on them and their neighbourhoods.

When I think about Queenslanders and their absolute love of sport, and I think of the statistic that we have heard many times during this debate that if Queensland were a country in its own right it would have been seventh in the Olympic medal rankings at the most recent Olympic Games, I know that the excitement and opportunity that we all feel in this place will only build and grow in the community not only as the Olympics and Paralympics come closer but as we see further and more infrastructure projects and planning delivered within the community. I look forward to being part of that for as long as I am the member for Pumicestone.

In closing, the Olympic and Paralympic Games are great news for Brisbane, they are great news for Moreton Bay, for the whole of South-East Queensland, the whole of Queensland and the whole of Australia. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (3.29 pm): I rise to speak on the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021. The primary policy objectives of this bill are to establish the Brisbane Organising Committee for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games and to establish a board of directors to, according to the explanatory notes, undertake and facilitate the organisation, conduct, promotion and commercial and financial management of the games and to ensure the corporation performs its functions in a proper, effective and efficient way.

Hosting the games in Queensland will be about so much more than a few weeks of sport. It is about 20 years of opportunity for the whole state. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity. Hosting the Olympic Games can be the spark to deliver benefits that all Queenslanders can enjoy. That means Queenslanders everywhere and not just the south-east corner. The success of the games will be judged not on the two-week event held in 11 years time; it will be judged on the legacy of lasting and meaningful infrastructure. It will be judged on the legacy of upskilling and training opportunities. It will be judged on whether it delivers increased and improved tourism potential. It will be judged on the impact it will have on encouraging Queenslanders to live and embrace active and healthy lifestyles.

The submission from the Australian Institute for Progress highlighted that since 1976 the average overrun on Summer Olympics is 213 per cent and the median 120 per cent. It said it put a 20 per cent chance on the possibility that a \$5 billion budget would blow out to \$15 billion. The success of the

games will be judged on whether it will be cautious and prudent with taxpayers' money and not be a massive bureaucracy that overspends, is late with delivery and underperforms. It will be judged on whether it bequeaths a massive bill for generations to repay.

That is why it is important that those appointed to the board are accountable, meet transparency expectations and manage conflicts of interest with good governance. This is a bipartisan event which should truly reflect the bipartisan agreement. This is a taxpayers' event and taxpayers should be treated with openness, transparency and respect. The Information Commissioner in her submission said that community expectations are high, with 86 per cent of Queenslanders surveyed in 2021 indicating that the right to access information was important. This bill, in particular clause 65, seeks to make exemptions to the Right to Information Act. Exemptions should be treated with the utmost caution and only used in the most exceptional of circumstances. It should not be used to cloak information in secrecy. It should not be used to deny the public access to information it has a right to know. The Information Commissioner raised concerns about the right to information amendments. She submitted—

In this case the Explanatory notes do not provide a compelling case to justify an exclusion from the operation of the RTI Act ...

The commissioner said—


A right to information law that strikes an appropriate balance between the right of access and limiting that right of access on public interest grounds is critical to both a robust, accountable government and an informed community.

We have heard exaggerated claims about the benefits that will flow from this Olympic Games. Those claims need to be treated with caution. The AIP executive director, Graham Young, said the benefits from both the Sydney Olympics and the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games showed no discernible increase to economic activity, employment or tourism. It appears that most of the return from the megasporting events is economic activity that is diverted from elsewhere in the economy, so there is no overall increase in activity, it is just shifted from one area to another. We must ensure that the benefits are real and statewide—truly statewide. They should not be simply a diversion of funds from one area to another. The goal is to translate the claims and expectations into real and tangible benefits.

Gympie is situated within the catchment of whatever happens in the south-east corner. The Olympic Games will be truly for all Queenslanders if it delivers for Gympie and translates into upgraded and new infrastructure, increased business opportunities and activities, employment and skilling opportunities, better public transport services and transport infrastructure. This is a golden opportunity to bring forward local infrastructure and transport services. Gympie is connected more and more to the south-east with the upgrade of the Bruce Highway. Fixing our train issues with a very fast train makes sense. A very fast train cements the desirability of hosting training opportunities and for tourists to visit. It would be an easy, hassle-free commute for spectators, competitors, visitors and officials. Gympie can also host sporting teams that will need to acclimatise before events.

In May I asked the Premier a question on notice about what sporting, community and transport infrastructure, including upgrades of current facilities, will be considered for my electorate. The Premier advised that she looks forward to working with the Gympie region and community to ensure legacy benefits from the games are realised for the region. A multiuse sport and events facility should be brought forward and be part of the mix. The Gympie Regional Council's sport and recreation plan has identified that more sporting facilities are needed. A purpose-built, brand new shooting facility, which has been advocated for for a long time, could provide great opportunities for training and possibly host competitions. It is a natural fit for the region.

Global events such as the Olympic Games provide a once-in-a-lifetime chance to not only host sporting events and build legacy infrastructure projects but also promote the region for tourism and business opportunities. There is no reason why Gympie cannot benefit from a successful Olympics. If the Olympic Games is to be for all Queenslanders, Gympie needs to be given a piece of the pie. I do not oppose the bill.

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (3.36 pm): London, Rio, Tokyo, Paris, Los Angeles and then Brisbane. The 2023 Olympics will be an amazing event in the history of this great state. I am very pleased to be speaking on the bill that will allow for the establishment of the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games organising committee. The bill establishes the corporation as an independent statutory body with a board of directors overseeing its operations. The size of the board will be approximately 20 members, which will be similar to the size of the Sydney 2000 board which had 15,

the London 2012 board which had 18, but less than half the size of the delayed Tokyo Games board which had 45 members. There are provisions around those appointments, including that elected members are there at the behest of the government in power at that point in time.

There are also provisions in this bill to ensure that the Queensland Procurement Policy will apply to the corporation to the extent that it is consistent with the Olympics host contract. That is welcome, as it means that the goods and services procured will, to as great an extent as possible, comply with measures such as: maximising opportunities for Queensland suppliers to participate; workplace health and safety systems and standards; commitment to apprentices and trainees; best practice industrial relations; and compliance with tendering and other best practice government policy. This is great to see, as some recent and upcoming international sporting events have had pretty bad records when it comes to workplace health and safety in particular, something that we will not see in the Brisbane Olympics.

The economic opportunities from these games will be substantial for our state. Over the next 20 years the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games are forecast to generate massive economic benefits. This includes increased international tourism and trade estimated at \$4.6 billion for Queensland, more than 91,000 FTE jobs in Queensland, and a 10-year pipeline of construction jobs, trade and investment opportunities and legacy projects that will benefit Queenslanders for decades to come. The games will truly be a games for all Queenslanders. It will trigger increased investment and opportunities that will: benefit our regions through industry investment in new skills, capacity and supply chains, attraction of major sporting events and training pre and post games; and investment in renewable energies to deliver a climate-positive games.

It is not just the big venues in the centre of town that will benefit from these games; it is the flow-on effect for every sporting organisation wanting to train the next Olympian and every youngster wanting to be an Olympian in their hometown Olympics. A good example locally of a venue that will indirectly benefit is the Craigslea Volleyball Centre of Excellence we are building at Craigslea State High School. Since 2017 I have worked with the school community on this. I was very pleased that before the last election the Premier and the Treasurer were able to give us a commitment to build it. We are working through the planning phase at the moment. I want to make this as great an opportunity as possible to really be a home for volleyball in Queensland. Craigslea is currently the No. 1 high school for volleyball in Queensland, outcompeting far better resourced non-government schools. I am certain that members of our men's and women's teams and/or our beach volleyball pairs for the 2023 games will come from Craigslea.

The legacy infrastructure and legacy works will be the enduring benefits that Brisbane and Queensland will get from the games. While talking locally about sporting organisations, I know that Aspley Little Athletics is very excited about the Olympics. Like the member for Stafford I acknowledge Cedric Dubler, who most famously willed on his mate Ash Moloney to win a bronze medal in the decathlon event in Tokyo and is an alumnus of Aspley Little Athletics.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr MELLISH: I do not take the interjections from the member for Logan, who is standing up for his own. There are too many fantastic swim clubs in the Aspley electorate to mention, but I am sure that there are future Olympians and Paralympians in their ranks right now. We also have many fantastic local clubs in team sports that will play a part in the 2032 Olympics and I do not have time to mention all of those either.

Going back to the games more broadly, in 1982 the Commonwealth Games opened up Brisbane to the world. Expo 88 liberated South Bank and transformed it into a cultural hub of the state. The Gold Coast Commonwealth Games gave us great sporting infrastructure as well as light rail, making the Gold Coast a better connected region now and well into the future. The Brisbane Olympics will revolutionise our city. Cross River Rail will make the south side and the north side closer than ever before. We will be able to go quickly from Lang Park to the new indoor venue above Roma Street station and on to the Gabba in minutes, as it will link three major venues and precincts right in the heart of our city. South Bank, Hamilton North Shore and other places will be energised by fantastic venues, not just for the games but also for long afterwards.

I was fortunate enough, as a bright-eyed 17-year-old, to travel to Sydney for the 2000 Olympics. I have many great memories of those games: the energy of the Homebush precinct; Cathy Freeman winning with the weight of two worlds on her shoulders; seeing the 100-metre final with over 100,000 others; getting a photo with Andrew Vlahov at the basketball; and many other great memories. I have

other memories of those games, such as waiting at Central Station in Sydney for over an hour for a train to Homebush, which of course is a precinct on a spur line well away from the centre of town. I remember travelling to one event by train and thinking that we had missed our stop. After a three-hour journey from Sydney, still we had not arrived at the venue in Penrith. We can be sure that the Brisbane Olympics will learn from lessons such as those and be even bigger and better. They will be held right in the heart of the city, on the Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast as well as other regional venues. Those will be fantastic locations that we will showcase to the world.


I note from the committee's report on the bill that the committee makes seven recommendations, six of which are supported and recommendation No. 7 is agreed to in principle. I congratulate the committee for their great work on this bill within the necessary time lines and for making constructive contributions. Particular thanks go to the chair. I also note the opposition's statement of reservation, which states that our state must—

- Build infrastructure required to deliver the games which can leave a lasting legacy for all Queenslanders. It's critical that Queensland's investment leaves a lasting and meaningful infrastructure footprint.

I could not agree more, but that goes against what they were arguing this morning in question time, which is a bit bizarre. It also goes against their track record when it comes to major infrastructure. As I mentioned earlier, Cross River Rail will revolutionise Brisbane and the south-east in terms of public transport, but they opposed the project every step of the way. They actually rejected money for that project. Treasurer Wayne Swan had almost \$1 billion in construction money and the LNP rejected it. They wanted to push the widely discredited BaT tunnel as an alternative. What a joke! The same goes for light rail on the Gold Coast. They were opposed to it until they could see the benefits. It was the same story for the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games: they sought legal advice about cancelling it. I know they did not want the Premier to go to Tokyo this year to secure the Olympics. They would have been happy for the Premier to stay at home and for us to lose the Olympics bid. Queensland can be thankful that the Premier did not listen to those opposite on that occasion and all others.

I note briefly the amendments proposed by the member for South Brisbane. Normally one would welcome contributions from minor parties wanting to improve bills before the House, but unfortunately it is hard to compliment these amendments. The amendments of the member for South Brisbane are essentially about making it a requirement that someone from her electorate is appointed to the organising committee. There are many fantastic local community groups and local community champions in my electorate, but I am not going to suggest that the bill be amended so that it is a requirement that one of them be on the organising committee. Of course the Olympics will impact that particular area; it will affect every electorate in Queensland in some way. I am sure that we would all love to have a local director on the committee, but you cannot have a central organising committee with over 100 members and expect it to function properly—although maybe the Greens think that you can.

I absolutely support this bill and what it will achieve. In Brisbane 22 venues will be used. There will be six venues on the Gold Coast, four on the Sunshine Coast and venues in Cairns, Townsville and Toowoomba as well as a couple of interstate venues for preliminary games. Six new venues will be developed for hosting competitions and eight existing venues will receive major upgrades. I look forward to those direct and other indirect impacts from the Olympics. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (3.44 pm): I rise to address the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021. The power, potential and transformational nature for Brisbane from being awarded the honour of hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games cannot be overstated. The economic, social, educational, cultural and, of course, sporting and health opportunities and benefits that come with hosting an Olympic Games are endless. However, in order to have a successful Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2032, we will need to recover from the COVID-19 health pandemic.

As I have said in all of my parliamentary speeches, social media posts and electorate communications on these matters, people need to get vaccinated. Vaccinations are the best public health strategy in order to protect against and recover from COVID-19. I have made that very clear. As a specialist physician and elected representative, I have supported the COVID-19 vaccination program. I have been vaccinated myself. In fact, I had the booster injection last Sunday, that being a third injection. As I have also said many times, I certainly support mandated vaccinations as recommended by the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee or as determined and issued under health directives or mandates. They are based on expert medical advice. These are matters that come under the auspices of the Chief Medical Officer and the Chief Health Officer.

It is very important that people in Queensland continue to get vaccinated as we recover. That will be an important part of the planning for the Olympic Games as we head towards 2032. I cannot be any clearer than that. I again take this opportunity, as part of the debate on this bill, to stress that because it is an important part of the recovery that needs to continue to occur so that we can ensure that the state can adequately plan into the future to deliver the games not only here in Brisbane but in all of Queensland.

As the LNP shadow minister for education, I am certainly very enthusiastic about the unique and exciting opportunities that hosting the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games will present for Queensland's students, whether that is by inspiring our next generation of sporting champions, by having the ability to learn about our great state of Queensland or by experiencing and learning about the many and varied nationalities and cultures that will descend on our shores and call Brisbane and Queensland home in 2032. The opportunities are endless. It will be a unique opportunity for Queensland students to be in a front-row seat for the next 11 years.

Certainly many students in the electorate of Moggill will aspire to be sporting champions when the Olympic and Paralympic Games are held here. My own children enjoy sport. My 12-year-old daughter does gymnastics. I know that many of her fellow gymnastics competitors and the clubs that they represent are looking forward to the many events that will take place not only for the competitions that they compete in now but also for those that will be held in the lead-up to 2032.

These Olympic and Paralympic Games are a once-in-a-generation opportunity and it is an opportunity that Queenslanders must seize. Importantly, it is an opportunity that the Queensland state government must absolutely get right. Therefore, it is critical that the development and coordination of the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games be established correctly and with the strongest of governance frame works. When Brisbane was elected to host the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games by the International Olympic Committee on 21 July 2021, an Olympic host contract was formally entered into with the International Olympic Committee.

Under the Olympic host contract, the hosts of the Brisbane games—the state of Queensland, the Brisbane City Council and the Australian Olympic Committee—are ultimately entrusted with the planning, organising, financing and staging of the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Accordingly, this legislation before the House begins to formalise the organisation and coordination of the 2032 games. The bill's explanatory notes state—

The primary objectives of the Bill are to:

- establish the Brisbane Organising Committee for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games (the Corporation) to undertake and facilitate the organisation, conduct, promotion and commercial and financial management of the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games; and
- establish a board of directors of the Corporation (the Board) to ensure the Corporation performs its functions in a proper, effective and efficient way.

In its examination of this legislation the Economics and Governance Committee of the 57th Parliament of Queensland made seven recommendations, including that the legislation be passed. Through the committee's consultation on this legislation there were a number of significant concerns raised which deserve due consideration and a comprehensive response from the Palaszczuk state Labor government. These concerns pertain to specific provisions within the proposed legislation which deal with matters related to right to information and the exclusion of categories of documents.

As articulated by Liberal National Party colleagues and through the statement of reservation tendered by the LNP members for Mermaid Beach, Coomera and Ninderry, exemptions to the Right to Information Act 2009 should only be granted in the most exceptional of cases. Further, whilst it is acknowledged that there may be legitimate purposes for the exemption of a small set of specific documents from right-to-information provisions, the Palaszczuk state Labor government has failed to provide Queenslanders with an acceptable justification for such use of a broad-ranging exemption to the Right to Information Act 2009. Concerns have also been raised with respect to conflict-of-interest provisions, with the Crime and Corruption Commission going as far as to suggest that the legislation in its current form poses a potential corruption risk. These concerns cannot be ignored and must be comprehensively addressed by the state government.

As I said earlier, the Olympic and Paralympic Games are a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, which is why it is so critical that it is not squandered by the Queensland government and that every single opportunity and potential to enhance our state is achieved. The planning and coordination of these Olympic and Paralympic Games will also usher in a wave of infrastructure across our state. This, too,

must be comprehensively planned for and implemented appropriately. This in and of itself is an opportunity to skill and train Queensland's future workforce to unlock the potential of new construction, hospitality and tourism jobs along with other associated industries.

Make no mistake: the infrastructure built to deliver these Olympic and Paralympic Games has the potential to leave a lasting legacy for all Queenslanders and to transform our region in Brisbane, in the south-east corner and across Queensland for decades to come. Nowhere is this more evident than in the western suburbs of Brisbane, where traffic congestion and vital road and public transport infrastructure have long been neglected under the current state Labor government. Only this week, the RACQ reported in its *Average travel speed, and cost of congestion on major state corridors* report that average speeds across Brisbane motorway sections during the morning and afternoon peaks were higher now than they were in October 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic. What is more, both Moggill Road and the Centenary Motorway feature prominently in the top 10 most congested roads and road sections of Brisbane. The last thing that we need leading up to the Olympics in 2032 is for these issues not to be resolved, because certainly there will be significant movements of people around Brisbane—athletes and visitors from all over the world as well as local residents.

With traffic congestion only set to become worse between now and then, particularly on the Centenary Motorway, as reported by Infrastructure Australia and the RACQ, the state Labor government cannot squander the next decade when it comes to planning for this infrastructure. The government certainly needs to plan now and have a collaborative approach with all levels of government—the state working with Brisbane City Council and the federal government—to ensure that the vital road and public transport infrastructure required not only for these 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games but also for all residents, particularly residents in the western suburbs of Brisbane, is planned for and delivered.

In closing, I wish to acknowledge and reflect on the incredible bipartisan support and the spirit of goodwill that accompanies these 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. It has been decades long in the planning and I wish to acknowledge just a few of the visionaries and key members who have contributed along the way: former Brisbane lord mayor Sallyanne Atkinson AO; the South East Queensland Council of Mayors, including former Brisbane lord mayor Graham Quirk; the Australian Olympic Committee; the federal Morrison coalition government; the current state government; and Brisbane City Council. This is certainly only the beginning and it will take more years of dedication, effort and collaboration. If it is done right, there can be no doubt that Queensland will deliver for the world an unforgettable Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2032.



Hon. CD CRAWFORD (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (3.55 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill. As this is the first time I have had an opportunity to speak on this matter, I congratulate all those involved in securing the games for Queensland. Australia's legendary Paralympian Kurt Fearnley puts it in context when he says that the 2032 games can be the best in history. The three-time Paralympic gold medallist won a total of 13 medals in a career spanning five Paralympic Games. He says that there is no greater global showcase of diversity and inclusion than the Paralympic Games. Kurt believes that the societal change these games can bring about over the next decade in Australia will be profound. I am delighted to acknowledge that Kurt has been appointed the Paralympic athlete representative on the Brisbane 2032 organising committee.

Like the wheelchair racing great, I believe this is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for an enduring legacy of what will be a wonderful Brisbane games. The legacy will be one that embraces our seniors, many thousands of whom will be proud volunteers at these games, the millions within our disability community and our First Nations people. As an Australian I proudly remember the opening of the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, where we celebrated 60,000 years of custodianship by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples—the two oldest living cultures in the world, the foundation of our nation.

Plans are now underway to ensure the Brisbane 2032 games is for all Queenslanders and will be an enduring sense of pride for our nation. It will be a games inclusive of all Queenslanders, with benefits to be shared across the state. Take, for example, the venue master plan, which identifies that 37 competition venues will be required for hosting 28 Olympic and 22 Paralympic sports. These will all be accessible for people living with disability. The Sporting Wheelies and Disabled Association, one of my department's key stakeholders, made a submission to the bill on this matter. The association asked

that it consider inclusion in matters of legacy planning, infrastructure planning and service delivery. The submission said that this extends to an accessibility of facilities and inclusion in employment opportunities.

The Olympic host contract requires the corporation to operate in conformity with and promote the principles of diversity, inclusion and gender equality in all of its activities related to the organisation of Brisbane 2032. The bill provides the opportunity to ensure diversity on the board, particularly in terms of the capacity of the responsible minister, the Premier, and the Prime Minister to nominate members to the board. In this regard, I encourage that nominations ensure gender diversity and ensure that, in addition to the appointment of the president of Paralympics Australia, there is appropriate disability and First Nations representation on the board. The IPC Handbook also states—

The OCOG shall foster the widest possible community involvement into the planning, promotion, preparation and staging of the Paralympic Games, as a unique opportunity to enhance social inclusion, tolerance to diversity and active citizenship amongst its members.


I want to see diversity and inclusion as front-of-mind issues as we embark on our planning towards 2032—not just an afterthought.

As the Premier said, I am certain Kurt Fearnley's passion, advocacy and input and his reputation as both an analytical and pragmatic thinker who understands business, the media and, of course, elite sport will be invaluable as we build the foundations of a magnificent games in Queensland and Australia.

In the bill, I also welcome the requirement to ensure goods and services are procured in accordance with the Queensland government's procurement policy, including procurement from Indigenous businesses. Under this policy, the Palaszczuk government has made a commitment that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned and run businesses will account for three per cent of government contracts by 2022. We have an opportunity to achieve gold in meeting this target, with the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games forecast to generate \$8.1 billion in economic and social benefits to Queensland, almost 92,000 full-time jobs over the next 20 years and an enduring impact on the lives of First Nations Queenslanders.

As Queensland continues on the Path to Treaty, by the time this state hosts the Brisbane games I hope we will be recognised as world leaders in reconciliation, truth telling and healing. When we think about 2032, still 11 years away, it is my hope that we speak about treaty and reconciliation in the past tense and that it is something that we celebrate in 2032 as where we have been, where we have come from and how we got there. That would be the true legacy of this state. In 2032 we can showcase that to the world as something that other countries and states can follow.

It would be wrong if I made a speech and did not talk about Cairns, Far North Queensland and regional Queensland and the benefits in the build-up to 2032. It is not just about the couple of weeks of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games; it is the many years of build-up to those games. Cairns as a tourist city saw significant potential and investment across tourism and tourist numbers after the Sydney 2000 games. We expect we will see a similar trajectory when it comes to the Brisbane games. It will put us on the map. People across the world will see Queensland, Brisbane, Cairns, the Gold Coast, the Whitsundays and outback Queensland as potential places to travel to and visit. I am sure we will get tourists for many years to come. In closing, I stand in support of the Brisbane Olympics and Paralympics Arrangements Bill 2021.

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (4.02 pm): When Brisbane hosts the 35th Olympics in 2032, it will provide an extraordinary platform from which to showcase our great state. It will provide significant and measurable economic and social impacts for Brisbane, Queensland and, indeed, the nation. Westpac and KPMG have estimated that hosting the games will bring about \$17 billion in benefits to our country and over \$8 billion in benefits to Queensland, including a \$4.6 billion economic boost to tourism and trade and \$3½ billion in social improvements such as health, volunteering and community services. It will leave a legacy of new and enhanced sporting, transport and community infrastructure.

It will provide an opportunity to showcase that Queensland is a safe, welcoming and inclusive community where everyone can find their place and everyone belongs—a community where people can achieve their hopes and aspirations irrespective of their cultural background, religion, language or the colour of their skin. Queensland is home to people from 220 different countries and territories who speak more than 180 languages and identify with over 110 different faiths. It is our differences that make us stronger as a state. It is when we move beyond merely tolerating or even accepting diversity

to celebrating it that we are truly able to harness its opportunities. These are the values and the vision espoused by our government's Multicultural Recognition Act. These are also the values espoused by the Olympic movement—to build a peaceful and better world through sport.

The games have come a long way since the first modern Olympics were held in 1896. I understand that the games in Athens featured 241 men—women were not invited—from 14 countries, competing for 43 gold medals across 10 sporting disciplines. Today athletes come from across the world, men and women representing the diversity of cultures, and for one brief period all play by the same rules and are assessed against the same standards—a level playing field.

The athletes who compete at the Olympics will be an inspiration to millions of young people, not just in Australia but around the world. Two-thirds of competitors who competed in Tokyo 2020 were in their 20s and the average age of Australian Olympians at the Tokyo Olympics was 27. It is the 600,000 Queensland children and teenagers who are currently aged between nine and 19 years old who will make up the bulk of our future Olympians.

Who will they be? Since the announcement by our Premier, Annastacia Palaszczuk, that Queensland had won the games, young Queenslanders in classrooms, sporting clubs and homes across the state have begun to dream that it could be one of them. They could be the next Emma McKeon, Cathy Freeman or Anna Meares or the next Samantha Stosur, Peter Bol or Nudgee's own Will Martin—our gold medallist swimmer.

I take a moment to honour Will's contribution to my local community and to Queensland. When Will was six years old he suffered a stroke which left him with a tremor in his right arm and blindness in his right eye. Will went through four months of rehabilitation where he had to learn to walk and talk again and learn to use his left hand for writing, which is no mean feat when one is right-handed. Because of the stroke Will was not able to participate in contact sports and he became interested in swimming. He started training and joined his old school haunt Nudgee swimming club. He did not think he was fast, but he said he would give it a go. He gave it his best.

Will pulled on the green and gold and represented Australia on the international stage at the para swimming championships in London in 2019. In August of this year, Will put all of his 4.30 am starts six days a week to the test on the world stage at the Tokyo Olympics. Against stiff competition he competed in the 50-metre freestyle, 400-metre freestyle, 100-metre butterfly—his favourite event—and relay events. With his country, his community and his beautiful family behind him, Will blitzed the field. He won three gold and one silver medal. He holds two world records and one Paralympic record. It was an absolutely outstanding effort and so exciting to watch. The key message here is not only how hard he worked for those medals but also how sport is a great equaliser. It does not matter where someone comes from or whom someone comes from, everybody can dream of getting there if they apply themselves and train hard.

Which local clubs will our future Olympians come from? Maybe our next Queensland swimming sensation will hail from the Nundah Sharks, the Boondall Barracudas, the Virginia Dolphins or the Nudgee swimming club. Maybe our next sensation will come from one of our other quality sporting clubs in the Nudgee electorate: Boss Boxing, Wizards Basketball, Goju Kai Karate at Boondall, Kyushin Judo, Sikukan Karate Club at Wavell Heights, North Brisbane Weightlifting Association, Virginia and Nudgee golf clubs or my chosen sport—if I suddenly morph into a future Olympic champion—the Hendra Pony Club for equestrian feats.

Where will the international teams train and acclimatise prior to the games? My electorate of Nudgee is seven minutes from the domestic and international airports, 20 minutes from the city and Gabba and located on the Gateway Motorway with direct access to both the Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast. With the Olympic athletics track at St Joseph's Nudgee College used by the Australian and American track and field teams in preparation for the 2000 Sydney Olympics and the Nudgee College pool—the training ground for current Paralympian dual gold medallist swimmer, Will Martin—maybe teams in 2032 will train at our local school. They might train at our sporting fields at the Australian Catholic University at Banyo. The university has ample land to build more facilities, I will put on the record. They might train at the Zillmere basketball facility or with our top-quality coaches at Virginia United Football Club.

A government member interjected.


Ms LINARD: I take the interjection about Zillmere from my colleague. We know it is a wonderful club. I acknowledge the members for Aspley and Sandgate who equally love that brilliant club. My north side community stands ready to answer the call for the 2032 Olympics.

In addition to the growth of new sporting talent, the games will spur new and enhanced strength and conditioning, human movement and biometric capability. Elite sporting bodies and teams will relocate here. Technology firms will invest and new partnerships will be formed between government, business and industry—both local and across international borders. The opportunities and benefits to flow from the games, both pre and post, are endless.

The bill before the House establishes the Brisbane Organising Committee for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The committee will have the important role of organising and promoting the games, but it is for all Queenslanders to take stock of where we are now and where we want to be. We are provided with the rare opportunity to shape and make a deliberate plan on how we want to present Queensland to the world in 2032.

I am excited by the opportunities the games present to showcase with pride that we live in a country with the oldest continuing culture and to see our First Nation communities—their dance, music, art and culture—taking centre stage in telling the story of this land, to see the natural beauty of our beaches, reefs, mountains and outback seen by visitors from around the world. I am excited to see local businesses, manufacturers and workers build and service the Games Village, venues and organisation of the event; to see the amazing volunteering spirit of Queenslanders and Australians on display; to see community pride and connections grow as local businesses, industry and Queenslanders actively participate in co-creating the event; and to have a conversation about how the games serve broader social goals. The games must be for everyone, and the economic and social prosperity must be shared by all Queenslanders. It cannot be for some and not for all.

I look forward to the journey ahead, to making a contribution to how the Queensland of 2021 will inform the Queensland of 2032 and to see my community and all Queenslanders have the opportunity to do likewise. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (4.11 pm): I rise in support of the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill, which will set up the organising committee and board of directors to guide our path towards 2032. At the outset, like all members on the opposition benches, I wish to reaffirm the support the LNP has provided and will continue to provide for Queensland hosting the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

I want to firstly acknowledge two local champions who recently competed in Tokyo: Kai Edwards from Labrador, who was only the third Australian to compete in the 10-kilometre swim, which is an absolutely insane event—yes, I have met him recently and did inform him there are other swim competitions he can do that are not as long; and Maddie McTernan from Arundel, who is a champion Paralympian who represented Australia with pride in the mixed freestyle relay and backstroke. I look forward to celebrating more people from my area who, in just over a decade, will be able to compete just up the M1 not far from where we live.

On the specifics of the bill, in terms of the conflict-of-interest provisions, ensuring the appropriate mechanisms for managing these effectively should be a key consideration of the government. The CCC warned that some provisions may present corruption risks. There were also right-to-information concerns, as identified in a number of submissions to the committee, regarding the provisions of the bill which exempt documents from the RTI Act. The Information Commissioner and stakeholders expressed reservations about that proposed RTI exemption, which they opposed as potentially undemocratic and contrary to the principles of transparency and accountability.

In this debate, as we consider what will lead us to Brisbane 2032, it is also useful to look back on our most recent similar global sporting event to know what we cannot allow a repeat of—that is, of course, the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, which my electorate experienced some of the highs and lows of. I will say from the outset that it left an overwhelmingly positive legacy for my community. The biggest sporting facility that we had built from that was of course the brilliant Gold Coast Hockey Centre, which is home to many clubs, if not most of the clubs, throughout our city but, most importantly, the mighty Labrador Tigerstix. I certainly hope that it is not too late to try to get the 2032 hockey played there because it really is an exceptional facility, and we would love to have that sport back on the Gold Coast for the games.

Light Rail stage 2 was also built ahead of the games, and that is entirely within my electorate of Bonney. I use it regularly because I live close to Parkwood East station. Although this infrastructure would have been built regardless, the games did speed it up. That is something you can see now because we have not had any light rail construction underway on the Gold Coast in the last four years since stage 2 was finished. The contract has not been finalised for stage 3, and it has been over two years since the funding for that project was initially locked in.

The biggest games legacy my area was promised, though, is the Gold Coast Health and Knowledge Precinct. Over three years since the last athletes left town, I am sorry to say that it is a vision that has not been realised. Some of the key precinct sites are overgrown with weeds and have been abandoned years after the Commonwealth Games. The state government owned land predominantly consists of empty bitumen blocks.

The government did try to rebrand it in the last three years, spending over \$100,000 to rename the precinct 'Lumina'—whatever that means. The big selling point to me is that this is an innovation precinct on the Gold Coast. I have no idea why you would remove that word from the branding or the advertising of the project. The only structure standing on the proposed site behind the temporary fencing that has been put up is a milk crate. That is three months after the then deputy premier and environment minister came on site to turn the first sod, which is normally an indication that construction will be imminent.

Comments from the ministers at the time said that this project would 'support thousands of jobs for Queenslanders and generate \$2.9 billion for our economy', so we urgently need a greater focus from the Deputy Premier, the Minister for Innovation and the Minister for Science to make this precinct a reality. It has so much potential. In an era when people are looking to relocate to Queensland for the lifestyle we offer—there is certainly no better lifestyle than on the Gold Coast—now is the time to attract national and international investment into this precinct. We just need ministers to take up the sales job. It should not be too hard because with everything it has it sells itself.

We should also not forget the local businesses that lost millions of dollars in revenue during the games mostly due to the false projections of large tourist traffic and cars that we were told to expect. Locals fled the Gold Coast in their thousands due to being advised by Goldoc to avoid driving in the city, and visitors did not stay long because there were rules around how quickly you had to get back to your car at a park-and-ride after an event—I think it was within an hour or two. That meant that no-one hung around. It was an absolute ghost town in Labrador and Southport, where many of our businesses were told to prepare for many businesses.

I remember seeing the Cat Empire on the night of the opening ceremony—a band that usually pulls pretty big crowds. It was a very big stage but probably one of the smallest groups of people they had ever played to. What was meant to be a celebration of our city was in many ways a missed opportunity. The sport was great, but there is so much more to one of these major events, and the Commonwealth Games missed the mark in that regard. While our journey to becoming an Olympic host has just begun, the work on making sure these games leave a lasting positive legacy must start now.

A big part of this event will be our credentials as a clean, green sustainable part of the world. That was a huge part of the bid that secured us this event. On the government's current trajectory, however, I have doubts over whether we will become that. They need to start taking their environmental commitment seriously if we are going to get where we need to.


Other than shots of sports and the city skyline, the pitch for Brisbane and Queensland mostly consisted of images of our beautiful protected areas and national parks. A new report released by Queensland's key conservation groups has found the government will take around a thousand years to reach their own protected land target. Our waste industry has also raised concerns about our transition to a circular economy in a recent report. We have the biggest challenges and changes coming for how we process our rubbish, and we need to start the hard work on how to do that better now.

I commend the SEQ Council of Mayors on their comprehensive organics plan, which is a stark contrast to the complete lack of detail in the state government's recent draft Organics Strategy. On renewables, the government is finally putting together a plan—seven years, or 6¾ years given that the Premier takes issue with that slight rounding up, after they made a commitment for 2030. The Auditor-General found last week that the energy minister has been fudging the figures by casually excluding a thousand gigawatt hours of diesel generation from our reporting.

I have said it many times before in this House: the emissions data does not lie. The most recent state and territory greenhouse gas inventories clearly show that greenhouse gas emissions have increased from when Labor came to power in 2015. Despite all their rhetoric on climate change, Queensland is emitting more greenhouse gases than under the previous LNP government and, in fact, emissions from electricity generation have actually increased in that time by a massive 20 per cent.

I will conclude by talking a little bit about infrastructure, which is a key part of the games. In relation to the second M1, in the seventh year of planning we have seen no major work underway, just some surveyors heading out into the area where the road will be built. The Koala Management Plan will not even be released until June 2022, so I have no confidence we will see anything happening

anytime soon. We cannot allow Light Rail Stage 4 to the airport to be framed around the games like it is. We need it to happen much sooner than that. Generally, we cannot allow the Olympics to become the point that we frame all of our major projects around because our population growth means that we need infrastructure much sooner. I wholeheartedly support the Olympic and Paralympic Games, and I urge the government to focus on ensuring that we deal with Queensland's big challenges long before 2032.

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (4.20 pm): I rise to support the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021 this afternoon. I want to thank the Premier for her work on this bill and I thank the committee for their report. I also want to acknowledge all of those hardworking and distinguished public servants who worked so hard to help the government secure the Olympic and Paralympic Games, particularly Kerry Petersen, who is head of the Olympics 2032 Taskforce. Kerry has done a wonderful job not just working with a very dedicated crew to secure the games but also to prepare this bill, and I want to acknowledge them up-front. We work so closely with the Public Service. We respect the Public Service for the work they do, and I want to acknowledge Kerry and her team for the work they do.

I support the bill, firstly as an individual who loves sport, particularly the Olympic and Paralympic Games; secondly, through my portfolio responsibilities as Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment. The events this bill will facilitate, the Queensland Olympics and Paralympic Games in 2032, are vitally important to the economic future of this state. Like a pole vaulter, the games will propel Queensland higher from strong foundations. That is because our economy is strong. I want to set out some of the economic context of where Queensland is, the strength of our economy and how strong our economy is, which allowed us to make this audacious bid in the middle of a pandemic to secure the Olympics, and the economic environment in which the organising committee established under this bill will operate.

Coming out of COVID our state has gone from strength to strength. On all of the major economic indicators Queensland either leads the national average or we are the best-performing state in our own right. On retail spending we are almost 17 per cent higher than our pre-COVID level. On household lending Queensland is 36 per cent higher over the year, faster than the national average. Dwelling investment in Queensland rose 2.3 per cent in the June quarter. Business investment in Queensland was 8.1 per cent higher in the June quarter. In the year to March, net interstate migration to Queensland rose by 31,000 people—the equivalent of a new city the size of Gladstone—all of whom will enjoy the games when they arrive in our state in about a decade's time.

Most importantly, we have led the nation when it comes to creating jobs. There are now 90,000 more Queenslanders in work than there were in March 2020. By comparison, in New South Wales and Victoria there are 300,000 fewer people in work than in March 2020. I am pleased to say that national accounts data released just this morning by the Australian Bureau of Statistics show that Queensland's economy grew by 1.8 per cent in the September quarter.

At the same time as Queensland was growing, the national economy went backwards by the same amount: negative 1.8 per cent. Household consumption in Queensland grew while the national average fell. Private investment in Queensland grew by 4.6 per cent while the national average limped along at 0.8 per cent. Dwelling investment in Queensland also grew by 4.6 per cent while the national average went sideways, growing by just 0.1 per cent. Business investment in Queensland bounded ahead by 4.9 per cent. Across the country it managed less than 1 per cent—0.8 per cent—growth.

Queensland is the fastest growing mainland state, I am pleased to report to the House, with our economy growing by 6.1 per cent over the year. Since the start of the pandemic in March 2020 growth in the national economy has been on hold, rising by just 0.1 per cent in that time. We are well set to fund the games, support the games and derive those economic gains the games will deliver to our state.


Queensland's outstanding economic performance is no accident. Like our Olympic athletes, it is the result of preparation, dedication and commitment. Because of the hard work that we did—Queenslanders following the health advice in particular—we are now reaping the rewards: jobs, economic growth and economic opportunities. This bill ensures that we will continue to reap those rewards. Hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games allows us to make the most of our strong position on the track and to turn our existing advantage into lasting generational benefits. Unlike events at the Olympics, there is no finish line for Queensland. We must keep pushing forward generation after generation.

We have come out of the pandemic as the best performing of the three large states, but we are the smallest of those states. We have not had the profile of Victoria or New South Wales—until now. Unlike New South Wales and Victoria, we have not hosted the Olympics previously. 2032 is our opportunity to permanently enshrine the achievements of our state during the pandemic over the last two years; to demonstrate what a world-leading health response means for jobs and a vibrant economy; and to demonstrate our performance as a state and as a people in the face of extraordinary adversary. 2032 will give our state the profile and confidence to take our place as the preeminent destination in Australia. It will give our state the chance to show the world what the rest of Australia looks at with envy: the Queensland spirit, our culture and our pride, our belief as a people in who we are and who we may become.

In securing the games and delivering the games, it is very pleasing that we have the full support of the International Olympic Committee and the Organising Committee for the Paralympic Games. The IOC recognises that now is the moment to do things better, in a way they have never been done before. The new norms—the principles under which the organising committee to be established under this bill will deliver the games—will ensure that Queenslanders will be left with venues and infrastructure that are workhorses, not white elephants. We are not going to be like Sydney, wanting to rebuild and then refurbish their main Olympic venue within just two decades, then having to scrap those plans because they cannot afford them. The legacy of the 2032 games will leave future generations of Queenslanders with catalytic infrastructure, not wide elephants and additional debt. The IOC will assist Queensland in funding the operational games of the Olympics.

As for the infrastructure, 84 per cent of the venues proposed under the games' master plan already exist or can be delivered through temporary solutions. We will continue to work to ensure every venue has a locked-in, long-lasting benefit. Our investments will be prudent and responsible and they will be made with a keen eye to cut the cloth; they will not be made with rose-coloured glasses. As Minister for Trade, I also want to affirm to the House and remind the House that the Olympics will provide an extraordinary platform for Queensland businesses to produce and sell goods and services to the rest of the world and employ more Queenslanders. This is the greatest possible showcase that Queensland could ever have for our businesses and industries. For our trade sector it means opportunities to open new export opportunities as the global spotlight shines on our state. The time is right for Queensland because we have managed the COVID pandemic so well and we are ready to turbocharge the ongoing recovery. All of these factors are good for our economy and good for our community.

We face a little over a decade before the Olympic flame is lit in Queensland. Many of the athletes who will do Queensland and our nation proud are not yet household names, but they will be. Before our homegrown athletes strive for gold in 2032 our state has the chance to embrace a golden decade—a decade of optimism, of winning new opportunities and of seizing every split second to show the world that Queensland is a global citizen that leaves nobody behind. Even though it will be a decade before the Olympic flame is lit, it should serve as a guiding beacon to all of us to be bold but faithful by: redoubling our efforts to prepare for the games, constantly setting our sights a little higher, relentlessly championing Queensland, and celebrating what Queenslanders can achieve when we work alongside one another faster, higher, stronger, together.

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (4.29 pm): I rise to support this absolutely fantastic and unique bill. I think I will start in the beginning. The ancient Olympic Games began back in 776 BC—

Mr Whiting: Tell us how you did in them.

Mr HEALY: I am pretty confident there was nobody from here at the time, but you would not know it the way some of us banter. A cook from the city of Elis was successful in winning a race that was 600 feet long. According to some literary traditions, this was the only athletic event of the games for the first 13 Olympic festivals, or until 724 BC. That is quite amazing.

The Christian Byzantine emperor Theodosius I abolished the games in 393 AD as he thought they were a pagan cult. What sort of man would he be! In an event to rekindle the spirit of the ancient Olympics of Greece, the modern Olympic Games were initiated in 1896. A man very popular with the Greeks, Baron Pierre de Coubertin, a French educator, is honoured as being the man who introduced the path to revive the Olympics. Under his exacting direction, the International Olympic Committee was formed in June 1894. The baron was heavily involved in all aspects of the games' inception and presided personally over the Olympic committee for some 30 years. He is responsible for writing the Olympic charter and protocols, the athletes' oath and the guidelines for the opening and closing

ceremonies of the games. In accordance with his desires, his heart remains interred at Olympia in Greece in a monument that commemorates the Olympics renewal. What a remarkable man the baron must have been—I suspect a little intense, but all the same quite remarkable.

Here we are today living in a world which has hosted 28 Summer Olympic Games in the modern era involving 23 cities since 1896. I am beyond confident that the announcement on 21 July this year that Brisbane was elected as the host city of the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games was as a result of a large amount of work by a lot of people. I want to acknowledge the Premier and her passion and drive. I also want to acknowledge the parliamentary committee, and I acknowledge the chair who has provided some overwhelming and outstanding guidance. The success of the Commonwealth Games obviously played into this also. No doubt there were hundreds of organisations and people behind the scenes, and I want to acknowledge each and every one of them. I also acknowledge, importantly, that the way this state has handled COVID-19 would have without doubt been part of any process of analysis.

On 21 July 2021 when Brisbane was elected as the host city for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the Premier, the Lord Mayor of the Brisbane City Council and the President of the Australian Olympic Committee executed the Olympic host contract. The terms of the Olympic host contract require the hosts to form an organising committee as an entity within five months following the execution of the OHC. Established for every Olympic and Paralympic Games, organising committees coordinate operational games matters, such as: accommodation and transportation for athletes, officials and media personnel; the operation of venues, facilities and the sports program; the torch relay; the opening and closing ceremonies, which as we know are absolutely enormous; and, just as importantly from an economic perspective, the games ticketing program.

The OHC for the Brisbane 2032 games requires the organising committee to be endowed with legal personality under the laws of the host country and in a manner providing for maximum efficiency with respect to its operations and its rights and obligations under the Olympic host contract. Fundamentally, these are the essential legal foundations being established under law for the 2032 Brisbane Olympic Games, and these are part of the essential and vitally important steps on our journey towards providing those Olympic Games.

The 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be a games for all Queenslanders. The key is to start realising the opportunity now. As we have heard—and I agree with previous speakers—it is not about the 16 days of sport in more than a decade's time; it is about using the platform of the world's greatest event to deliver for communities right across the state, whether they are in Cairns or Coolangatta. It will trigger increased investment and opportunities that will benefit not just the host city but, most importantly, our regions through: a 10-year pipeline of construction jobs, trade and investment; industry investment in new skills, capacity and supply chains; attraction of major sporting events and training pre and post games; and investment in renewable energies to deliver a climate-positive games.

The Olympic spotlight on Queensland industry will attract new global business audiences, creating a \$4.6 billion uplift in tourism and, most importantly, trade for Queensland. We know that, in terms of visitation, there is a dispersal rate of around 50 per cent to the regions. That is good news for our regions, particularly those that are key in the tourism sector. Regional tourism operators will be able to leverage the global explosion generated by the world's biggest event and promote Queensland's iconic tourist attractions.


I would like to let my colleagues know that at the time of the Sydney Olympic Games I was one of the international sales managers for Hilton Hotels, and we travelled the world extensively for two years prior to the Sydney Olympic Games. I will just give members a bit of an education on the tourism industry. When you walk into a Helloworld or a Flight Centre, that is a retail shop. They have a brochure. A wholesaler puts the brochure together. If you are buying a product overseas, you will be dealing with an inbound operator. An inbound operator usually takes 25 per cent commission.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr HEALY: Two ears, one mouth. You pay 20 per cent to the wholesalers, with 10 per cent going to your retailers. We are going to be getting huge exposure across the world and that will be a benefit to businesses that sell our destination. This is how we do it. We enter into commercial arrangements, and we are doing that now. Just as importantly, a Queensland first procurement strategy will also be adopted which will give regional businesses an opportunity to be part of a significant supply chain associated with the Olympic delivery.

In the regional areas, I look at some of the fantastic sports and infrastructure that we have in Cairns. Our regional kids of today are our future homegrown Olympians of tomorrow. Over the next two years the Queensland Academy of Sport will undertake a statewide search for around 400 talented young athletes, paving new elite sporting pathways all the way to the 2032 Brisbane games. I am confident a large number of those kids will come from Cairns.

Not only is this the biggest sporting event in the world; it is the biggest marketing and tourism event in the world. We are coming out of a pandemic. I remember when I was looking at the success of Sydney. The issue that followed the Sydney Olympic Games was the tragedy of September 11 in 2001. That had a significant impact on the flow of numbers around the world and tourism. For Brisbane coming out of this, we have a second runway at Brisbane Airport. We know the by-product of access is going to be aviation increasing into our regions. We know we are going to see other parties coming in and building infrastructure and contributing to existing tourism products. The future looks very bright. People in my region are excited about this. We know it brings significant potential. As a city, Brisbane should be excited. As a state, we should be excited. We are going to provide without any doubt one of the best Olympic Games ever seen.

 **Dr MacMAHON** (South Brisbane—Grn) (4.38 pm): South Brisbane will be the epicentre for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. It will be a massive opportunity for infrastructure, for beautiful, accessible venues, for jobs and for publicly owned clean energy, but so far the government's track record on bringing the community along with it has been very poor. There has been zero community consultation, and this bill continues down that path—fostering corruption, denying public access to information, making massive cost blow-outs likely and stacking decision-making bodies against community interests. I will be moving amendments to fix all of these things, and my amendments have been circulated already.

My amendments strike out the ridiculous exemption of federal MPs from Queensland's anti-corruption laws. The government's amendments pay lip-service to the Crime and Corruption Commission's concerns and give federal government MPs a get-out-of-jail-free card.

Secondly, my amendments will ensure the Right to Information Act 2009 covers all documents between the corporation, the AOC and the IOC, with the usual exemptions in the framework to apply. The blanket exemption in the bill is unjustified, as set out in the Queensland Information Commissioner's submission to the inquiry on this bill. Submissions from Friends of Raymond Park and individuals in the community illustrate the community's keen interest in maintaining its right to know what is going on. The clause raises serious questions regarding the expected conduct of the corporation and the power ceded to the IOC and AOC.

Thirdly, my amendments will cap spending on the games at \$5.5 billion, being the current budget plus a 10 per cent buffer. Budget blowouts seem to be a feature of every contemporary Olympic Games, and if we want to avoid this we need to make plans to do so now.

The government's estimated economic impacts have fluctuated wildly. We have been told we can expect \$3.5 billion in very ambiguous social benefits like health, prestige and civic pride. Evidence from the 2000 Sydney games found that, rather than producing an economic benefit, Australian household consumption was reduced by \$2.1 billion. There was no evidence that the Sydney games left a tourism legacy and, instead of boosting employment, the games displaced employment in other activities and sectors. The Sydney games also cost twice as much as its original budget. If we are letting the federal government, the IOC and the AOC treat Queensland like a doormat already, imagine what will happen down the track with billions of dollars on the table.

Fourthly, I will be moving for the government to include a community representative on the corporation. For the 'new norm' to be a reality, we need to place people and those communities most affected at the centre of decision-making. Without genuine community consultation, of which there has been zero to date, we risk losing green space, amenity for local residents and housing security. Beyond this bill, I will keep working to ensure we deliver a games that truly benefit all Queenslanders.

There has not been any community consultation for the games, as I have mentioned. Neither the Labor state government nor the LNP Brisbane City Council have provided transparency about Brisbane's Olympic bid or the planning that has ensued. The council held a closed-door meeting to vote in favour of hosting the Olympics, locking the public out to keep the details of the bid private. The lack of consultation is in stark contrast to cities like Munich and Hamburg, where residents were given the opportunity to vote in a public plebiscite—and they voted no.

In this absence, I initiated community consultation processes myself—I have done more consultation than the whole government has done—holding in-person meetings and an online survey and meeting with community groups like the East Brisbane State School and the Friends of Raymond Park. To date, nearly 500 people have responded to the survey. These are some of the results: 46 per cent of respondents indicated feeling very negative about the Olympics; 10 per cent felt somewhat negative; 16 per cent felt somewhat positive; and 28 per cent were very positive. Most felt very poorly.

Of those who felt negatively about the Olympics, the key concerns included the excessive use of public money that could be better spent elsewhere, concerns that the government should instead focus on the housing crisis and concerns that the games will drive up the cost of housing and force people out of the neighbourhood. Of those who felt positively, they saw the Olympics as an opportunity to invest in a backlog of much needed local infrastructure, an opportunity to showcase Brisbane to the world and an opportunity to invest in public and active transport that is severely lacking.

Overall, consultation showed a feeling of apprehension, the need for vital investment in the neighbourhood and concerns that benefits may not meet costs. The voice of the community that has been most affected needs to be included in decision-making to ensure local residents are able to realise the full benefits of the games. For example, again off the back of no consultation, the government has identified Raymond Park in Kangaroo Point as a warm-up track. This means that locals will lose access to a well-used park and, despite assurances, residents remain extremely anxious about the potential of losing their homes. East Brisbane and Kangaroo Point locals launched a petition to save Raymond Park, with over 1,600 signatures. For many locals, Raymond Park is effectively their backyard and vital for their mental health and wellbeing. The government needs to be clear about its intent, particularly for those residents who back onto the park.

The government should also investigate alternative sites that could address the issues around the distance between the warm-up track and the stadium for the benefit of Paralympians that ensures no loss of green space and adhere to the election commitment of at least 50 per cent parkland, not open space, at the Cross River Rail site.

Again, with no consultation East Brisbane State School is facing a complete rebuilding of the Gabba stadium right next door. So much for the new norm. East Brisbane State School sits in the shade of the eastern grandstand, and the Gabba has been clawing playgrounds, sports fields and classrooms off the school for decades. In a rapidly growing neighbourhood like East Brisbane, the threat to the school is unacceptable.

From a survey the school conducted in May, the P&C found that 96 per cent of the wider community agreed that the area needs and deserves a local primary school, and 71 per cent of the school community think the school should stay in its current location. Indeed, this catchment deserves an excellent primary school that kids can access on foot or by bike, and the school community deserves certainty about the future of a school that has been educating Queensland kids for nearly 125 years. Education planning driven by a flash-in-the-pan event in a decade's time is an appalling approach to education and a disservice to Queensland kids.

In their submission the P&C asked that the Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games be required to have regard to the needs and best interests of the communities where the games will be held. We are yet to see that commitment, and the set-up for the corporation, shrouded in secrecy, suggests that the government is more interested in putting the financial interests of the IOC ahead of the interests of everyday Queenslanders.

There is also a housing crisis in Queensland. In October the ABC reported that the median house price in Brisbane will tip \$1 million well before 2032. This is similar to what we saw with Expo 88. In the lead-up to the Sydney games, house prices in the Olympic corridor rose by 23 per cent above inflation and rents increased by between 15 per cent and 40 per cent, disproportionately impacting low-income communities. What are we doing to ensure this does not happen in Brisbane? Some Sydney local governments reported a tripling of homelessness and boarding homes being converted into more profitable lodgings for tourists.

There is a long history of 'city cleansing' and displacement of residents in the lead-up to international events. Summer Olympics related developments have displaced more than two million people since the eighties. The Atlanta games saw 9,000 people who were homeless arrested and 30,000 people displaced by gentrification. We observed a similar moving-on of people sleeping rough in Brisbane during the G20 meeting and on the Gold Coast during the Commonwealth Games.

The Olympics is an opportunity for Queensland to deal with the housing crisis and commit to zero homelessness by 2032. Rent caps, rate caps and inclusionary zoning would ensure that every new development includes public housing. Ensuring that 100 per cent of media and athletes' accommodation is turned into public housing after the games, retaining all new infrastructure in public hands, and ensuring that all venues are excellently accessible for everyone would be a real legacy for Queenslanders.

Lasting legacies are not a given, particularly not when decision-making is shrouded in secrecy. Globally, the legacy of the Olympic Games is decaying facilities, abandoned pools, displaced communities and overdevelopment. Any lasting legacies have been fought for. After Expo 88 it was intended for South Bank to become a luxury hotel, world trade centre, retail section and residential area.


Ms Richards interjected.

Dr MacMAHON: I will take that interjection because obviously none of you have done your homework. It was only after a significant community fight that residents secured half of the South Bank site as publicly accessible space. The South Brisbane community and all Queenslanders deserve for the government to be up-front about their plans so that we have an Olympics for everyone, not just those with a financial stake in it.

I am looking forward to these international connections and celebrations. I looking forward to taking my mother to an excellently accessible venue to watch the tennis. This can only be realised with a commitment to consultation and accountability and not corporate profit at the core.

(Time expired)

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Before I call the member for Bancroft, I remind all members: if you need to have a conversation, take it outside. Also, can members please avoid walking between the member on their feet and the Speaker. Thank you.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (4.48 pm): I rise to speak on this bill that will help us deliver an Olympics for all of Queensland, and all of Queensland will embrace this unreservedly. London, Rio, Tokyo, Paris, LA and Brisbane—I love the sound of that and I will keep on saying it because it sounds so right. These are Olympic cities and leading cities of the world, and we are standing at the epicentre of one of them. As we know, this bill, which has been endorsed by the IOC, will establish the organising committee as an independent statutory body. The committee or corporation will be responsible for overseeing the delivery of critical aspects of the 2032 games. As we have heard, at least 50 per cent of the nominated directors will be women, something that is very welcome.

This bill is a crucial first step and we can now go on to the next exciting steps for our games. There are many potential aspects of the Olympics that are truly exciting. One of the things that really warms my heart is that this will inspire a generation of Queensland children. I think about the Queensland kids I know that I see playing sport today. Through this, they are dreaming about wearing the green and gold for their country in their home town at the Olympic and Paralympic Games. For example, I think about the kids I see at hockey. I have managed the hockey teams of my son, Guy, at Redcliffe Hockey Club for a couple of years from under-9s to under-11s. He will be in the under 13s next year on the artificial turf. Managing these kids every Saturday morning is a job I love doing, and I only came to realise how much I look forward to it when I was writing this speech. On the turf at Redcliffe hockey centre I see kids with levels of hockey skills that I find truly astounding. I see rep players who are already playing for Queensland and they can go all the way. It is a revelation to see how good they are. I see them playing on the artificial turf at Redcliffe and at Kedron-Wavell at the State Hockey Centre and they dream of playing for Australia. They know that dream is closer because of these Olympics.

I think also of Kyle Willis, a young para-athlete in our area who I think is bound for sports glory. He cycles for my cycling club, the Moreton Bay Cycling Club. He has the skills, the ability and the work ethic to go all the way. He is helping us to organise the Moreton Bay 100 this day. I have seen him on the Anna Meares Velodrome. I want to see him there again in 11 years time, and I really want to see him on the podium receiving a medal.

The Moreton Bay 100 is a cycling event where we get to show off what we have to offer for the cycling community in the Moreton Bay area. I think it shows how suited we are to holding those long road events. I know that the member for Glass House has talked about holding Olympic road cycling events on the Sunshine Coast. Moreton Bay has what I believe is an even better location for a road race. It could go from Woody Point to Mount Mee through the strawberry and pineapple fields. It is a great experience for both cyclists and spectators. This is just one example of what our region offers as an Olympic experience.

I also think about the kids at Deception Bay Little Athletics. The kids in this club really do believe that they can run for Australia because very soon they will be running on the Deception Bay artificial running track. I am very proud of this project. I have been chasing it in council and in this chamber for about 10 years. It will be the running track for Queenslanders between the Sunshine Coast and Nudgee. It is the home of the Deception Bay Little Athletics and Amateur Athletics. These clubs have already produced about half a dozen Australian representatives.

This track will provide an incredible opportunity for kids from ordinary working families in Queensland to run on an international track, and they can do that every week. It will be ready in about a year's time, so they will have 10 years on a track to help develop these kids and help them achieve their dreams of running for Australia. The Palaszczuk government put forward \$1 million to develop this track. The federal government has put forward \$1½ million and the council has contributed as well. I really look forward to seeing those kids running on that track dreaming once again of wearing the green and gold in their home Olympic Games.

We know this will be an Olympic and Paralympic Games for all of Queensland. We will hear it often over the coming years, but it is a fact that Queenslanders have already embedded in our minds that this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I think we are only now beginning to realise what it will truly bring. We have heard that over the next 20 years it will generate around \$8.1 billion in benefits for Queenslanders all over the state. That includes many billions in international tourism and trade, over 90,000 jobs in Queensland, a 10-year pipeline of construction jobs, trade and investment opportunities, and projects. As we have heard from many speakers today, what the 2032 games will deliver in terms of infrastructure is very exciting. I will mention a few key pieces of infrastructure that we will remember for a long time.

First, I want to say let's not forget the role of Cross River Rail in making the Olympics and Paralympic Games viable for us, once again—and we have heard it today, but I will say it again—100 per cent funded by the Palaszczuk government. There was a dearth of support from the federal government for it. Never mind, it was the Palaszczuk government vision to bring forward this project, make sure it happens and show that we are able and ready to host the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

We have heard about the Gabba and seeing how that will integrate with public transport which will be of benefit to many generations thanks to the Olympics. It is great to hear that the first day of the first Ashes Test is already sold out. Obviously I am very excited to hear what hopefully Ballymore will be doing for hockey—seeing hockey matches there—and hearing about the Brisbane Live arena as a venue for swimming and diving. What a great opportunity. What a great spectacle that would be at that location.

One of the things I really welcome is the redevelopment of Northshore Hamilton. This Olympic and Paralympic athletes village of up to 10,000 beds will become a residential development after the games. It will offer diverse housing choices, affordable housing, aged care, perhaps retirement living and social housing built around opportunities. That can be a real bonus to the whole of Queensland as we work harder and harder to develop more housing for Queenslanders. It will set a great example of the innovations we can deliver to create housing for many Queenslanders.

It is also really exciting to hear how the Olympics will benefit Queensland through the procurement policy we have adopted. As we have heard, included in this bill are the clauses that continue one of the central themes of the Palaszczuk government, and that is Buy Queensland. Clause 10 requires the corporation to procure goods and services in accordance with this policy except when inconsistent with the host contract. It means that Queensland businesses can capitalise on the decades of growth and investment that are being delivered. There will be enormous supply chain opportunities in agriculture, agritourism and all of tourism.

I am really glad to see that boxing will be centred in Moreton Bay Regional Council at The Mill at Petrie, University of the Sunshine Coast, although I think there would be many more opportunities for our area. I would love to see more of that. I have talked a bit about what we offer in terms of cycling. It would be great to see a criterium track there as well one day. We are the third largest council in Australia. We will have about 600,000 people by the time of that Olympics.

I want to conclude by pointing out that we have bid for the games before. I remember the first bid by Brisbane for an Olympics and Paralympics in the 1980s. It was started by Lord Mayor Roy Harvey and followed through by Sallyanne Atkinson. I remember that night in the Queen Street Mall a couple of us were parked there waiting for the good news and the celebration which we thought would be

inevitable and trying to get our faces on TV for the live cross. As we know, we did not get it. I remember we were standing in the mall quite perplexed by this decision for the games to go to Barcelona. Where? Barcelona. Why did it not come to Brisbane?

Mrs McMahon: Where?

Mr WHITING: Where, exactly. How could they not see what we had to offer, what we already had? We know now that the time was not quite right and our time would come for the Olympics and Paralympic Games. That time is now. To be precise, it is in 10 years time. We are ready for that journey and the journey has already started. We will be able to run a superb and safe Olympics and Paralympics in 2032.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): There is something different about you tonight, member for Bancroft. I cannot pick it.

Mr Whiting: Ron Burgundy has left the building.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hopefully you have raised some money.

Debate, on motion of Mr Whiting, adjourned.

MOTIONS

Bundaberg, Health Services



Mr BENNETT (Burnett—LNP) (4.59 pm): I move—

That this House notes:

1. the decline in the delivery of health services in Bundaberg as evidenced by a 9.9 per cent increase in ambulance ramping since June 2020
2. 44 per cent of emergency department patients at Bundaberg Hospital were not seen within clinically recommended time frames in the September 2021 quarter
3. the election promises by the member for Bundaberg for the Palaszczuk Labor government to construct a level 5 hospital in Bundaberg
4. the Palaszczuk Labor government's failure to provide public breast-screening facilities in the Bundaberg region.

and calls on:

1. the member for Bundaberg to fulfil his election promise to deliver a level 5 hospital for Bundaberg;
2. the member for Bundaberg to support the residents of the Wide Bay region in their efforts to gain access to modern breast-screening facilities; and
3. the Palaszczuk Labor government to listen to the people of Bundaberg and provide all the health services which they expect and deserve.

It is no small thing when you have a number of constituents continually coming to your office talking about the health services that people expect. The fact that I have had a number of people approach my office about the breast screening service is very worrying and the answer from the minister indicated that there were serious problems in recruitment, but all of these things add up to a bleak future given the way the Bundaberg Hospital is sliding. I have raised this issue many times in this place since the sacking of the CEO in 2019 and the subsequent decline which has seen, according to the Auditor-General's financial reports last year, a \$40 million debt rather than the \$10 million surplus the hospital had two years earlier.

We have spoken about the ambulance ramping and the emergency department, but again this is nothing new. A year or two ago the *Courier-Mail* reported that 200 people had walked out of the emergency department in Bundaberg in one month because they could not get seen. The people of Bundaberg and the wider Burnett deserve a world-class system, yet they are not seeing it under Labor. It is not the nurses, it is not the paramedics and it is not the doctors; it is all about bad management.

Government members interjected.


Mr BENNETT: Those opposite may want to interject, but I remember what a basket case it was in 2011. This is a serious issue. Anna Bligh wanted to split health apart in 2011. My point is that tonight those opposite can yell, scream and interject all they like and talk about the nonsense that they want to talk about, but even by putting more staff on the services are getting worse. Let us not take this cookie-cutter approach: the fact is that the government has lost control of the hospital service, it is in crisis and we are here to debate it again to shine a light on the issue for those people that I am proud to represent.

The people of the region were betrayed in 2020 by the local member, who promised a level 5 hospital. This is a disturbing backflip. It has also been confirmed by the health minister that the government now wants to call it level 5 services instead. I will talk about that more later, but the response to the question on notice from the minister was that the government had to change the language because the people of Bundaberg did not understand what was happening and the government had to tell them that it is more about services and not a level 5 hospital and it is not about five storeys. The people of Bundaberg were indicated to be mugs who could not understand what they were promised. We all remember. It was quite clear. A level 5 hospital was loud and clear when it suited the government, but it backflipped as soon as it could.

We heard Tom Smith and his Labor government colleagues talk about delivering the best public health services to our community for the growing need now and into the future, and the member for Bundaberg, Tom Smith, did make all of those promises. What is worse, this deceit by the local member for Bundaberg, Mr Tom Smith, was demonstrated because he had all of these things on his social media page, and I am happy to table those if I get a chance tonight. What happened? He took everything down—backflipped, weaseled out of it, took everything down and threw all of those promises out, never to be held accountable. He is being held accountable here tonight for those promises to the people of Bundaberg.

Those opposite made the commitment and made the promises, and the proof was backed up by not only the Premier but also the health minister. I have spoken about the condescending tone of the health minister's response—that is, the minister said that we have to talk in plain English for those people in Bundaberg because they are confusing the reference to mean that the proposed hospital would be five storeys. I say to the minister that that is downright offensive and the people of Bundaberg are not fools and will not be fooled by what is going on here tonight.

A survey out today shows some interesting facts, so do not take my word for it but the survey results from the AMA Council of Doctors. That survey found that 11 per cent of junior doctors are working more than 90 hours and are burnt out. What is more worrying is that 11 per cent were not advised of how to claim their overtime. One of the most troubling results was that 50 per cent of those junior doctors said they were concerned about making a clinical error due to fatigue. Close to 20 per cent experienced and witnessed bullying, discrimination and sexual harassment, with half saying that they were too concerned to report it because of the negative consequences. They are being hushed up and they are being covered up. Let us not forget the sacking of the CEO in 2019. There is a steep decline, and it is getting worse.

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (5.04 pm): The member is right in one respect: the public will not be fooled and it sees this motion for what it is, and it is the opposition smarting over the fact that it lost the seat of Bundaberg and it is still stewing over it and its attempt at getting it back is smearing the good name of the member who was elected by the people of Bundaberg. I move—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. An amendment is being moved and I am attempting to hear it. I would appreciate it if that could be done in silence.

Mrs D'ATH: I move the following amendment—

That all words after 'notes' be omitted and the following inserted:

- '1. the increase in demand for health services in the Bundaberg and Wide Bay region;
2. that all Queensland hospitals, including the Bundaberg Hospital, are experiencing an increase in emergency department presentations due to a number of reasons, including GP access;
3. the Palaszczuk government's commitment for a new hospital in Bundaberg; and

endorses the Palaszczuk government's continuing record investment in the health system in Queensland, including in the Bundaberg region.'

We are very proud of—


Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Mudgeeraba, I asked to hear the amendment in silence. You are warned.

Mrs D'ATH: We are very proud of our investment in the Bundaberg region and across this great state with our record budget of over \$22.2 billion—a record that the opposition leader has actually had to acknowledge despite his stunts in the last few days trying to claim cuts in the health system. It is the

Palaszczuk government that will continue to invest in our health system. It is the Palaszczuk government that is continuing to invest in the Wide Bay region and which has committed to building the Bundaberg Hospital. There is no reneging on the Bundaberg Hospital. It will be built. It will be built by a Labor government.

What the people of Bundaberg should be concerned about is if there was a change of government I am sure they could say goodbye to that hospital, because the commitments that those opposite made at the last election were not to match our investment in health workers and the increase in health workers and it was not to match our funding commitments or our capital infrastructure commitments. It is only Labor governments that invest in health, and we do have an incredible universal health system in this country and this state, yet there are those who continually talk it down. Yes, we are under extreme pressure, as is every other hospital in the nation and globally in terms of the pressures that we are seeing, but to simply say that we have a health system that is not delivering for the people of Queensland is attacking the health workers, no matter what the member tries to claim. Every time they talk about surgeries, elective surgery and everything else, they are criticising the hardworking health workers who step up each and every day to deliver for the people of Queensland and who have worked tirelessly over the last two years to prepare for COVID and who will be the ones who are looking after the COVID patients when the virus comes, and we are proud of what—

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (5.07 pm): It is interesting to get up to speak after the health minister, who started her contribution—

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There should be five minutes on the clock for the debate.

Mrs D'Ath interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): I will take some advice.

Mrs D'Ath: I am pretty sure I was given three minutes.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members! When I am taking advice it is not an opportunity to interject.

Mr PURDIE: As I was saying, it is interesting to speak after the health minister, who started her contribution by saying that the people of Bundaberg will not be fooled. However, what we are seeing continually in this House from a tired and arrogant third-term Palaszczuk Labor government is not only its incompetence to manage health but its deceitfulness. Two weeks ago I stood right here at this same time highlighting how the people of Caloundra had been hoodwinked by this government prior to the election—another marginal seat it wanted to win. It stood up and promised the people of Caloundra something, knowing at the time that was never going to happen.

Here we are now, two weeks later, talking about Bundaberg. The member for Burnett just spoke about a Facebook page. I have a copy of that here.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you tabling that document?

Mr PURDIE: I am certainly tabling it.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Well then, table it.

Mr PURDIE: I am more than happy to. I have a Facebook post here where the member for Bundaberg announced that his top priority was to build a level 5 hospital in Bundaberg.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Stop using it as a prop and table the document.

Tabled paper: Extract, dated 26 August 2020, from the Facebook page of the member for Bundaberg, Mr Tom Smith MP, regarding delivery of level 5 of the Bundaberg Hospital [\[2032\]](#).

Mr PURDIE: He might think he is clever because now, post-election, there is no sign of that Facebook post. It has disappeared. He might think it is clever that that has disappeared, but I can tell members that, unfortunately for the member for Bundaberg, there is more evidence. There is evidence here, which I am also happy to table, in the form of a brochure that was handed out in Bundy, again stating it is a top priority and a commitment fully funded from the Labor government to build a level 5 category hospital in Bundaberg. I am happy to tender that evidence as exhibit No. 1, or table it, whatever you prefer, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Unite and Recover: Labor's plan for QLD jobs' [\[2033\]](#).

But there is more. If this health minister wants to talk about the people of Bundy not being fooled, well, I can tell members they are not going to be fooled by this current member. I also have a letter delivered to every house in Bundaberg prior to the last election with a picture of the Premier and the member for Bundaberg, again stating that the top priority—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, I have asked you to table documents and not use them as a prop. If you do that again I will warn you.

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There is no obligation on a member to table a document until they are ready to table it. I understand your ruling in respect to the use of them as props, which I respect, but I do not believe it is up to the Speaker to demand a document be tabled.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will take some advice. My ruling does relate to the use of that document as a prop. The member has indicated on several occasions when he has done something similar that he would table it so I am simply asking him to follow that practice. I would ask the member to stop using documents as props. If you intend to table them, table them.

Mr PURDIE: I am happy to table this as evidence against the member for Bundaberg.

Tabled paper: Letter, undated, to householders from Senator Murray Watt, titled 'State election—postal voting information' [2034].

And evidence of him fooling the people of Bundaberg prior to the election where he again promised the delivery of a new level 5 hospital in Bundaberg. They are now trying to destroy the evidence. They can try to delete it from Facebook, but I have already tabled a copy, and we have signed letters that have gone to every house in Bundaberg promising the same thing. That takes me to the deceitfulness of this government once again on consultation. Two weeks ago we spoke about the dodgy consultation being undertaken at Caloundra for the youth jail. Similarly what we have here in Bundy is the government announcing an expression of interest where 40 sites were identified, I am led to believe, as a proposed place for this hospital. Apparently people in Bundaberg are scratching their heads over the site that was picked. I understand it is on the outskirts of town, it is on a highway and it is beside a gun club. In the current budget there was no money for the land for this new hospital.


An opposition member interjected.

Mr PURDIE: That is exactly right. They might have more time in the ambulance to deal with them before they get to the hospital. Apparently the council was not even involved in this consultation until after the government had selected a site. They have selected a site that, from all reports, is not necessarily appropriate and there was only \$15 million in the budget for the land. It turns out the site was already owned by the state government. It has been zoned for environmental protection. This is a case study of how this government does business. Their consultation is a sham. It is deceptive, as we saw at Caloundra. Only two weeks ago we spoke about Caloundra and how they went out to public consultation while the renovation was already happening to convert that watch house to a jail.

The people of Bundy will not be deceived. They have long memories. A succession of Labor governments in this state have failed the people of Bundy. We only need to think back to 2003, 2004 and 2005 and Dr Jayant Patel. It was members of the Labor government who initially put their heads in the sand when whistleblowers were turning up in droves to report that staff at the time were hiding patients from that doctor who we now know had already lost his surgical certificate in New York before he got here and was later charged with the manslaughter of a number of people. That brings me to the current day. It is the opposition that is highlighting this information from whistleblowers. What Bundy needs is better leadership and representation. What I am saying today is bring back Dave Batt.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In relation to the issue of the time allotted for my debate, I understand it has now been clarified that I was only given three minutes. I would ask you to exercise your discretion and to add an extra minute to the contribution of the member for Bundaberg.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will add a minute to the member for Bundaberg.

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (5.15 pm): I would gladly take two extra minutes. The member for Ninderry has just turned the screen to sleep. What a great job he did there. This morning I was up on the River Deck watching the member for Bancroft shave off that hideous moustache. I texted the office of the Leader of the House saying, 'Hey, can you please think of me for the five o'clock motion because Christmas is coming up and I want a bit of a gift for myself.' I have to say thank you to the opposition. They have absolutely delivered. Sometimes things just fall into your lap. I have been wanting to talk about health in Bundaberg all year. It is about time. How wonderful it is to be so popular among those opposite. So popular, in fact, that they all know my name. I am still trying to remember theirs.

Speaking about remembering, do members remember when Paul Keating said of Alexander Downer that he was the salmon that jumped on the hook? The member for Burnett is the salmon that jumped on the plate. I will share a communication I had—I want to make sure those opposite hear this. I had a text message come through at about 3.10 this afternoon. It said ‘Have you noticed how much Bennett’s hands shake when he has a go at you? A bit funny. Looking forward to—’

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Resume your seat. We use correct titles in this House, member for Bundaberg.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There is also a point of order about reflecting on members in the chamber and I ask the member to withdraw and not go where he is going.

Mr NICHOLLS: I rise to that point of order. I understand the standing orders provide that personal reflections on members are highly disorderly and should not be made in this House.

Mr SMITH: I withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member has withdrawn.

Mr SMITH: That text was from my mum.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member, withdrawals will be unreserved. Withdraw the statement that you made after the withdrawal.

Mr SMITH: I withdraw. Let us talk about our hospital plan in Bundaberg. We have secured a 60-hectare site for the new world-class Bundaberg hospital. How fantastic that Bundaberg hospital will be. The member for Maryborough is here. The member for Hervey Bay is here. This new hospital will service all of the Wide Bay with level 5 services. In Bundaberg the slang term is ‘level 5 hospital’, the technical term is ‘level 5 services’. I have said publicly, ‘Call it a level 5 hospital, call it level 5 services, just call it the Bundaberg Hospital because it is going to be Bundaberg’s and it is going to be fantastic.’

Last year the Premier came to Bundaberg. The hospital that the Premier promised is the hospital that the Premier will deliver. She will absolutely deliver the hospital that she promised. In the current budget there is \$15 million for land transfer and planning. The detailed business case has been finalised. It is on track.

However, here is the kicker: during the election campaign it was the LNP that called for a delay on the site. They said it was done too quickly. They wanted to delay it. The then local member went on local radio and said that we should take longer to choose the site of the hospital. That sounds like more LNP delays.

I want to talk about access to breast screening and radiology. I received a letter from Ms Debbie Carroll of Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service. She wrote—

Thank you for your letter dated 6 October 2021—

Obviously I am well ahead of the member for Burnett in terms of this—

WBHHS is currently under agreement with I-Med Central Queensland Pty Ltd to provide specialist Medical Imaging and Radiologist services for our health service, around the clock ... I-Med includes provision of an onsite radiologist at both Bundaberg and Hervey Bay Hospitals ... I-Med has a further four radiologists offsite within the region ...

...

After hours reporting is covered by I-TeleRAD ... employing over 230 Radiologists credentialed by WBHHS and available via tele-radiology support to provide reporting and consultation support to the health service when required.

She also wrote ‘existing arrangements with I-Med addresses and meets all service requirements for the provision of safe and contemporary Radiology services’ for our community. I am not going to table that letter.

I want to talk about the LNP’s record on health. In the Wide Bay 345 health workers were sacked. That is their record. One hundred and twenty nurses and midwives were marched out the door by the Newman government. Across the hospitals of the Wide Bay administrators were threatened and lived in fear of the box men. Where was the member for Burnett then? He was backing it in! He was showing nurses the door. As a part of the Newman government, he marched out 120 nurses and midwives and he was feeling very good about being a Newman crony.

I have knocked on the doors of the nurses who were sacked. I have spent six hours on shift with the ED staff in the hospital. I have spent six hours on night shift with the paramedics. They do not want the member for Burnett and the LNP back in government.

I will share a story. In 2013 Bundaberg saw one of the most devastating floods to affect Queensland and that town. Many people were left homeless. Sixty to 70 health workers were made homeless by the floods and had to live in tents. What happened the week after the floods? What happened after spending a week living in tents on Salter Oval? They were sacked! They were homeless and living in tents because of the floods and the member for Burnett did not stand up for them. He allowed them to be sacked while they were homeless and living in tents. Shame on the LNP!

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! The House will come to order. The level of interjection is far too high. I am about to start warning people.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (5.23 pm): What an absolute waste of the extra minute that was! When the member for Bundaberg has nothing to say he just starts making it up. What a load of absolute rot that was! I will tell the House who stood up for that community when the 2013 floods happened. The Newman government stood up for that community and it was the former member for Bundaberg, David Batt, who, as a member of the council, led the recovery.

I know that the current member for Bundaberg was not a resident at that time and he does not actually know so let's get the facts straight. The person who is standing up for Bundaberg is the member for Burnett. The member for Burnett is the one who comes into this House each and every week and raises the concerns of the Bundaberg community. They are suffering because they have the sort of member who, when given the opportunity to speak about the great town of Bundaberg, takes nearly two minutes to even mention the word 'Bundaberg', let alone 'Wide Bay'. I dare say if you are from Brissie you do not know where the Wide Bay is.

The member for Bundaberg went to the last state election committing to a level 5 hospital. We know that because the information has been tabled. We have Facebook posts, tweets, bits and pieces and recordings that went out. Guess what the member now says? He has made the health minister tell the people of Bundaberg that they are so simple they do not understand what a level 5 hospital is. Now they are trying to tell the people of Bundaberg and the Wide Bay, 'I'm sorry, but we meant five levels.' Are you kidding me? What an absolute joke! I grew up in regional Queensland. I was born in Miles Hospital. I am very proud to be from regional Queensland. I had a decent education. I am from the Wide Bay and I know what a level 5 hospital is. It does not mean 'five levels'. What an embarrassment to treat the people of the Wide Bay with that sort of contempt.

This week it was the member for Burnett who once again came into this House and raised the issue of breast screening in Bundaberg and the regions. Where was the mention of that? Why is the member for Bundaberg not screaming from the rooftops in support of the health staff in that region? The member for Bundaberg should be out there screaming for support and more help for the hardworking nurses, doctors and radiologists. They are the people who are looking for support from their local member of parliament. Where is the member for Bundaberg? He is completely missing in action!

The member for Bundaberg is busy hiding his head in the sand over the debacle that is the ripping down of Paradise Dam, but now he has to work out how he will communicate to his community about the ripping down of a level 5 hospital. They are ripping down Paradise Dam and now we have a fake promise about the hospital. Honestly, give us a break in the Wide Bay! We want the health services to be fixed again.

It was the last LNP government that got the long dental waitlist down to zero. We cleared the list of people who had been waiting for up to eight years under the then Beattie-Bligh governments. Do members remember those years? The then premier stood up and said that the health system was a debacle and that it should be split into two or three—or whatever it was. Guess what, ladies and gentlemen? We are back there right now and there is no greater example of that than what is happening in the Wide Bay. The new hospital in Kingaroy floods every time it rains. It is a brand new hospital. Can this government get nothing right?

The people of Bundaberg deserve the level 5 hospital that was committed to and promised by the Palaszczuk government. It is what they went to the election with. It is what they told the people of Bundaberg and Wide Bay they would do. Those people did not expect to be spoken down to or to be spoken to with the utter contempt shown by the member for Bundaberg, this health minister and the Premier. I say: bring back David Batt.

Mr HARPER (Thuringowa—ALP) (5.27 pm): I will back the member for Bundaberg over David Batt any day, I can tell the House that now. I rise to speak in support of the amended motion. This is called 'the scream' for a reason. Pick up your game. Is this the best you have? What a rabble! You are completely out of touch in terms of what is going on here.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! Through the chair, member for Thuringowa.

Mr HARPER: Let us be clear: every health system in this country is facing unprecedented demand. We are in times like no other. If you are vaccinated and you catch the virus you will be far less likely to be hospitalised. I am proud to be part of the Palaszczuk government that backs our frontline health staff, that backs the health advice and that makes sure that our health system remains strong by investing in services and infrastructure. I have listened to the awful contributions from the member for Burnett, the member for Ninderry and the member for Nanango. Good grief! Our health committee was in the Wide Bay area not that long ago. A lady held up an envelope and said, 'This is my husband's level 4 home care package, but he died two years prior to getting it.'

We have a federal health system that is not backing in the state health system. It is so poor.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr HARPER: We have an ageing population.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Chatsworth, you are warned.


Mr HARPER: We have problems with people getting access to GPs. We have people literally dying waiting for home care packages. What does that say? Only 40 per cent of the Queensland population can afford private health insurance, so there is more demand on our public system every single day.

I am dismayed at the motion moved by the member for Burnett as he joins the chorus of members opposite who continue to talk down our hardworking paramedics, doctors, nurses and hospital staff. Our health staff are doing the absolute best job they can, all the while dealing with the unprecedented demand on our free public health system and a global pandemic that has taken more than five million lives.

Time and time again the LNP want to have an argument about following the health advice. Why can they not simply accept the fact that because Queenslanders have done just that we are in such a great position? On Monday on ABC Radio, when talking about the health directives, the member for Burnett said that this week in parliament the LNP would be calling for some relaxations of the sensible health measures. The member said that the Premier's legacy would be segregation based on medical vaccines and defended the anti-vaxxers, saying they would be blamed for the outbreaks. I do not how many more times those opposite will continue to appease their far-right anti-vax overlords by questioning the measures that have kept and continue to keep us safe from COVID-19. How can the member for Burnett make these comments on radio on Monday and then move a motion about a health system facing challenges? Does he not understand the simple fact that everyone has been working incredibly hard to ensure that many people can get vaccinated so our health system is not under more strain on top of the extreme demand?

We on this side of the House know that vaccination saves lives. We know that if people get vaccinated they are far less likely to go to hospital. We know that the Chief Health Officer's directives play a critical role. It is simple: if you want to help the health system, do not talk it down and do not sack 4,400 nurses. Back the nurses. I do not know how members opposite can lie straight in bed after they sacked 4,000 health staff in this state. They want to talk about the challenges on the health system? We have had to replace all of them.

Members opposite are a rabble and have no idea. They are out of touch. That is why they will be in opposition for years to come. No-one will ever again back an LNP government in this state with the legacy of those opposite in terms of sacking nurses. We back nurses. We are backing our hospitals and investing in our hospitals. Those opposite did it to paramedics, nurses, doctors and allied health staff. What an awful legacy members opposite left this state. We have had to replace all of those jobs. We will continue to back the nurses. We will continue to back the health system and keep delivering. That is what a proud Labor government does.

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (5.33 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the motion moved by the member for Burnett in relation to the unfolding situation at Bundaberg Hospital. It is a concerning situation. At the very outset, I pay homage to our frontline healthcare heroes working tirelessly in Bundaberg. I say to the doctors, nurses and allied health professionals: I know how hard you are working. I know that you are making the best of what you have. I know that you want to deliver the very best care to every single patient who walks through those doors. I know that you are doing all of those

things, because as a nurse I have done it all, too. The work that you do is incredible. I am proud of every last person in that facility who puts it all on the line day in and day out, striving to give their patients the best care possible.

These heroes on the front line are being hamstrung. They are being hamstrung by a mismanaged system, and that mismanagement starts at the very top. It starts with the minister who sits in the chair on the opposite side of this chamber who is answerable to the Premier of this state, who sits beside her. If there is one thing for certain, we know that the government will shift into its default position when things go awry. That default position is to blame someone, something, anything—they will blame anyone but themselves. If it is bad news, they never take responsibility. They never will hold themselves to account.

In fact, ministerial responsibility and accountability are long gone under this government. Now in their third term, those opposite have lost touch with what is really happening inside Queensland Health and have lost touch with what is going on at Bundaberg Hospital. If they really had any sense of how bad the Queensland Health crisis is, they would be doing more to fix the problem. The third-term hubris, the arrogance, has set in, hasn't it? They cannot see how bad the problem really is, and the people of Queensland and the people of Bundaberg are paying for it.


The consequences for the people of Bundaberg are severe. The ED in Bundaberg is the third worst performing ED in the state when it comes to treating patients within the clinically recommended time frame. Nearly half of all patients who arrive at the Bundaberg ED will not be treated on time. Since June 2020, that figure has nearly doubled. Ambulance ramping in Bundaberg sits at 26 per cent. That means one in four people who arrive at the hospital by ambulance will not be moved off their ambulance stretcher to see a doctor or nurse in the clinically recommended time.

There are 814 people waiting for elective surgery right now in Bundaberg and a further 3,416 people sitting on the waiting list for the waiting list—and they have not even seen the specialist yet! The wait to see a gastroenterologist in Bundaberg is frightening. Some 80 per cent of patients in Bundaberg needing to see a gastroenterologist will not get their appointment inside the clinically recommended time frame. We know that cancers such as bowel cancer can be treated effectively if they are detected early, but if you are waiting longer than you should to even get the first appointment with the specialist the risk of the cancer spreading worsens each and every day.

The member for Burnett, of course, uncovered that there is no permanent radiographer in the breast cancer screening clinic in Bundaberg. It is taking more than eight weeks to get breast screening in one of Queensland's proudest regional communities. It beggars belief. This is why we need to get health care right in Queensland. We need to get it right because people's health and wellbeing are on the line.

At the moment it is all going wrong. Bundaberg residents know it; they live it each and every day. After being promised a level 5 hospital by the now member for Bundaberg at the 2020 election, the people of Bundaberg can and should feel rightly aggrieved, because they are not getting a level 5 hospital. We know that. The member for Bundaberg cannot even say the name of a level 5 hospital. What are they actually getting, member for Bundaberg? Does the member actually know? It is a level 5 'service', which is very different to what was promised at the election. Does the minister actually know? Does the Premier actually know? The three members I have just named do not know what is going on in Queensland Health. They are losing control of it—so much so that they are now losing control of the ability to deliver the most basic healthcare service such as breast-screening services. For shame! It is not good enough. Those opposite should be and will be held to account at the next election.

(Time expired)

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (5.38 pm): I will awaken myself after that contribution from the member for Mudgeeraba. The reality that the LNP refuse to acknowledge, which they cynically campaign on every single day—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms KING: Well, that woke them up!—is that our Queensland health system has seen simply extraordinary growth in demand for services from Queenslanders who cannot get a GP appointment.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

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

Ms KING: Queenslanders cannot get a GP appointment when they need one and are showing up in our EDs in unprecedented numbers as a result. Since 2015 we have seen well over a 20 per cent increase in walk-in ED presentations and an over 45 per cent increase in ambulance arrivals. That is right across Queensland, including in Wide Bay and Bundaberg.

Instead of recognising that Queenslanders need more health care than ever before and asking why, members of the LNP endlessly talk down our health system. We heard that today from the members for Mudgeeraba and Burnett and we hear it every day from the Leader of the Opposition. They pretend to back our healthcare workers, but in fact they are criticising them. They are talking down their commitment and skills, they are undermining the outcomes they achieve for Queenslanders every day, they are backing the fake unions that are scaring Queenslanders about vaccination and they are making false claims about cuts despite our record health budget. Instead of asking why we are seeing this growth and picking up the phone to their Morrison government mates to ask them to help and back our GP system, they are attacking our health system and our health workers. They are out running interference for their LNP mates and Scott Morrison's failures in primary health care.

We have seen the Medicare rebate frozen for years, the number of GPs halved and distribution priority area status stripped from areas right across Queensland, including the Wide Bay and my area of Pumicestone. There are four-week waits to see a GP. GP clinics are closing across Queensland and people are showing up in our EDs in unprecedented numbers as a result. They are very welcome but it is putting pressure on our system. We love caring for Queenslanders. We welcome Queenslanders for care, but we need support and our health workers need support from a better supported GP system.

I recently met with Julie, the practice manager of a large GP practice in the member for Hervey Bay's electorate. She previously ran a GP practice in Caboolture. That GP practice sadly closed down because Julie could not recruit GPs anymore because in 2019 the Morrison government stripped distribution priority area status from our area. Julie could no longer recruit GPs to her practice. That left 1,000 Caboolture patients with nowhere to go and many of them have told me that they have not been able to get onto the list of a new GP. Many of those people have not been able to find a GP and they have ended up in our EDs. That will be the case right across the Wide Bay as well if Julie does not get more support. If GP practices, like the one she runs, do not get more support—

Mr Watts interjected.

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

Ms KING: If our GP clinics and our GP system do not get more support then our ED system will continue to fill up.

Let us talk about aged care. Those opposite never want to talk about aged care. Statistics show that there has been a 65 per cent increase in the number of transfers from residential aged-care facilities in the Wide Bay to local Queensland Health emergency departments in the last four years. Meanwhile, the number of nurse positions in aged care across Australia have dropped by 13 per cent. That is how the LNP backs health care right across Queensland. They do not back our healthcare workers. They do not back our healthcare system.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Member for McConnel, you are warned.

Ms KING: Every time the LNP come into this House and attack our hospital staff but are silent on Scott Morrison's GP failures—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Nanango, you are warned.

Ms KING:—they fail Queenslanders. They have no credibility whatsoever. They are the ones who cut—

Mr Hart interjected.

Ms KING: Nonsense. They are the ones who cut 4½ thousand health workers from our system right across Queensland. They also cut 345 health workers from the Wide Bay health service, 124 from aged care, six from cardiac rehab, 13 from community health, 77 from health and community care and two from emergency medicine. It is a disgrace for them to come in here and claim to be backing our health workers in the Wide Bay.

I ask the LNP: which hospitals did they plan to build when they were last in control of Queensland's health service? We know that the answer is a big fat zero. It was not them building satellite hospitals. It was not them planning to build a new hospital in Bundaberg. They did not back our health system. They did not back our health workers. They did not plan new hospitals. They fail Queenslanders and they fail our health system.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (5.43 pm): What a disappointing presentation from the blow-in member for Bundaberg. He is not even here for the rest of the debate.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr MOLHOEK: I withdraw that comment.

Ms GRACE: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. There are protocols in this place.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: While I am taking the point of order, could you resume your seat, member. You are unable to refer to the absence of members. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr MOLHOEK: I withdraw. What we have had presented to us today in the amendment to the motion is another classic Palaszczuk government promise. It is appropriate that they would do that today because we are approaching Christmas. Like so many of their promises, it is just another big shiny bauble. It looks great on the outside but has absolutely nothing on the inside. That is what the promise is with regard to the Bundaberg Hospital. It was an election stunt. During the election campaign we heard the member for Bundaberg talk about the delivery of a new hospital for Bundaberg, but where is it? Where are the plans?

One of things that greatly concerns me about the delivery of health services in this state is the propensity of this government to ignore the recommendations of the Queensland Audit Office and to ignore the pleas of the people of Queensland who are crying out for better health services in every part of the state. We saw several months ago a report from the Queensland Audit Office that basically said that there needed to be greater attention paid to the planning for sustainable health services across the state. In that report it referred to the need for better workforce planning. It referred to the complete and utter lack of strategic planning by Queensland Health.

Today those on the other side of the House have the audacity to say, 'Trust us. Things are under control. It is all going to be okay.' We still have not seen the concrete plans for this new service in Bundaberg. The member for Burnett is absolutely right to move this motion in the House tonight and raise legitimate concerns about the Labor government's failure to provide essential services in Bundaberg.

Right across the state health workers are crying out for greater support from this government. I note that the member for Mudgeeraba acknowledged the great work of health workers across the state. I have met many of them. I have visited 12 of our health services this year. I have met some wonderful people—amazing doctors, amazing nurses, amazing specialists and incredible people in our allied health services—who have been let down by this Labor government which has not provided the support, assistance and resources that our Queensland hospitals so desperately deserve. Not only that, in recent days we have heard about the \$400 million cut to health services across the state.

An opposition member: Efficiency cuts.


Mr MOLHOEK: Yes. They are called efficiency dividends. I thank God for our doctors and nurses on the front line. They are shouldering the burden of this shabby Labor government's shortcomings. Frankly, apart from dressing the wounds of those who come to our hospitals every day, our frontline workers are being called on every day to put more and more bandaids on the failing health system and make up for the shortcomings of this lazy Labor government.

The member for Thuringowa rolled out the same old cliché that it is unprecedented demand. We have unprecedented demand across the state and every hospital is struggling, but we do not have any COVID cases here. I do not know about others, but I am very concerned about how Queensland is going to cope should it come. How are we going to cope when the government has failed to plan? How are we going to cope when we do not have the workforce in place to meet the demands of the ailing health system across the state? How are we going to cope when we have bed shortages in almost every hospital across the state?

We hear stories of some of our hospitals—hospitals like the Gold Coast University Hospital and the Robina Hospital—that are operating at double their built capacity through their emergency departments and other departments. What plans are there for a new hospital on the Gold Coast? None. There may be a super GP clinic, or whatever one wants to call it, up at Coomera and maybe something at Varsity Lakes, but what the City of the Gold Coast needs is another hospital somewhere up in the north around Coomera—not some sort of bandaid that the government wants to apply, but a hospital that Queenslanders and Gold Coasters deserve.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Could you please advise the House whether the COVID rules still apply for seating arrangements? The member for Caloundra, Minister Ryan, Minister Grace and even the health minister are all sitting in the wrong seats over there. If it is the case that the rules have changed, that is fine, but we all should be notified.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): I will take some advice. The Speaker has not changed the rules. At this stage I would ask all members to return to their own seats please as per the current COVID rules.

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (5.49 pm): I support the motion as amended. If you ever want to know what really separates our government from those opposite, you need only look at the way they approach the health system. They see health as a cost. They see it as a burden—a burden on the budget—and a portfolio ripe with opportunities to slash funding and to sack workers. And didn't they set about that with a lot of enthusiasm? Of the 14,000 public servants they sacked—many of them by email; they could not even do it nicely—over 4,000 of them were health workers and 1,800 of those were nurses and midwives.

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! Let's put you on a warning, shall we? Member for Gregory, you are on a warning.

Mrs GILBERT: This year's budget included a record \$22.2 billion investment in health—53.3 per cent more than in the LNP's final budget in 2014. No HHS was spared by the LNP cuts including Wide Bay, which lost 345 health staff under the Newman government. I was really surprised when the member for Nanango defended sacking healthcare workers after the flood. That would have been devastating. The budget for Wide Bay this year was almost \$725 million—an increase of \$267 million, or 58.8 per cent, from what they received under the Newman government's last budget. Since we were elected, an additional 570 doctors, nurses and allied health professionals have joined the front line just in Wide Bay.

Ms GRACE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I think we need to be in our seats in the chamber. You just made the ruling.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The opposition whip is clearly undertaking duties related to their role.


Mrs GILBERT: We recognise the challenges that communities face. That is why we continue to invest in the provision of health services in the regions, including our commitment to build a new hospital in Bundaberg. The health needs of regional Queenslanders were never more neglected than they were during the dark years of the Newman government.

It is disappointing that this motion has been moved by the member for Burnett. I understand that he is undermining the health advice from the Chief Health Officer on vaccinations. The member for Burnett is not serving the interests of the people of Wide Bay. When the virus arrives, as it will, and those infected are not protected by vaccinations, what comfort will the member for Burnett offer those who become gravely ill because they have followed his reckless advice?

The processes for the construction of the Bundaberg Hospital are underway, with \$15 million allocated in this budget for the purchase of the preferred site and associated project costs to enable detailed site planning. This follows the \$6.6 million that we have already provided for the completion of a detailed business case. It is a project that the member for Burnett should be supporting instead of presenting motions that seek to undermine it.

Standing up for Burnett means backing projects that will save the lives of people who live there—like a new hospital to service the needs of the growing population of the Wide Bay area. I represent the regions too, and I will always fight to ensure that the people who live in regional Queensland get a fair deal when it comes to essential services. It is one of the reasons I am so proud to be a member of the Palaszczuk government, which continues to invest in health services and infrastructure across Queensland.

This motion is just a further reflection of the confusion that is gripping the opposition who try to make up a fake health crisis while seeming to ignore the genuine health threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The challenges we face require a serious and measured response, not the immature and negative campaigns that are being waged on a daily basis by the LNP. The new Bundaberg Hospital will deliver enhanced and expanded health services for the people of Bundaberg.

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (5.55 pm): It was very enlightening to hear from the health minister about their proud record in health and about their record investment in health when the opposition only just uncovered the hundreds of millions of dollars of health cuts to our state. It is just called another name: it is called an efficiency dividend. Come and speak to my local health service and others across the state who are experiencing the challenges of this government's efficiency dividends.

I will reiterate that there is no COVID across most of our health system. I believe there has been an announcement just now of a single case on the Gold Coast, but our hospitals are already under enormous pressure with no cases of COVID. Yet, apparently, we are in great shape. Where is the member for Bundaberg?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. The member will withdraw. You were here when that warning was issued before. You are very close to receiving a warning yourself.

Ms CAMM: I withdraw, Mr Deputy Speaker. When the member for Bundaberg speaks about the Bundaberg Hospital being a level 5 hospital, he is not speaking about a real level 5 hospital—perhaps just a hospital with five levels. When it comes to level 5 services, I think the community of Bundaberg and the community of Wide Bay are asking the question: how do you deliver level 5 services in built infrastructure that has not catered for level 5 services but they say is going to deliver level 5 services?

The member for Thuringowa outlined and blamed the federal government because that is what the state Labor government do when they mismanage budgets and when they mismanage resources: they blame the federal government. They refer to home care packages. They refer to the lack of GPs that we have across our state. I will remind the health minister about the lack of doctors and the lack of specialists that we have across our state—in particular, in Bundaberg and Mackay, where we have—important specialist roles—paediatricians, ENTs, gastroenterologists—that cannot be filled by this state Labor government. I ask the question: how can you continue to blame the Scott Morrison government yet you continue to increase the health budget across the state? I can tell you, Mr Deputy Speaker, it is called mismanagement and it is pretty clear from the statistics.

The member for Pumicestone outlined the statistics. I felt like I was in an ABS tutorial lesson. What was missed in those statistics was the increased ambulance ramping across our state, the waitlists across our state and the 200 people who walked out of the Bundaberg emergency department. That was raised in this House by the member for Burnett. Thank goodness that the community of Bundaberg have a good local member who crosses the borders. I can empathise with the member for Burnett. I understand the challenges when you have a member of the Labor government who borders your electorate but does not stand up for your local health and hospital service. The assistant minister for health, the member for Mackay, has been absent during the challenging times of the Mackay Base Hospital. She is not taking the phone calls of her constituents. I am receiving those calls in my office and bringing them forward into this chamber.


Is it acceptable that women have to wait more than eight weeks for a breast cancer screen? You do not need to be a doctor to know that BreastScreen exists for the early detection of breast cancer. That is why the federal government co-contributes to BreastScreen. The state's responsibility is to ensure it is adequately resourced. Right now the state government is failing the women of Bundaberg, who are unable to receive an early diagnosis from a lifesaving, simple, free test. That it is not good enough! A woman who lives in Bundaberg or any part of regional Queensland deserves the same standard of care as a woman who lives in South-East Queensland.

In relation to that point I want to correct the record. The member for Mackay referred to the member for Nanango not being a champion. Unlike the member for Mackay, who has been silent when it comes to maternity services in the Mackay Hospital and Health Service, the member for Nanango has been a champion for rural women when it comes to maternity services in rural and regional Queensland.

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Ms CAMM: I take that interjection.

(Time expired)

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (6.00 pm): It is interesting when those opposite come in here claiming to care about our hospital and health systems. They claim to care about the doctors and nurses who work in our hospital and health services across Queensland. In her contribution the member for Mudgeeraba made a compassionate plea to the nurses in Bundaberg, 'Please trust me. Trust the LNP.' It is complete tokenism and duplicity. It is as though 40 per cent of those on the frontbench opposite

have completely forgotten how they sat around that cabinet table and sacked 4,400 health workers—including 1,800 nurses and doctors—across the state. ‘Oh, no, that didn’t happen.’ Actually, that did happen. Those opposite sacked 4,400 health workers, so it is completely disingenuous, it is tokenism, to come in here and pretend to be the saviours of hospital and health workers and pretend to care, when those opposite were responsible for sacking thousands of health workers across our state.

It is as if they borrowed Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones’ memory zapper from *Men in Black*—‘zap’ and it’s gone—the Neuralyzer. I am sure they have borrowed that. Maybe it is available in the library. They completely now forget that they sacked those nurses. All of that bad blood, all of those jobs, all of those memories—gone! Erased! Those opposite are like, ‘Yeah, it’s all good. We don’t remember it, so it didn’t happen.’ But it did, and those nurses will never forget—

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member for Gregory, you can leave the chamber for one hour. You were under a warning.

Whereupon the honourable member for Gregory withdrew from the chamber at 6.02 pm.

Ms LAUGA: Those doctors, nurses and health workers will never forget what those opposite did to them. The Palaszczuk government has made record investments in Queensland’s health system, a fact that those opposite completely ignore time and time again, and Wide Bay is no exception. We on this side of the parliament are committed to delivering free world-class health care to all Queenslanders no matter where they live. That is why we are increasing funding to the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service to ensure that we can continue to provide this care to their community.

A key part of the Palaszczuk government’s commitment to ensuring that Queenslanders continue to receive the best health care possible is supporting an additional 9,475 frontline health workers over the next four years across the state. This includes an additional 5,800 nurses, 1,500 new doctors and an extra 475 paramedics. Since coming to office in 2015 we have provided consistent year-on-year increases to health funding in not only the Wide Bay region with improved services, more frontline staff and ongoing capital investment but we are doing exactly the same in the Central Queensland region too. In fact, the Palaszczuk government has increased funding for the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service by \$266.6 million since 2015.

Dr Rowan interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Moggill, you are warned.

Ms LAUGA: Those opposite are not talking about the increase in \$266 million worth of funding. That is a massive 58 per cent increase on the funding provided by the previous LNP government. Not only did they sack nurses, doctors and healthcare workers but since we came to government we had to replace those doctors, nurses and healthcare workers. We have also increased funding to our hospital and health services. Our investments have seen approximately 53 new beds added to the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service’s capacity, and that means better care for the people who need it most.

Unlike the LNP, we do not talk down our hardworking healthcare heroes: we talk them up. We make sure they have the resources they need to keep doing their vital work. Instead of sacking workers, we have invested in our frontline health workers with 98 additional doctors, 311 additional nurses, 161 additional allied health professionals, and 583 additional FTEs across the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service. What a great job they are doing! Despite facing some of the most challenging conditions in generations, our dedicated health workforce continues to provide health care of the highest quality. In fact, the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service has consistently met its elective surgery wait targets for the last seven years, which is a ringing endorsement of the service.

Labor will build a new hospital in Bundaberg, and I have no doubt it will be to the high standard that the people of Bundaberg deserve. I congratulate the member for Bundaberg on his hard work and advocacy to improve local hospital and health services in Bundaberg. He is a great local member, and I am constantly crossing paths with him in the corridors while he is wearing the carpet thin in front of the ministerial offices in this place because he is determined to stand up for Bundaberg. I support the amendment.

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

AYES, 48:

ALP, 48—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D’Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Madden, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O’Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

NOES, 32:

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

Grn, 2—Berkman, MacMahon.

Pairs: S. King, Simpson; McMillan, Crandon; Skelton, Lister.

Resolved in the affirmative.

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

AYES, 50:

ALP, 48—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Madden, Martin, McCallum, MacMahon, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

Grn, 2—Berkman, MacMahon.

NOES, 30:

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

Pairs: S. King, Simpson; McMillan, Crandon; Skelton, Lister.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Motion, as agreed—

That this House notes:

1. the increase in demand for health services in the Bundaberg and Wide Bay region;
2. that all Queensland hospitals, including the Bundaberg Hospital, are experiencing an increase in emergency department presentations due to a number of reasons, including GP access;
3. the Palaszczuk government's commitment for a new hospital in Bundaberg; and

endorses the Palaszczuk government's continuing record investment in the health system in Queensland, including in the Bundaberg region.

Order of Business



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (6.13 pm): I move—

That general business notice of motion No. 1, dissent from Speaker's ruling, standing in the name of the member for South Brisbane, be now called on.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Dissent from Speaker's Ruling



Dr MacMAHON (South Brisbane—Grn) (6.13 pm): I move—

That the Speaker's ruling of 17 November 2021, that the Big Bank Levy (COVID-19 Health Response) Bill 2021 is out of order because it is a revenue bill, be dissented from.

This is the second private member's bill that I have introduced in this place that has been struck from the *Notice Paper*. This time, as I said, I move dissent to the Speaker's ruling that the big bank levy bill is out of order because it is a revenue bill. My Greens colleague, the member for Maiwar, and I have been in touch with the government, urgently sharing with them the advice we have from Queensland constitutional law experts about this ruling. Our advice from legal experts, including those involved in the very drafting of the Queensland Constitution Act—

An honourable member: Name them.

Dr MacMAHON: I am getting to that. Our advice is that the Speaker's ruling is incorrect in saying that private members cannot make revenue proposals in this place without a note from the Governor. We are urging the government to support this motion of dissent from that ruling to allow the big bank levy bill to be debated. In a week when ASIC has launched six lawsuits against Westpac—including one for charging unauthorised fees to 11,000 of its deceased customers—it is more critical than ever that the government steps up to take on the big banks. If we debated and passed this bill, we would raise \$1 billion every year that we could be putting straight into our health system—

Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is clearly debating the content of the motion that was moved two weeks ago and not the procedural nature of the dissent motion. I ask her to come back to the procedural motion.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for South Brisbane, there is some relevance to that point of order. I know you have only just briefly touched on it. I will allow you some latitude, but please ensure that you are focused on the procedural motion before the House.

Dr MacMAHON: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Instead, the Speaker has ruled that my bill should not be debated because, on an incorrect reading of the Constitution, private members' bills cannot propose revenue-raising measures. Apparently, only ministers can do that. However, the advice we have received from the Hon. Alan Wilson QC, Professor Gerard Carney and Professor Graeme Orr is that the ruling is incorrect. In line with this advice, the bill must stand and the government needs to bring it on for debate in order to fix the looming health crisis.

It is staggering to see how conservative this government is compared to its Labor colleagues in other states. South Australia introduced a very similar bill in 2017. This government will not even support a mention of it in parliament. The crossbench should not be silenced on the basis of vague constitutional arguments. I would like to table this letter from the Hon. Alan Wilson QC, a retired Supreme Court judge, and Professor Gerard Carney, author of *The Constitutional Systems of the Australian States and Territories*, who was also involved in the very drafting of the Queensland Constitution. I table this advice.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 29 November 2021, from Hon. Alan Wilson QC and Professor Gerard Carney, to the member of Maiwar, Mr Michael Berkman MP, regarding advice on a ruling given by the Speaker on 17 November 2021, and a letter, dated 29 November 2021, from the University of Queensland Law School, Professor Graeme Orr, to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt, and the Clerk of the Parliament, Mr Neil Laurie, titled 'Status of non-government bills on taxation measures' [2035].

The letter cites sections 65 and 68 of the Queensland Constitution, which allow, on their proper reading, the parliament to consider non-government taxation bills. It goes on to say that this reading 'is informed by a consideration of UK and Australian Commonwealth, and Queensland'—

Ms RICHARDS: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. We had a ruling earlier from the Deputy Speaker in regards to congregating for discussions due to COVID.

Mr SPEAKER: I am already on top of it, thank you. Sorry for the interruption, member for South Brisbane. Please continue.

Dr MacMAHON: The letter said that this reading 'is informed by a consideration of UK and Australian Commonwealth, and Queensland, constitutional law and ... parliamentary practice (including the terms of the Queensland *Constitution Act 1867*)'.

In a Westminster system such as ours, constitutional conventions are critical. While parliamentary practice must evolve to keep up with community expectations, there needs to be a careful identification of what values we want to elevate in this practice. I find it very disappointing that Westminster conventions that enhance democracy, such as ministerial accountability, have eroded rapidly under successive Labor and Liberal governments, especially in the last two decades. Further, I would be so disappointed to see Labor support a ruling such as this that relies on Westminster conventions which are both misapplied and would greatly constrain democracy.

This letter respectfully says that the Speaker's ruling would have more force if it applied to legislation dealing with supply, rather than extending to taxation bills, which this is. To go into a little bit of constitutional detail, it points out that section 65 plainly invests the taxation power in the Legislative Assembly but section 68 only applies to appropriation bills. It is right there in black and white. There is nothing creative about this argument. We are being black-letter traditionalists when it comes to this. The letter states that there is nothing in the standing orders to go against this, and it concludes that the Speaker's ruling appears to be incorrect.

I would like to table another letter from Professor Graeme Orr, an expert on the law of politics including parliamentary law who is based at the University of Queensland law school.

He states that non-government bills proposing taxation measures are currently in order in the Queensland Legislative Assembly. It clearly explains how Queensland parliament is different from federal parliament. The Speaker's ruling relies on *House of Representatives Practice* when we are dealing with the Queensland Legislative Assembly. The Commonwealth Constitution does prevent the Senate from initiating taxation measures, but we do not have an upper house here in Queensland. In the federal lower house, it is standing orders that prevent anyone other than a minister from introducing taxation proposals, but there are no such standing orders here—just as there is no history of federalist compromise trying to make a strong upper house work in a Westminster system.

Professor Orr states that the UK provisions, whilst more liberal than the Commonwealth, are at most indications of evolving practice at Westminster. As an aside, this whole debate has really opened my eyes to how firmly the British colonial project is embedded in our legal and political system. Professor Orr concludes that this place is free to reform Constitution and standing orders if it wants to ban crossbenchers from making taxation proposals; however, it should do so after reflection, consideration by relevant committees and a vote.

We have also been scouring the extrinsic materials from the passing of the Queensland Constitution Act and any extrinsic materials around the 2011 change to standing orders. There is nothing in there to suggest that the drafting of these documents had the intent to cut private members out of making revenue-raising measures.

On this body of advice, and my own reading of Queensland's statutes and rules, it is clear that I, as a crossbencher, am free to make revenue proposals in Queensland parliament. It is also clear that the Queensland community wants more democracy from this government, not less. What is not yet clear is the government's position on this. Will it accept the advice of Queensland constitutional experts or will it rely on an incorrect ruling perhaps to suit its own ends to stifle democracy? At a time when the big banks are bolstered by \$188 billion in ultra-cheap loans from the Reserve Bank, they are as profitable as ever—

Mr KELLY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is going to the substance of the bill that has been ruled out of order.

Mr SPEAKER: I am being very careful to listen, member for South Brisbane. This must be procedural. You have been given guidance previously. Please continue.

Dr MacMAHON: Based on the weight of evidence that I have put forward today, it is essential that we debate this bill—particularly essential in light of the debate we have just had to fund our hospital system with the staff and beds it needs. I am urging all members in this House to support this motion to dissent from the Speaker's ruling, and I am urging Labor in particular to stand by the Queensland Constitution and democracy in this parliament.

Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (6.21 pm): I rise to oppose the motion moved by the member for South Brisbane, a motion of dissent from the Speaker's ruling of 17 November 2021. This ruling was made by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly on the morning of 17 November 2021 and deals with a private member's bill which was introduced by the member for South Brisbane on 27 October 2021 titled Big Bank Levy (COVID-19 Health Response) Bill 2021. The explanatory notes to the now discharged bill of the member for South Brisbane states—

The Bill will enact a 0.05% levy on the five biggest banks operating in Queensland ...

Parking to one side any potential constitutional issues with that proposed bill, the bill seeks to impose a levy thus creating a revenue source. As the Speaker stated in his ruling on 17 November 2021 at page 3533 of the *Record of Proceedings*, 'The Bill is clearly a Revenue Bill.'

Before I get to the standing orders and the reasoning I will outline, I will reflect on the debate and the comments made in support of the member for South Brisbane's motion. It is one thing to bring advice and to rely on or seek to put an argument around why there should be a dissent from the Speaker's ruling, but I believe that the language used around that dissent does reflect on the Speaker and the intent behind that finding, and I think that is offensive.

A motion of dissent from the Speaker's ruling is very rare in this chamber, for good reason. It is a reflection on the chair and it should only be done in the most serious of situations, with the clearest of evidence to support it. Although the member for South Brisbane seeks to rely on some advice, again, the language that was used is certainly seeking to impugn the Speaker in the intent behind that decision-making. Having said that, standing order 2(2) states—

Where statute, these Standing Orders, Sessional Orders or practice of the House do not provide for a matter, the Speaker in determining the correct procedure, may make reference to the rules, forms and practices of other Parliaments operating under the Westminster system.

The Speaker in this instance, on advice, I presume from the Clerk of the Parliament, looked at Erskine May and also *House of Representatives Practice*, which it was appropriate to do. The Speaker's ruling states—

House of Representatives Practice also provides:

'Financial initiative of the Executive'

What is called the 'financial initiative of the executive'—that is, the constitutional and parliamentary principle that only the Government may initiate or move to increase appropriations or taxes—plays an important part in procedures for the initiation and processing of legislation.

As someone who has served in this chamber for a number of years and also in the Australian parliament, in particular in the House of Representatives, I understand the importance of convention. Not every action or rule that we follow in this chamber is written down in statute, standing orders or sessional orders; sometimes it comes from convention. Putting a bit of paper over one's head during a division if a member wishes to seek the call to raise a point of order—this is a convention. Nodding to the Speaker as they enter and leave the chamber as a sign of respect—this is a convention. Not discussing the absence of a member in a speech in this chamber, which some members forget about—this is a convention. These conventions are enforced and we know that the Speaker will pull us up on these conventions. Convention is a form of practice which this parliament and other parliaments within the Westminster system operate within.

While I understand that the two Greens members are disappointed in relation to their bill being discharged, it is certainly not the first time that Greens members of this chamber have not understood the standing and sessional orders or the conventions and practices of this House.

The member for South Brisbane talks about the black letter of the law. Reading the black print in the standing orders and sessional orders would be a good start. I know that the member for South Brisbane has been a member of this chamber for only 396 days and the member for Maiwar has been a member for 1,467 days, so they could be forgiven for not knowing how this place works. I remember that during the last term the member for Maiwar tried to move an amendment to a bill and, from memory, he could not work out how or just gave up and indicated what was the point. It makes you think that perhaps the voters of Maiwar probably think the same thing. We know that the Greens members of this chamber have had issues with the standing rules and orders before and do not fully comprehend them. Just last year, the member for Maiwar was found in contempt by the Ethics Committee—

Mr BERKMAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. As the member for South Brisbane was brought back to the procedural substance of the motion, I ask that you make a ruling on the Leader of the House's current contribution.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Maiwar. As you would appreciate, I also gave some latitude to the member for South Brisbane in her contribution. Leader of the House, there is some relevance to that point of order. I ask you to come back to the substantive procedural motion.


Mrs D'ATH: Prior to this debate the two Greens members forwarded to the Speaker and the Clerk correspondence from academics and lawyers who hold a different view. That is their prerogative. The Greens have canvassed the views of members of the legal profession and academics with alternative views and opinions. That is fine. Everyone has the right to a view and their opinion. It is unfortunate that we do not know exactly what the Greens members asked the individuals. I note that the authors of one piece of correspondence did not canvass parliamentary convention and the other did not detail in full advice on this matter. Regardless, the Speaker's ruling stands. The ruling has taken into consideration a number of elements and, at the end of the day, it comes back to standing order 2, which states—

Where statute, these Standing Orders, Sessional Orders or practice of the House do not provide for a matter, the Speaker in determining the correct procedure, may make reference to the rules, forms and practices of other Parliaments operating under the Westminster system.

This is exactly what has occurred in this situation. The Speaker, on advice, looked at Erskine May and other jurisdictions, such as the House of Representatives, and made a determination.

As I said at the start of this debate, I also wish to point out to the Greens members that, although any member has a right to move dissent from a Speaker's ruling, such a motion is extremely rare. I just checked with the Clerk; he can only recall two in the last 15 years. I am happy to go back and double-check that, but there have been roughly two in the last 15 years. It is extremely rare due to the seriousness of such an action and should only be done in circumstances where a clear case exists of a very serious matter. I hope that this does not become an ongoing behaviour of the Greens every time they are not successful in following the standing orders or understanding convention or are just generally dissatisfied with a ruling.

I support the Speaker's ruling, the government supports the Speaker's ruling and I call on all members of this House to support the Speaker's ruling.

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (6.28 pm): I rise this evening to oppose this motion of dissent moved by the Greens political party member for South Brisbane. In doing so, Mr Speaker, I support your ruling. At the outset I associate myself with the remarks of the Leader of the House. Motions of dissent and rulings of the Speaker in this Legislative Assembly, as the Leader of the House has quite properly indicated, are a very rare and exceptional

event, and they should be only moved on the most rare and exceptional of occasions. This is not that motion and this is not that time. I do share the concerns of the Leader of the House that political motives will activate these sorts of motions in the future. That would be a grave threat to the conventions and the practice of this House and should in no way be tolerated.

Mr Speaker, in opposing this motion I take account of your extensive reasons which make the position very clear, particularly with respect to the financial initiative of the executive, something can I say that the Speaker of this parliament is very familiar with. In our system the revenue-raising capacity of government is authorised by parliament on application of the executive. This convention is well accepted, it is well established and it has been well established for centuries. It is reflected in our Constitution.

I note with interest the legal opinions relied upon by the Greens political party. I think respectfully the opinions of these individuals do not refute your rulings, Mr Speaker, which reflect amongst other things Erskine May and the *House of Representatives Practice*. Mr Wilson and Professor Carney are correct to observe that there is no obstacle arising from the Constitution to the assembly dealing with taxation and revenue, but the Constitution is not the only relevant matter here. The standing orders, the conventions, the custom and practice of the parliament must also be weighed, as you have done, Mr Speaker. Professor Orr is correct to observe that the financial initiative of the executive is a convention. Like any convention, it can be overridden by statute. However, the relevant convention in this case has not been overridden by statute. The financial initiative of the executive still stands in respect of revenue measures. In my view, it should not be overridden.

Mr Speaker, as your ruling makes clear, our system is constitutional government and our conventions are important and they are there for a reason. Unlike the Greens political party, the Australian Labor Party has a leader, we have a Premier and we form a government. The Premier and the government retain the confidence of this House and the Premier retains the financial initiative of the executive. It is not for individual MPs or minor parties to try to restructure the revenue arrangements of the executive. That is a matter for democratically elected governments that continue to retain the confidence of the Legislative Assembly. The Greens political party get their opportunity at the ballot box and on the floor of the House, but they do not get to dismiss important and well-established constitutional conventions and parliamentary conventions on a whim for political purposes.

The cornerstone of our state's democracy is representative parliamentary government. Importantly, as your ruling makes clear, Mr Speaker, parliamentary government does not mean government by the parliament. This is not a decision about the merits of the proposal by the Greens political party; this is about the higher principle—the Greens often lecture others about principles—and that principle is that money bills originate from the executive. People can debate the rights and wrongs of the specific convention, where it comes from, its history and why, but it is the convention and it forms a core component of our system of parliamentary representative democracy.

In my view, the convention reflects an imperative of good government. That imperative is as relevant today as it was 500 years ago. That imperative reflects the point that the legislature should not obstruct or impede the financial continuity of the government so long as the government retains the confidence and support of the legislature.

If the Legislative Assembly wishes to remove the government, it should do so by expressing no confidence. The legislature should not tolerate political stunts that wilfully obstruct the financial arrangements of the government. If we open the door to that kind of interference that the Greens political party are suggesting, then we open the door to 1975—1975 when the Australian Senate wilfully, deliberately and shamefully interfered with parliamentary conventions and constitutional conventions that obstructed the supply of the Whitlam Labor government, one of our nation's most progressive federal governments. No matter how they seek to cloak it or how they seek to hide it, that is exactly what the Greens political party seeks to do. Their motion, if it were successful, would unleash the same reactionary forces that abused parliamentary process to traduce constitutional and parliamentary convention to bring down one of our nation's greatest progressive governments, a progressive Australian Labor Party government.


Reactionaries always use false constructs to harm progressive governments. We saw it in 1975 from the Liberal and National Parties and we saw it again in 2009 when, again, it was the Australian Senate which voted down the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme. All members should support your ruling, Mr Speaker, and resist this reactionary alternative.

The Greens political party are not in government, they have never been in government and they never will be.

Mr BERKMAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Again, the Treasurer's comments bear no relevance whatsoever to the motion that we are debating at present and I would seek your ruling on that point.

Mr SPEAKER: I ask you to resume your seat, member. I have been listening very carefully to the contribution by the Treasurer and it is clear that he has, by and large, spoken about nothing but parliamentary convention and a range of things related to standing orders. It is in order and I will ask the Treasurer to continue.

Mr DICK: In conclusion I say this. The Greens political party are not in government, they have never been in government and they never will be in government. That is because they will always be a party of protest and never a party of government. They have nothing to administer except their electorate offices. They should stick to their core business and focus on what they are good at, which is carping and criticising. All I say is I support your ruling, Mr Speaker, and I oppose this dissent motion.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (6.36 pm): I rise to oppose this motion moved by the member for South Brisbane and supported by the member for Maiwar and I support the Speaker's ruling. Two weeks ago when the initial ruling was made it did not surprise me to see that because I know the gap between what the Greens party promise and their inability to deliver it. I must say I was amused by their incompetence and I am amazed that they have come back in to highlight their incompetence a second time. That is what is going on here today. They are coming back to their inability and their lack of knowledge about democratic Westminster process and convention.

This is not a motion; this is a tantrum—a tantrum by two Greens party MPs who promise what they cannot deliver and in one case, after four years in this chamber, still does not understand basic tenets of the Westminster democratic system and parliamentary procedure. It is embarrassing that we are having this debate at all.

This is a very serious motion, as the Leader of the House has outlined. This is the kind of motion that would potentially be moved when there is a government or a situation in absolute peril, and that is clearly not the case in this state. This is a pathetic attempt at a social media post or campaign to characterise the major parties as somehow being similar, which is ridiculous. It is embarrassing that we are even having this debate.

Mr BERKMAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I struggle to see how a social media post is in any way relevant to the procedural motion that we are debating presently.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members. The House will come to order. Minister, you are straying somewhat, but you have also been relevant at times to the procedural motion. I just caution you to ensure that you are remaining true to the motion. Member for Maiwar, I appreciate your points of order, but I do not need continual points of order being raised. I am in control of this debate and I will continue to rule.

Mr BAILEY: Thank you, I respect your guidance, Mr Speaker. We have heard the member for South Brisbane come in here today talking about the unfairness that her bill was ruled out of order. It is the fault of no-one here other than the Greens party that they do not understand how this parliament works. The rules of this place are informed by many sources including standing orders, the Constitution and convention, whether the member likes it or not. That has been long established for decades and centuries.

For the Greens to come in here and suggest that they know better than a democratic system that has been going for a century and a half is the height of arrogance and elitism. That is what it is and it has to be called out for what it is. Parliamentary convention plays a fundamental role in parliamentary practice and it has been developed over many years. Those conventions have long been upheld by many Speakers and many governments of all persuasions. That is how important they are and that is why this institution has prevailed for so long, and that should come as no surprise to the Greens party which is once again trying to throw that out the window all for the sake of a political point that they are going to be making. It is what we have come to expect from both of those members. They talk a big talk out there, but once they come into this place it is all about the vibe and not about the method or the strategy.

I point out to the members for Maiwar and South Brisbane that the Speaker's ruling and this debate are not dealing with the merits of the bill—it is a procedural debate—but what we are dealing with here is whether or not this House wishes to deviate from the longstanding Westminster

parliamentary principle that money bills be introduced by the government. This is a basic tenet of parliamentary democracy and it deserves to be upheld and supported. Imagine what would happen if the member for Toowoomba South or the member for Kawana came in here tomorrow and said, 'Let's do an LNP budget and here's our cuts, sacking and selling.' It would be opposed by every other party in this place, I can guarantee it.

Let us look at the principle of this, and it is a bizarre dissent motion. We have elections for reasons and last year the people of Queensland put their faith in this Premier and this government. We submitted ourselves to the Governor who commissioned us as the government. They did not put their faith in the Greens party as a government. In fact, it has to be stated that the Katter party has greater political clout in this House than the Greens party and yet here we have the Greens party moving a dissent motion, which should ordinarily be an incredibly important motion, for frivolous reasons. Queenslanders put their faith in this government as a strong and progressive government and it is only the Labor party in this state that achieves progressive change, whether that is decriminalising abortion, banning tree clearing despite amendments moved by the member for Maiwar to water it down, legislating for voluntary assisted dying and many other social reforms.

Parliamentary convention, rules and democratic processes are to be respected if we want the longevity of this institution and this method of government to prevail in the long term. This is a parliament, not a student union. For the Greens party to come in here on false pretences with policies that they have no strategy to deliver and blame long established Westminster democratic convention and rules is the height of arrogance and elitism. It is undemocratic to be blaming democracy for their failure to deliver on their promises. Let me just say this: the Speaker is in his second term in the chair and is, I think, widely respected and one of the most respected Speakers that I have seen in this place. He is there for a second term for good reason. I think he has a very strong reputation as being impartial and fair in this chamber. That cannot be said of all Speakers, I might say. I am not going to name names here, but that cannot be said of all Speakers. However, this Speaker has the respect of this House and I respect his decision in this regard because it is consistent with what a Speaker who supports the Westminster democratic system would do.

Let me make a couple of closing points. Firstly, I have never met the gentlemen who have provided some advice to the Greens MPs, but in the cases of Mr Alan Wilson and Gerard Carney the advice has been given in haste. They say so themselves. We do not know what question was posed or what information was supplied to them. They say themselves that the opinion is pro bono and does not engage with nor consider events and circumstances which led to the ruling. That is an extraordinary caveat that the advice does not canvass constitutional convention and standing order 22. We are seeing some advice that is partial at best—and I make no reflections on the gentlemen informed—but they say so themselves in their advice.


In the case of Mr Orr, his advice does not detail the full convention of the financial imperative of the Crown—a basic tenet of Westminster democracy—detailed in the Speaker's ruling and spelt out in Erskine May and *House of Representatives Practice*. Professor Orr refers to statute and standing orders but seems to neglect direct mention of the other sources of parliamentary law, a surprising omission from someone who says they are an expert in parliamentary law. We have some partial advice from some Greens party MPs who have no way of achieving what they put out there in the community—none whatsoever. They have no strategy and no policy. Moving a motion against 150-plus years of parliamentary convention is just an embarrassment. It is an embarrassment. This is a party that is vacuous, they make big promises and they have no way of delivering them as opposed to this government—this progressive Labor government—which gets things done, which knows how to achieve our policies, which makes sure that we deliver our policies as a government and when we go to an election we outline exactly how we have achieved them as we promised at the last election.

It is pretty straightforward and that is what integrity in government is all about. It is not about having utopian promises out there with no way of delivering them and then blaming the parliament and blaming the Speaker and blaming other people. That is childish. That is a tantrum. That is not a strategy—

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, I will ask you to make sure that you are coming back to the procedural elements of it.

Mr BAILEY: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The fact that we are having this dissent motion at all is a reflection on the vacuousness of the Greens MPs here today. I have a printout here which I will not table—I do not want to overburden our staff for something that is readily available—from the Queensland parliamentary website where you can find a very simple fact sheet relating to the legislative

process and the making of an act. It shows the basics of parliamentary democracy. It is something that high school students do wonderful assignments on because they understand the Westminster system better than the members for Maiwar and South Brisbane who are pulling a stunt here today, and it is to the detriment of our democracy that they do so. It is undemocratic, it is elitist, it is ignorant—wilfully and deliberately ignorant—of parliamentary procedure and it ought to be voted down.

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (6.46 pm): Mr Speaker, it is a pleasure to rise in relation to this debate to support your ruling and oppose the motion put forward by the member for South Brisbane. I have read the ruling again while preparing for this debate and read the various pieces of advice that were proffered. It took me back to my experience of being the chair of the Ethics Committee for three years, and there were a couple of key things that I learnt in that role. The first one was that you had to read widely, take a huge amount of advice and question, question, question again and take your time to reach decisions about matters of parliamentary practice. The second lesson I learnt was that we all have an obligation to look to the deeper principles of the parliament.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mr KELLY: I acknowledge the then deputy chair of the Ethics Committee. While there is very little we agree on, we definitely agree on that need to look to the broader principles of parliamentary democracy. Sadly, once again we find ourselves here in the chamber wasting our time and wasting the time of this parliament on a Greens political party vanity project primarily based on their ignorance of parliamentary democracy and practice both as individual MPs and as a party.

I certainly do not claim to be an expert on parliamentary democracy or its practice. In fact, like most people, I was fairly ignorant of how this place actually worked before I got here, but I did know what it did was important. I think Otto von Bismark talked about laws and sausages and not wanting to see either of them made. I have now seen laws made and I am not lining up for the sausages. I have come to this place many times since 1989—never inside, always outside and generally as part of a union—starting in 1989 protesting against the vestiges of the Bjelke-Petersen government and following on—

Mr BERKMAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Greenslopes's union membership and the making of sausages in parliament bears no relevance to the procedural motion that we are debating. I would ask for your ruling on that.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member. I will give some guidance here, and that is that, even when looking at long titles of bills and looking at bills for particular purposes in legislative debates, some allowances are made and I have allowed all members to get to their point and if they have not I have made sure I have pulled them up on that. I have tried to give that guidance. I would appreciate that you allow me to do my job in terms of ruling on relevance.

Mr KELLY: I protested against many and varied things: Kennett and Hewson's WorkChoices preamble, the Iraq War, and the Beattie, Bligh and Newman governments. I could have pitched a tent for the Newman government, though. Most recently I was pleased to be part of the Women's March 4 Justice. I will admit my ignorance for most of this time, but I will say that I was part of a movement that understood this place and how it could be used to truly change our society.

After seven years in this place, including time on committees, time as a committee chair, deputy chair of the PCCC, chair of the Ethics Committee and now being honoured to be the Deputy Speaker, I would still say that I am no expert, but I have learned enough to find that the ruling by the Speaker is one of the most important and fascinating that I have read—and I read them all. It goes right to the core of the important principles underpinning our Westminster parliamentary system of democracy.

The Greens political party are once again demonstrating their disdain for this parliament. Firstly, they brought a bill without seeking guidance or advice. Of course they have the right to bring bills without seeking guidance or advice, but perhaps they should be big enough that when they get that wrong they should accept the consequences of not seeking that advice. Secondly, they have challenged the decision of the Speaker. Again they have the right, but they should think long and carefully before challenging the decision of the Speaker and what it means for the practices of this parliament.


I do not believe for a second they do this through ignorance. The Greens political party do this so that they can go into the community and peddle their persecutionist fantasy that they are being shut down by the major parties. This is completely wrong. The truth is they are being shut down by a culmination of about a thousand years of parliamentary practice in our Westminster parliamentary system of democracy, one of the strongest, fairest, most stable and enduring systems of governance

in the world. The real message from this ruling, the real message that should be taken to the community, is that the Greens political party will never achieve anything unless they become the government, and they will not become a government unless they do what Labor does—seek to govern fairly for all Queenslanders, seek to unite and elevate all Queenslanders.

Let us consider the first 50 years of parliamentary practice as related to both the Greens and the Labor Party. After 50 years, the Labor Party in Australia was forming a federal government and responding to the national emergency of World War II. It had a long track record of governance at every level of government. It had gotten rid of, and would do so again, even at great pains to itself, people who did not believe in parliamentary democracy. It comprised what I would like to call Laborites, people who believed in parliamentary democracy and practice and sought to use it. After 50 years, the Greens political party fumble around trying to grab a few votes on the edge of politics, making fundamental parliamentary practice mistakes—

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Greenslopes, I will ensure that you do come back. You are straying. Can I also use this opportunity to let the member for Maiwar know that waving your arms in the chamber is not acceptable to gain the attention of the Speaker. I wish to also let you know that regardless of the time you will be allowed to have your full quota of 10 minutes because this debate started late. I will use the discretion of the Speaker to ensure that this debate is concluded this evening to alleviate any concerns you may have ahead of time.

Mr KELLY: As I said, making fundamental parliamentary practice mistakes. I certainly do not support this motion. The ruling from the Speaker is sound. It preserves good parliamentary practice that underpins good governance and ultimately a good and fair society based on the rule of law, and all MPs on this side of the House support that.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (6.53 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the motion dissenting from the ruling of the Speaker on 17 November 2021 that the Big Bank Levy (COVID-19 Health Response) Bill 2021 is out of order because it is a revenue bill. With the greatest of respect for the Speaker, I believe the ruling is wrong at law and is undemocratic in its outcome. I want to make clear that this dissent motion is not moved lightly and I want to make crystal clear that we took the Clerk's advice before the introduction of the bill and that advice is that there is no clear position.

We base our dissent on our own interpretation of the Constitution of Queensland Act 2001 and the standing orders, but also on the advice of three pre-eminent experts in Queensland constitutional law. I am quite shocked at the dismissive and disdainful way government members have approached that advice from three such pre-eminent experts. There has been no response to the points of law raised in those advices. They have been described as incompetent, a tantrum and ignorant of parliamentary practice. It is shocking. The experts that we have referred to whose advice we have provided are the Hon. Alan Wilson QC, a former justice of the Supreme Court of Queensland, Professor Gerard Carney, one of Australia's foremost experts on state constitutional law and a person intimately involved in the drafting of the Constitution of Queensland Act 2001, and, finally, Professor Graeme Orr, arguably the authority on the law of parliaments in Queensland. I table the letter from Professor Orr.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 29 November 2021, from the University of Queensland Law School, Professor Graeme Orr, to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt, and the Clerk of the Parliament, Mr Neil Laurie, titled 'Status of non-government bills on taxation measures' [\[2036\]](#).

On Monday of this week we shared our advice from Professor Orr and the joint advice from Justice Wilson and Professor Carney with the Speaker, the Clerk, the government, the opposition and all crossbench MPs, and I repeat that I am shocked at how little attention has been given to the detail of that advice in this debate. Everyone seems to agree that neither the Constitution of Queensland Act nor the standing orders, nor any other statute or law prevents non-government members from introducing tax bills. Section 68 of the Queensland Constitution explicitly prohibits non-government appropriations or budget bills, but does not mention tax bills. Beneath that, standing order 174 goes only as far as the Constitution. Again, there is an explicit prohibition on non-government budget bills, but no mention of non-government tax bills like our big bank levy. As Professor Orr notes in his letter—

The old statutory interpretation principle that the express mention of one thing implies the exclusion of another, is barely needed to conclude that the intended—and literal—meaning of the 2001 Constitution is to permit non-government measures dealing with taxation.

Supporting that interpretation is the fact that the current version of the standing orders dates from 16 June 2011, but before this time former standing order 165 did directly prohibit non-government tax bills. That explicit prohibition was removed by the Assembly when it adopted the new standing orders in 2011. The Committee of the Legislative Assembly formulated those new standing orders, but this

week the secretariat has declined my request that they release the committee's documents, so we cannot confirm whether this issue was considered in detail. As Justice Wilson and Professor Carney put it in their letter—

The Speaker's ruling might, again with respect, have more force if it sought to apply only to legislation dealing with supply. When it seeks to extend to taxation bills, however, it runs up against the fact that s.65 plainly invests the taxation power in the Legislative Assembly, but s.68 only applies, on its face, to appropriation Bills. So far as we are aware there is nothing in the Standing Orders which overrides that relatively plain, black-letter construction. In that analysis, the Speaker's ruling appears to be incorrect.

Mr Speaker relies on what he calls in the ruling the 'well accepted constitutional convention'—the 'financial initiative of the Executive', drawing on commentary, as we have heard from others, in Erskine May in relation to the UK parliament and *House of Representatives Practice* in relation to the federal Australian parliament. In drawing on those outside traditions, the Speaker has referred to standing order 2, which clearly allows the Speaker to rely on practices of other Westminster parliaments where the standing and sessional orders do not provide guidance. That would be quite proper if the law in Queensland did not provide guidance on this question, but the available expert opinion and our own interpretation finds that it does. As Professor Orr says of the rule in the Commonwealth *House of Representatives Practice* prohibiting non-government tax bills—

The Commonwealth rule is reasonable. But it is not the law in Queensland. And its instructive value is limited since it is just a Standing Order, nestled within a constitutional framework that otherwise permits non-government taxation bills in the lower house, a framework itself a federalist compromise concerned with the powers of a strong Senate, a hybrid grafted onto a Westminster base.

He says—

Similarly, the UK provisions, whilst more liberal than the Commonwealth, are at most indications of evolving practice at Westminster.

He goes on to say—and in my view this is at the core of the Speaker's error—

Conventions, whether from Westminster or in Australia, rest on precedents and evolve. They give way to black-letter rules.

The black-letter rule in Queensland—section 68—does not mention tax bills, so the question is what does that mean for the scope and content of the convention of the financial initiative of the executive? The people responsible for drafting the new Constitution Act in the 1990s, the Constitutional Review Commission, and the parliament which then adopted the new Constitution did actually describe their understanding of the convention. The commission, in its July 1999 issues paper, described what would become section 68 as affirming a monopoly on initiation of appropriations—with no mention of tax bills. As Professor Orr notes—

Neither the Parliament nor the Commission could have been unaware of the option to provide for executive control over the initiation of taxation measures, given (i) the Commonwealth position, (ii) historical debates and, above all, (iii) that s.18 of the old Constitution Act 1867, included 'any ... tax or impost' in the class of bills reserved solely to government initiative.

Indeed, that narrower definition of the convention was consistent throughout the whole process of drafting and consolidating the Constitution from 1993 until 2001. Thanks to the diligence of the Parliamentary Library, I have had the chance to review every single report and issues paper produced by the Electoral and Administrative Review Commission, or EARC as it was called, the relevant parliamentary committees and the later Queensland Constitutional Review Commission. There were seven reports in total. All of them describe the convention as applying only to budget bills, not to tax bills.

In addition to the black-letter interpretation that quite plainly distinguishes between appropriations and revenue bills, Professor Orr's opinion very helpfully sets out some of the important differences that warrant this distinction and make the case against a blanket application of the anachronistic convention to both. Most important is the relationship between appropriation bills, or supply, and the confidence of the parliament in the government of the day. He refers to the importance of this convention in both the formation and dissolution of governments. He cites the well-known 1975 constitutional crisis, which stemmed from a failure of the Whitlam government to secure supply, and the formation of minority governments—including this government in 2015—depending on agreements of confidence and supply. Conversely, revenue bills have no such bearing on the fundamental underpinnings of responsible government.

Again I quote from Professor Orr's opinion—

If a taxation measure is blocked, governments can borrow any shortfall. In public finances, taxation revenues are not predictable anyway, so complete government control of taxation measures is not critical. 'Money in' fluctuates, depending on economic conditions. In contrast, expenditure—supply bills—are not only vital under the rule of law, they are more predictable and controllable.

Another key distinction is that taxes or levies are increasingly used as policy tools to change behaviours rather than to simply raise revenue. We see taxes being routinely used to discourage undesirable or harmful behaviours—so-called ‘vice taxes’—or as incentives to drive positive behavioural changes through tax breaks.

What is more, our parliament is unusual in that it is a unicameral legislature. I do not think anyone here can honestly deny that this creates a democratic deficit, and our view is that your ruling, Mr Speaker, on this issue more deeply entrenches this deficit. The government might prefer it this way, but denying non-government members access to basic procedures like this weakens our already strained democracy.

Our hospitals and schools are underfunded and struggling to keep up. This is a wealthy state, but successive Labor and LNP governments have not raised the revenue we need. In concrete terms that means that wealthy and powerful companies and people are hoarding the resources that we all need. There are plenty of ideas sitting around to fix it, starting with our bill which is under discussion here. A state based levy on the five biggest banks—

Mrs D’ATH: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The member himself has continually sought to have members on this side brought back to what we are debating, that is, the dissent motion and not the alternatives that there can be to their bill.

Mr SPEAKER: I appreciate the point of order. I will continue to listen carefully to the member. Member, you have one minute and 14 seconds remaining.

Mr BERKMAN: There are plenty of other ideas that the Greens are proposing, including increasing mining royalties on coal and gas to pay for good jobs in a new economy—

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

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Miller, I gave some guidance to the member for Maiwar who was seeking to rise to points of order. I have just ruled on the point of order raised by the Leader of the House. I will continue to listen to the points being raised. What is your point of order?

Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker, I respect your ruling and, in fact, the very first sentence from the member for Maiwar I believe went absolutely against your ruling. That is why I was seeking relevance.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member. I have the situation under control.

Mr BERKMAN: Other options include a tax on windfall profits enjoyed by big property developers and a vacancy tax on empty homes. The government does not want to hear about these options, but if the government continues to avoid them then none of those proposals, or any others, can be properly debated in this parliament unless non-government members of parliament are allowed to introduce legislation such as the bill that this ruling would rule out.

The wealthy and powerful in Queensland will be very happy if the government refuses to support this motion tonight and if your ruling is allowed to prevent the Big Bank Levy (COVID-19 Health Response) Bill from being debated. Powerful people across Queensland like this arrangement just fine. They like it that non-government and crossbench members of parliament, including the Greens, might not be able to propose a bill to make them pay their fair share. They would be thrilled if we are not allowed to introduce legislation to raise royalties on mining or tax property developers on their windfall super profits because, yes, the status quo suits them just fine.

When both major parties are looking out for big corporations and millionaire CEOs rather than regular Queenslanders, our job as crossbench members of parliament is to talk about ideas that they will not touch. The Greens do not take corporate donations so we work for regular people and not billionaires.


(Time expired)

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

Resolved in the negative under special sessional orders.

ADJOURNMENT

Henderson, Mr JD

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (7.10 pm): Last Wednesday at the Gold Coast Turf Club I had the honour of attending the memorial service for a great Gold Coaster, a real estate icon in Mermaid Beach, an enormous supporter of lifesaving in the community and, above all, a wonderful

family man. John Dudley Henderson—Johnny, to his family—passed away on Thursday, 11 November after 79 years of a life well lived, surrounded by his wife, Jan, and supported by his sons, David, Andrew, Luke, and their families. Testimonials to his generous, fun-loving and family focused lifetime mantra epitomised his positive attitude to life and was best summed up by son Luke's final words: 'Sadly missed but never forgotten.'


Johnny moved to the Gold Coast after an early career as a stock and staging agent with Elder Smith Goldsborough Mort in Western Queensland, honing his auctioneering skills, but he soon realised there was more commission to be made on houses on the Gold Coast than in selling sheep and cattle and started up his own real estate company, John Henderson Real Estate. A short while later he realised the great advantage of being part of the Professionals Real Estate group and joined that franchise.

While he was a busy real estate agent, his sons had started nippers at the local Nobby's Beach Surf Life Saving Club. John did not have the opportunity to support the children as much as he would have liked physically because of his work commitments, so he started donating financially to make up for it. To date, his charitable foundation has donated over \$1 million to the three clubs in his area—which is also my area—and I am sure those donations have resulted in the saving of many lives by our lifesaving fraternity with equipment purchased through Johnny's benevolence.

John was also a keen horseracing man. Hence, the holding of his memorial service at the Gold Coast Turf Club was a most fitting send-off. John was the proud winner of the Melbourne Cup with Fiorente, and I remember well his hosting celebrations at the Mermaid Beach Surf Club and passing 'the cup' around to be photographed by one and all. I particularly fondly remember another one of his winners, Descardo, which won the Caulfield Cup at 20 to 1. This made me very popular as a tipster at the annual Taroom Cup, where I watched the race as the shadow racing minister on one of my many working days as a politician.

In summary, John Dudley Henderson was a highly respected businessman, community supporter, family man and generous benefactor. He will be sorely missed in our community, but I know that his legacy will live on through the outstanding local work and commitment of his sons Luke and Andrew. To his wife, Jan, and their extended family: my deepest sympathy to you on Johnny's passing. The Mermaid Beach community's gratitude for his life well lived has been set in stone.

Clontarf Academies; Project Booyah

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (7.13 pm): I rise to talk about Clontarf academies. I am proud to have three of those academies in my electorate of Thuringowa and to support them. They are located in Heatley Secondary College, Kirwan State High School and Thuringowa State High School. We have a fourth academy in the Townsville electorate, at Townsville State High School. All up, in North Queensland there are 625 students in those academies, and they are fantastic. I went to every single one of their graduations just recently in the Thuringowa electorate.

I give a shout-out to the team. Kirwan has 238 students and it is run by Kelvin Caspani; Heatley has 106 students and it is run by Nathan Murphy; and Thuringowa has 118 students and it is run by Rhys Matsen. That is 466 young, proud Indigenous men in those three academies in Thuringowa. I saw 44 of them graduate with their QCE. Most, if not all, have already picked up employment, which is fantastic. Townsville State High School also has 102 students and it is run by Luke McInerney. I note that Mackay—normally Julieanne is here—also has an academy with 72 students and it is run by Mena. In 2022 we will see 90 students enter year 12. I am a proud supporter of Clontarf because its aims are to keep people in education.


Mr Watts: Hear, hear!

Mr HARPER: I take that interjection. They are achieving that and more. They are making sure that people stay in education, graduate with a QCE and then gain employment, skills or training. This is fantastic. They continue to punch above their weight in terms of outcomes. I look forward to an opportunity—I am talking with the Speaker and the Minister for Education—to potentially host Clontarf students in parliament in February 2022. They will all be down here. I think there are 11 academies throughout the state. There could be more. I know that the Far North has six academies as well. I welcome all members attending those if we can pull it off. I am working with the Speaker and the education minister. As I said, they continue to punch above their weight in terms of outcomes.

I also acknowledge the eight young women who recently graduated from Project Booyah in Thuringowa. It is another great program. Some 83 per cent are returning to education. They get skills. Some of the parents at the graduation were really proud to see their young women. A couple of cohorts

of young women have completed that course. I was really pleased with the way they articulated themselves and spoke so proudly. What Project Booyah has done for those young people is second to none. I congratulate Jan and the team at Project Booyah in Townsville.

Laidley and Lockyer, Community Centres


 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (7.16 pm): Christmas is a wonderful time of the year for many of us, with holidays approaching or catching up with loved ones and family. Christmas is also a sad time for many who are vulnerable in our community. Tonight I pay tribute to the Laidley Community Centre and the Lockyer Community Centre, two of the jewels in the crown of the human and social services of the Lockyer Valley.

At the Laidley Community Centre, Alana Wahl and her team do an amazing job coordinating their volunteers and their workers to deliver really great services to our community. Anybody who is in need in our community can go down to that centre, get some wonderful referral advice and have their needs met. I first became aware of these centres when I was a police officer, being able to help people in the community. If we could not help them, we knew that the community centres could. The Laidley Community Centre has a new management committee: president Adrian Shepley, vice-president Michelle Considine, Treasurer Pat Morgan, secretary Margaret Fisher and board members Jim Nicholls, Barbara Golden, Catherine Batterham-Baker and Shar Nichols. Of course, we also gave life membership to Aynur Karaman and we thank Ian Daniels for his work.

I also pay tribute to the Lockyer Community Centre, ably run by Linda Roberts and her team with Michelle and Shari. I was down there just the other day with Annie. The Christmas spirit is alive and well at the Lockyer Community Centre in Gatton. We even have referrals from all of the cafes in the town. They tell people to go down to the community centre and have a look at their wonderful sensory garden. That is of particular interest to those who might have dementia or Alzheimer's or who are just thinking about some of the things of the past. It is a wonderful experience for them. Again, they have great outreach for all of our community, but they have some specially funded programs regarding drought assistance as well as emergency relief.

What these people do for our community is just so helpful. They are able to give so much great advice to our community. As I said, Christmas is usually a wonderful time of the year for most of us, but for those who are vulnerable these community centres do a great and invaluable job. Particularly with COVID this year, there is a lot of stress on people in our communities. I pay tribute to the Laidley Community Centre and the Lockyer Community Centre and their volunteer management committees. I mention president Sandra Bogan, secretary Mark Cresswell and treasurer Gabrielle Smith of the Lockyer Community Centre. I thank them and all of the volunteers.

Dollin, Mr R

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (7.19 pm): The day 5 November was not a good day for the Maryborough electorate. We lost one of our Labor legends, a tremendous man—Bobby Dollin. Bob was the Labor member for Maryborough from 1989 until 1998. Bob was a mentor of mine. When I decided to run for the state seat of Maryborough I spoke to Bob. Bob's knowledge of the timber industry was second to none. I am going to miss that knowledge. He was fantastic. He did good things as the member for Maryborough.

I know Bobby was a good member because I was at the markets just after he passed away and a bloke came up to me and said, 'I made two mistakes in my life.' I said, 'What were they?' He said, 'I got a tip for the Melbourne Cup and I did not back it and I did not vote for Bob. I was working at Downer and after Bob got thrown out of office'—in his words not mine—'we had 700 staff and we finished up with 122. I did not appreciate how good a member he was until after that happened.'


Bobby Dollin was tremendous for our community. One thing about Bob—one of our Labor legends—was that his handshake was his bond. Once someone shook Bob's hand the deal was done. They did not have to go back and second-guess it. They did not have to go back and read to make sure page 34 was correct. Bob always made sure that once he agreed to something he stuck to it.

I had many a conversation about timber with Bob. We know that Bob had sawmills throughout his life. At the funeral we were told how he had a very tough life as a young bloke. He started off cutting timber in New South Wales. He never told me he was born in New South Wales. Maybe he did not want me to know that he had to wear a blue jersey at a time.

We can tell the character of the man when those who worked for Bob were all there saying what a great boss he was. He paid the right wages and looked after them. Bob's family is fantastic. I have known them a long time. His wife, Verlie, is a fantastic lady. His son Stephen works at Downer in Maryborough building the trains. His other children are Stewie, Maree, Michelle and Katrina. They are a working family. They are good people. Bobby's legacy in Maryborough is second to none.

In my electorate office I have a photograph of former members Brendan Hansen and Bobby Dollin. I am going to miss him because I will not be able to pick up the phone anymore and say, 'Bob, what do you think about this in terms of the timber industry? Do you think they should go this way? What information do I need?' He educated me about timber. Bob was a living legend in the Wide Bay and the Maryborough electorate. I am going to miss you, mate. Condolences to the Dollin family.

Peadon, Mr C; Resources Industries

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (7.22 pm): I would like to acknowledge the recent tragic death of Clark Peadon, an experienced mine employee who lost his life at the Curragh mine near Blackwater. The investigations are continuing into this tragedy. I extend my sympathy to his family, friends and colleagues.

This latest death brings the total fatalities since August 2017 to 10. In less than 4½ years that is 10 families with someone missing from around their Christmas table. This is a terrible statistic. The time it has taken to reveal the findings of each one of these fatalities is unacceptable. For the families and work colleagues whose lives have been put on hold whilst awaiting the outcome of these investigations, it must be unbearable. The response to a recent question on notice reveals that six of these cases are still to be finalised in the courts. This is not good enough.

We are still waiting for the recommendations of the *Black lung white lies* report to be implemented. When is this going to happen? We would assume that the health and wellbeing of miners matters to this government. This minister needs to deliver those recommendations. At long last, the draft Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan is out, but only for further consultation. This is an important document for the economic and employment future of Queensland. Further consultation certainly needs to take place with stakeholders to ensure this plan is what the industry wants and needs. Many I have spoken to have not had an invitation or opportunity to put key industry issues forward.


There are ongoing major landholder concerns regarding access and directional drilling for the coal seam gas in the Nandi and Kupunn areas. These are by no stretch of the imagination resolved with landholders sleeping at their front gates. Whilst the department is investigating any breaches there should be a halt to this project—something I have called for on more than one occasion. Landholders have genuine fears and the inaction of this government is allaying none of them.

In relation to leases of the Queensland islands administered by the Department of Resources, I have requested that the Transport and Resources Committee conduct a public inquiry into these leaseholds. We are still awaiting a response from the committee. I table the correspondence that I have forwarded to the committee.

Small-scale miners have had another blow to their industry with the decision to impose a 12-month prohibition on the application and granting of new mining claims. There has been no consultation or warning of this decision. What exactly is the purpose of this moratorium? Nobody seems to understand it.

Finally, Minister Stewart, when will the Stock Route Management Plan report be released? The expiry date of the current management plan was 31 August 2021. In case members may not have noticed, it is now December. This minister has homework to do over the break.

16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (7.25 pm): The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an annual international campaign that kicks off on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs through this week until 10 December, Human Rights Day. Nearly one in three women aged 15 years or older around the world have been subjected to physical or sexual violence at least once in their lifetime. These are disturbing figures and yet unsurprising.

If you are a woman you know these figures intimately. In fact, many of the women here would be some of the faces behind those statistics. Even in positions of power, we are not immune to domestic or sexual violence. Hannah Clarke's story is just one that illustrates how violence, including fatal violence, can steal its way into any demographic. Women of all ages, education levels, income and employment status are impacted.


Yesterday, the report entitled *Set the standard: report on the independent review into Commonwealth parliamentary workplaces* was handed down by Sex Discrimination Commissioner Kate Jenkins. It found that one in three women working in the federal parliament workplace had experienced sexual harassment—one in three. The report makes 28 recommendations and it is my absolute hope that those recommendations are implemented as a full reform suite. As one of the interviewee's observed—

This is Parliament. It should set the standard for workplace culture, not the floor of what culture should be.

In contrast, being vulnerable does not protect one from harm either. In fact, we know that women with a disability, women in prison, non-English-speaking women, women on temporary visas, trans women and women in precarious employment are more likely to experience physical and sexual violence. This illustrates how the actions by perpetrators of violence against women are deliberate, targeted and controllable. We know this, because how many times do the family and friends of offenders come out and express their surprise following a domestic fatality? We all have a role to play in addressing this—every person. I am optimistic when I see the language in society shift away from being a women's issue and instead being framed far more accurately as men's violence towards women and girls. This is a men's issue.

Last Friday, I accompanied some champions in my community to the Premier's White Ribbon breakfast. During the discussion we heard how a small percentage of men are responsible for the majority of violence against women. For those who continue to say that it is not all men, I say that we know that it is not all men. We know it is a small number of men, but the problem is we do not know which ones they are. Not all men are violent, but all men benefit from men's violence against women. During this 16 days of activism I invite all members to consider this uncomfortable truth.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (7.28 pm): I want to start with a question. Why is Queensland Labor, a party of self-described progressives, running one of the most conservative governments in the country? It is a question playing on my mind more and more. I will give members a few examples. Like my colleague the member for South Brisbane pointed out this morning, the Liberal National New South Wales government has introduced an affirmative model of consent and South Australia Labor has committed to do the same. This government can only say they are open to considering it after just this year they actively voted to exclude an affirmative model, drafted by sexual assault legal advocates.

Then there were their youth justice reforms, to keep kids as young as 10 locked up and slap 16-year-old kids with GPS monitors. This gutter politics inspired the NT to introduce their own 'crackdown', which led this week to the first 10-year-old child being detained at Don Dale since 2017. Even worse, they appear to be proud to lead this charge.

When it comes to climate justice, they are, to quote a recent ABC article, 'in lock step' with the federal coalition on emissions reduction, matching their 2030 and 2050 targets almost exactly. Of the states with an emissions reduction target, theirs is the worst—just a 30 per cent cut by 2030. Other states—even the Liberals in New South Wales—have targets between 45 per cent and 75 per cent.

They will complain that there is no money to fund a rapid transition away from coal. Yet they refuse to make big corporations pay a little more tax to support workers and communities through that transition. Instead of introducing a developer tax, like their colleagues in Victoria and the ACT, Queensland Labor lets developers make off with billions in windfall rezoning profits. While the SA Labor government proposed a state based bank levy in 2017, we have just seen now that Queensland Labor will not even allow it to be up for debate.


I do not know why Queensland Labor is lagging behind in all of these instances. Maybe they still buy into the myth that Queenslanders are conservative by nature, despite the state's strong radical left history. I do know that when Labor works with the Greens we can achieve some pretty great things—like in the federal parliament in 2010, when we put dental into Medicare for kids and legislated a strong carbon price which was the strongest climate change legislation in the world at that point courtesy of the Greens acting with the Gillard government; and like in the ACT, where a Labor-Greens government has achieved 100 per cent renewables and a 45 per cent emissions cut and is now raising the age of criminal responsibility to 14 years old.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Member for Miller, cease your interjections.

Mr BERKMAN: It is sad watching Labor drag us backwards here in Queensland, but these other wins give me hope because one day soon the Greens will hold the balance of power in this place, as we may well in the federal parliament next year. When we do, maybe Labor can stop trying to out-LNP the LNP and work with us to tackle climate change and improve ordinary people's lives.

Stafford Electorate

 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—ALP) (7.31 pm): I would like to talk about some fantastic grassroots activity across our beautiful Stafford community. I will start with The Common Good. I have previously spoken about the amazing The Common Good—the charitable arm of the Prince Charles Hospital, who partners with the HHS and industry to deliver world-leading and life-changing medical research.

In addition to their recent and successful Give It Day, I am pleased to be able to announce that The Common Good have been awarded support through the Palaszczuk government's Social Enterprise Growth Grants Program. Our \$15,000 grant will roll out their Fresh Food After Hours Project, which seeks to ensure access to nutritional food for after-hours visitors across the Prince Charles Hospital.

In terms of our local schools, I am so passionate about our schools and our local students. I was pleased to attend many awards events, as well as graduation ceremonies for year 6 and year 12 students. I would like to wish them all the best as they embark on the exciting new chapter in their lives. I also thank my staff who have attended on my behalf while I have been in parliament.

I thank the teachers, school leaders, support staff and parents who have worked so hard this year to give our kids the best possible start in life. It has been a privilege to work so closely with them. I have loved working with P&Cs and P&Fs, supporting student leadership teams including seeing how much they have grown with such sincerity and professionalism over the year. I have tried to promote Book Week activities and the love of reading and learning, and to support music events, sporting carnivals, infrastructure projects and everything in between. I look forward to continuing that work with them in the new year.

I give a shout-out to one group of local students—the primary school kids who participated in my Christmas colouring-in competition. There is some serious artistic talent across Stafford, so much so that, in addition to the winners, I had to introduce a highly commended category. Thanks to everyone who entered, and I hope it helped to bring a little early Christmas cheer. I would like to quote the overall winner, Aidan of OLA at Wavell Heights, who described his design as a metaphor. He said—


I'm not the neatest but I like to bring colour and meaning. My decoration in the middle shows the crazy world and year we had this year. We were really impacted by Covid. The stars are my guiding lights or the lights at the end of the tunnel.

Thank you to Aidan.

Speaking of Christmas cheer, I thank the many local charities who really step up at this time of year—to Father Daniel and his wonderful team of volunteers at the All Saints Anglican Church at Chermside; to Dave and the St Vinnies team who all give such great support over Christmas with hampers and the like at this time of year. I thank those who donate and volunteer to support their efforts.

Likewise, thanks to our local Lions—Brisbane Inner North, to Debbie, Richard and the team who have such a generous community focus. In particular, I thank them for their Christmas cake drive. I was able to donate them to local charities, kindies and other meaningful groups and raise some money for Lions—a win-win.

Protected Area Estate

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (7.34 pm): We are often told as politicians that we need to look beyond the election cycles—that we should be making policies which focus on where our state needs to be in the long term and that we need to have a bit of vision around where we are going. The environment minister has taken this to another level, with a delivery time frame of a millennia to achieve the government's own protected area target. That is not me saying it. It is from a new report by key Queensland environmental groups. The Queensland Conservation Council, the Wilderness Society, the National Parks Association of Queensland and Pew Charitable Trusts have found 'if expansion remains at this rate of growth, it will take more than 1,000 years to reach 17%'. I table a copy of the report for the benefit of members.

Tabled paper: Report, dated November 2021, titled 'Summary of protected area growth & investment: Delivery of Queensland's protected area strategy one year on' [\[2037\]](#).

In just two weeks we have also had a report from the waste industry saying Queensland will not reach our recycling and recovery targets under the government's current policy settings and an Auditor-General's report casting serious doubts over whether the government will reach their renewable energy targets, highlighting that seven years after setting it they are still only just putting together a plan to achieve it. Currently, just 8.26 per cent of Queensland's land area is protected. That is the lowest proportion of any state or territory in Australia. In 2015, the government committed to increase that to 17 per cent, but their progress on delivering this has been abysmal.

A year ago, the government released their 10-year strategy, but since then progress has actually slowed on increasing our protected area estate. Queensland's protected areas are increasing by just 0.01 per cent a year. That is directly from the budget papers. It is an indisputable indicator of their lack of delivery. This figure is listed as a performance measure in the Service Delivery Statements, so I will not be surprised if the minister amends it or removes it completely next year.


I suspect they will do what they normally do when announcing their limited examples of action in this space: they will talk about the number of hectares. That means nothing without context. The percentage is what is important. You cannot talk about how our current estate is bigger than Tasmania because Tasmania is only a tiny fraction of the land area of Queensland—just three per cent of the size of our state, or 68,000 square kilometres compared to 1.85 million square kilometres.

The management of the land already classified as protected is also lacking resources. For private protected areas, it is just 25 cents per hectare per year. Landholders need more support. That is the only way they will take part in this. New South Wales by comparison spends around \$90 million a year. That is over 10 times the amount invested by Queensland's Labor government.

We need to increase Queensland's protected area estate and that needs to be done hand in hand with better resourcing and better management of what is already protected, particularly our national parks. This Labor government is failing on both measures.

(Time expired)

Doonan, Mr B

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (7.37 pm): Brian Doonan was born in Collinsville, Queensland, on 26 May 1943—the sixth child and fifth son of Phillip and Margaret Doonan. He attended St John Bosco Catholic School, Collinsville, finishing after grade 8. On 17 September 1958, Brian joined Queensland Rail as a lad porter then worked as a junior clerk before becoming a guard at the back of the train. Over time, Brian progressed to the front of the train as a locomotive driver class 2—the highest grade in Queensland Rail. Brian finished his career after 42 years of service on 31 December 2000.

Being an active member of the union movement during his railway career, Brian held the position of branch secretary in the Australian Railways Union—Rail, Tram & Bus Union—during the 1970s and 1980s at the Bowen railway depot. He also held the position on the state branch council of the RTBU for many years, acting as mentor for the younger generation.

Brian was awarded a certificate of appreciation from the Queensland Ambulance Service for over 10 years service as an honorary ambulance officer in 1993. On 29 May 1997, he was made a life member of the Queensland Railways Institute and on 9 June 1997 was granted life membership of his beloved Australian Labor Party.

Being elected to local government on the Bowen Shire Council, Brian served three terms as alderman during the 1990s. Brian served alongside his good friend and strong Labor stalwart Mick Colwell, with the two remaining friends to Brian's final days.

Brian is survived by his loving wife, Marilyn, whom he met in Collinsville in 1970. Brian and Marilyn married on 1 August 1987 at St Mary's church, Mackay. They lived and worked in Bowen until they both retired, moving to Bundaberg in February 2002.

It has been said about the man that, second to his love for Marilyn, Brian's next great love was the Australian Labor Party. Brian Doonan was a tireless campaigner for the great Labor values that were enshrined within the trade union movement. Keith Ballin of the Bundaberg ALP branch spoke to me this past week about how much tireless effort and dedication was given to Brian's commitment to see Labor candidates and members of parliament be able to give a voice to the working people.

I know that I owe much to Brian for his efforts during the 2020 state election campaign and I will very much miss our fortnightly conversations about all things local, state and federal that would take place on Sundays at the Shalom Markets. Brian Doonan passed away peacefully at 6 pm on 23 November 2021 with his wife, Marilyn, by his side. Vale Brian Doonan.

The House adjourned at 7.40 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Bailey, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyce, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Camm, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dameetto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Kelly, King A, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lui, MacMahon, Madden, Mander, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Smith, Stevens, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Watts, Weir, Whiting