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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 2 December 2021

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THURSDAY, 2 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.

PRIVILEGE

Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (9.31 am): I reference the continuing deliberate misleading of the House by some ministers by their incorrect inferences about a lack of support for COVID vaccinations and relative health directives. Mr Speaker, I have written to you about some matters and I respectfully await your decisions on those matters, but ministers are continuing to abuse their privilege in this House and incorrectly and dishonestly infer or imply that I do not support vaccinations and relative health directives. The Minister for Education continued with deliberately misleading comments yesterday, and I will be writing to you further about these matters.

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 5 October 2021 I received correspondence from the member for Moggill alleging that the Leader of the House misrepresented proceedings of the House in statements to the media with respect to his position on COVID-19 vaccinations and association with anti-vaccination organisations.

On 12 October 2021 I received further correspondence from the member for Moggill alleging that the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment made deliberately misleading statements in the House that day concerning his views on COVID-19 vaccinations and association with anti-vaccination organisations.

On 12 October 2021 the member for Moggill wrote to me alleging that the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing deliberately misled the House during question time that day when she inferred he held anti-vaccination views.

In these matters the member argues that his register of interests shows that he is not a member of the Nurses Professional Association of Queensland, an organisation that has been associated with anti-vaccination sentiment, and that he has made numerous statements in support of the vaccine.

In considering the allegations made against the Leader of the House, her statements made in the media do not appear to be linked to the proceedings of the Assembly or its committees. Accordingly, there is no evidence before me to suggest there is a potential contempt of the House; therefore, there is no matter that I could refer to the Ethics Committee.

With respect to the allegations made against the Treasurer, his statement in the House made no reference to the member for Moggill; therefore, the allegations do not prima facie meet the threshold requirements for a contempt of the House. I will therefore not be referring that matter to the Ethics Committee.

With respect to the allegations made against the Minister for Education, I sought further information from the minister about the allegations made against her in accordance with standing order 269(5). The minister argued that her statement made no inference as to the member's position on COVID-19 vaccinations and that the *Record of Proceedings* at page 106 shows that on 26 November 2020 in his address-in-reply speech the member for Moggill thanked the treasurer of the LNP's state electoral council, Mr Aenghas Hopkinson-Pearson, for his work.

I have reviewed the submissions made by the member for Moggill and the minister. It is my view that the minister's statement does not draw a link between the member and anti-vaccination sentiment but that the member had been associated with Mr Hopkinson-Pearson in a party capacity; therefore, I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee.

I wish to remind all members to take care when making contributions in the House to ensure that misleading inferences cannot be drawn about other members. I table the correspondence in relation to these matters, and I seek leave to incorporate my ruling that has been circulated in my name.

Tabled paper: Bundle of correspondence relating to matters of privilege [\[2050\]](#).

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED CONTEMPT OF PARLIAMENT

On 5 October 2021, I received correspondence from the Member for Moggill alleging that the Leader of the House misrepresented proceedings of the House in statements to the media with respect to his position on COVID-19 vaccinations and association with 'anti-vaccination' organisations.

On 12 October 2021, I received further correspondence from the Member for Moggill alleging that the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment made deliberately misleading statements in the House that day, concerning his views on COVID-19 vaccinations and association with 'anti-vaccination' organisations.

In these matters, the Member argues that his Register of Interests shows he is not a member of the Nurses Professional Association of Queensland, an organisation that has been associated with anti-vaccination sentiment.

In considering the allegations made against the Leader of the House, her statements were made in the media and there does not appear to be any link to proceedings of the Assembly or its committees.

Accordingly, there is no evidence before me to suggest a potential contempt of the House. As no matter of privilege or contempt has been identified, there is no matter that I could refer to the Ethics Committee.

With respect to the allegations made against the Treasurer, his statements in the House on 12 October 2021 make no reference to the Member for Moggill. Therefore, I do not consider that the allegations prima facie meet the threshold requirements for a contempt of the House. I will therefore, not be referring the matter to the Ethics Committee.

On 12 October 2021, the Member for Moggill wrote to me alleging that the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing deliberately misled the House during question time that day, which inferred he held anti-vaccination views. The matter relates to the Minister's response to a question asked by the Member for Mackay concerning the COVID-19 vaccine.

Specifically, ...They [the Nurses Professional Association of Queensland] are recruiting workers by exploiting anti-vaccination fears and they are aided and abetted by all of those opposite. Who are these people? They include: ... Aenghas Hopkinson-Pearson, treasurer of the LNP State Electoral Council who was thanked by the member for Moggill for his work ...

The Member for Moggill submitted that the statement infers that the Member holds anti-vaccination sentiments or views by associating him with the NPAQ. The Member argued this is misleading because he has made numerous public statements articulating his support for the COVID-19 vaccine, of which the Minister is aware.

I sought further information from the Minister about the allegation made against her, in accordance with Standing Order 269(5).

The Minister argued her statement made no inference as to the Member's position on COVID-19 vaccinations, and that the Record of Proceedings (p 106) shows that on 26 November 2020, in an Address-in-Reply speech, the Member for Moggill thanked the treasurer for the LNP State Electoral Council, Mr Aenghas Hopkinson-Pearson for his work.

Standing Order 269(4) requires that in considering whether such a matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee, that I should take account of the degree of importance of the matter which has been raised and whether an adequate apology or explanation has been made in respect of the matter.


I have reviewed the submissions made by the Member for Moggill and the Minister, and it is my view that the Minister's statement does not draw a link between the Member and anti-vaccination sentiment, but that the Member had been associated with Mr Hopkinson-Pearson in a party capacity. Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee.

I remind all Members to take care when making contributions in the House to ensure that misleading inferences cannot be drawn about other Members.

I table the correspondence in relation to these matters.

REPORT


Auditor-General

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to report that I received from the Auditor-General *Report 7: 2021-22—Energy 2021*. I table the report for the information of members.

Tabled paper: Auditor-General Report 7: 2021-22—Energy 2021 [\[2038\]](#).


SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

School Group Tour

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from the Lee Street Special School in the electorate of Morayfield.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Tabled Paper Out of Order

 **Mr SPEAKER:** During the adjournment debate last night the member for Condamine attempted to table correspondence relating to a proposed parliamentary committee inquiry. The Clerk has subsequently brought to my attention that it may offend standing order 211. I have ruled the tabling of the document would offend that standing order, and on that basis it will not be tabled. It will be returned to the member.

PETITIONS

The Clerk presented the following paper petition, lodged by the honourable member indicated—

Harpers Crossing, Bridge

Mr Krause, from 683 petitioners, requesting the House to upgrade the single lane Harpers Crossing, Mount Alford Road, Boonah to a two-lane bridge and in the short term implement increased traffic safety by undertaking a range of measures [\[2040\]](#).

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

Sunshine Coast, Rail

Mr Bleijie, from 1,802 petitioners, requesting the House to commit to funding heavy passenger rail, preferably fast rail, from Beerwah to Maroochydore along the CAMCOS Corridor via Caloundra, Kawana, and through to Maroochydore [\[2041, 2042, 2043\]](#).

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

Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service, Referrals

Mr Knuth, from 429 petitioners, requesting the House to reinstate the previous referral system at Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service, where all referrals would be sent by GPs to the relevant hospital where the procedure would take place and patients would be sent a letter of notification within two weeks [\[2044\]](#).

North Brisbane Bikeway

Mr Nicholls, from 998 petitioners, requesting the House to stop all work on Stage 5 of the North Brisbane bikeway from Price Street Woolloowin to Kedron Brook and to work with the Brisbane City Council and local residents to investigate alternative routes [\[2045\]](#).

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

Coronavirus, Vaccination Mandate

85,222 petitioners, requesting the House to withdraw the Queensland Government/Queensland Health policy which will segregate people that are not fully vaccinated once Queensland reaches 80% double-dose COVID-19 vaccinations from attending or participating in a range of activities [\[2046\]](#).

Coochiemudlo Island, Golf Carts on Public Roads

543 petitioners, requesting the House to legalise the use of golf carts on the public roads of Coochiemudlo Island [\[2047\]](#).

Criminal History, Participation in Sport

410 petitioners, requesting the House to introduce legislation that prohibits any person with a criminal record from playing in first grade or representative sports in Queensland [\[2048\]](#).

Toowong Creek, Primary School

1,685 petitioners, requesting the House to not build a new primary school alongside the colony of federally threatened grey-headed flying fox bats at Perrin Park on Toowong Creek and instead to build the new primary school at the alternate site of Indooroopilly, retaining the wildlife corridor connecting Mt Coot-tha State Forest to the Brisbane River [\[2049\]](#).

Petitions received.

Mr SPEAKER: Mr Clerk, in a new procedure that is being introduced to the parliament, I expect that you will be able to lift those petitions over your head Mufasa style with Simba.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Will the Clerk read the list of petitions lodged? I'm kidding!

TABLED PAPER

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

MEMBER'S PAPER

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


Member for Whitsunday (Ms Camm)—

[2039](#) Nonconforming petition relating to fixing the Shute Harbour boat ramp and improving community consultation with the local fishing community.

Mr SPEAKER: It would have been more fun the other way.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS


Coronavirus, Update

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.39 am): The last sitting day of the year! Queensland has one new case of COVID. Two other new cases are in hotel quarantine after instate travel, which means we now have 18 cases. The community case was reported late yesterday afternoon. A fully vaccinated man who had been on the Gold Coast was infectious in the community for three days. Queensland Health advised that he visited Robina Town Centre last Friday, 26 November, and the Fernvale Bakery on Saturday, 27 November. Queensland Health has published full contact tracing details online, and I encourage everyone to check.

As I was saying yesterday, the Gold Coast is a tourism centre and I need to see the vaccination rates higher. This case is unlikely to be the Omicron variant, although further testing is underway. However, we must remember that, while there is much we are still learning about the new variant, we know that the Delta variant spreads faster than early forms of the virus and can cause some extreme infection. That is why it is important people keep getting vaccinated, keep using the check-in app—that is really important—and keep getting tested if you have any symptoms.

Our vaccination rates continue to climb. We are now at 86.65 per cent of Queenslanders who have had at least one dose, and 76.8 per cent have had two doses. Queensland Health delivered 11,014 doses yesterday, and there were 10,349 tests. I urge any Queenslanders who are not vaccinated to get vaccinated and enjoy all the festive season has to offer.

Weather Event


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.40 am): It has been a busy few days for our emergency services dealing with the recent rain. The SES received more than 300 requests for assistance in the past 24 hours. Swiftwater rescue crews were also called to 14 incidents and were required to assist in six water rescues in the south-eastern and south-western regions. Tragically, we lost a life west of Toowoomba—a 73-year-old man from Roma. Our thoughts go out to this man's family and community. I cannot stress how important it is to never drive through flooded waters—if it's flooded, forget it!

I wish to again express my thanks to the emergency services personnel, volunteers and local government officials who have worked hard over the past 48 hours to keep their communities safe. I know many residents are now getting on with the job of cleaning their homes once the water recedes. QFES crews will today begin damage assessment in Inglewood, where many properties were inundated. Rural crews will also help with the clean-up.

In good news, the bureau has advised us this morning that the heavy rainfall experienced over the past few days has decreased significantly in most flood affected catchments. The possibility of thunderstorms and localised flash flooding remains, particularly across those saturated catchments. Flooding is still occurring in the Border Rivers and Condamine River, with major flood warnings remaining for parts of the Logan and Dawson rivers. We are keeping a close eye on Goondiwindi, with the peak expected tomorrow, but at this stage it is expected to be lower than the levee. Widespread minor to moderate flooding is also occurring across many inland rivers south of Rockhampton, with major flooding along the Logan River at Beaudesert.


We know that Queensland is a place of extremes. Even with this rain, many areas of Queensland still remain in drought. In South-East Queensland, we have only seen a small increase in water storage levels, which remain close to their lowest levels since the drought. The SEQ Water Grid is at 59.5 per cent capacity. In good news, it is about a four per cent increase over the past week. The recent falls mean we are unlikely to face water restrictions in South-East Queensland this summer. That is a welcome relief. The La Nina weather pattern is expected to bring wetter than average conditions for much of the east coast of Australia, with a high chance of above average rainfall in eastern Queensland until at least the end of January.

Economy

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.43 am): Queensland's domestic economy was the best performing of any state on the mainland during the September quarter. Well done, Treasurer. Yesterday's national accounts data shows Queensland's domestic economy grew by 1.8 per cent, compared with a fall of 1.8 per cent nationally. In New South Wales the domestic economy fell by 6.5 per cent and Victoria fell by 1.4 per cent because of the COVID outbreaks. The data shows our strong health response combined with our economic recovery plan are delivering for Queenslanders.

In the September quarter Queensland's domestic economy was driven by increased investment in frontline services and infrastructure from our economic recovery plan, higher household spending from our strong health response preventing extended lockdowns and protecting consumer confidence, and record investment in housing and growth in investment in renewable energy infrastructure. Importantly, we have ensured Queensland businesses have the confidence to invest—with business investment up 8.5 per cent over the year to the September quarter. That is remarkable. Our economic recovery plan and strong health response are delivering nation-leading jobs growth and a stronger economy.


Workforce Summit

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.44 am): Speaking of the economy, a strong and skilled workforce is vital to rebuilding our economy. Thanks to our strong health response, nearly 90,000 more Queenslanders are in jobs now than at the beginning of the pandemic. However, significant workforce shortages that have affected businesses throughout Australia during the pandemic continue to have an impact in Queensland. In some sectors, we are creating more jobs than we have Queenslanders to fill them.

My government is committed to working with industry and the private sector to address workforce shortages in Queensland. Today I am pleased to announce that next year we will host a Queensland Workforce Summit to address this issue. On Friday, 11 March 2022 we will bring together some of the best and brightest minds in business, the labour market, education and training, and economics, along with employee representative groups and community leaders from regional Queensland, to work on a strategy to attract more skilled workers to our state and find new ways to address workforce shortages here in Queensland. The summit will include keynote speeches as well as panel workshops designed to develop cooperative solutions to these challenges and encourage innovative thinking.

Queensland is the place to be. Our economy is bouncing back stronger and faster from the impacts of COVID than any other jurisdiction. I want to thank Minister Farmer for working very closely with me in driving this summit to be held in March next year.


Charities, Support

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.45 am): Christmas is just around the corner. You can almost hear Santa coming. While many of us look forward to the festive season with our families and friends, it can also be a tough and isolating season for those less fortunate. It is a busy time of year for our wonderful charities who support people experiencing poverty and disadvantage. Many run annual Christmas appeals to provide much needed support during this time. They selflessly give hope and joy where they are in short supply. Their generosity is not seasonal either. Throughout the year, they demonstrate kindness and care right across the community.

Every Christmas my government supports four charities. Today I am catching up with the Smith Family and, on behalf of Queenslanders, handing over \$100,000 to help launch their annual Christmas appeal. Next week, at the annual cabinet Christmas reception I will also present three other charities—The Salvation Army, UnitingCare and St Vincent de Paul Society—with \$100,000 donations each. I

want to encourage Queenslanders to consider the gift of giving a donation this Christmas—no matter how large or small—as your donation could help find a Queensland family a home, and not just for the holidays. It could provide a hot meal or a helping hand or even some presents for their children. It could put a gift under the tree. So please dig deep and donate and let us all have the festive Christmas spirit.

Planning and Infrastructure; Priority Growth Areas

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (9.47 am): The Palaszczuk government recognises the importance of great town planning for Queensland's future. Our strong health response and economic recovery have seen people flocking to Queensland. The entire state is undergoing a population boom that is likely to gain momentum as we head towards the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.


Earlier this year we responded to these pressures by creating the Growth Areas Team. The Growth Areas Team has been established to address the challenges of growth, infrastructure delivery, housing supply and affordability. Early on, the government's Growth Areas Team, working in partnership with the Moreton Bay Regional Council, identified Caboolture West as the first priority growth area. Caboolture West will be the south-east's largest new greenfield area, where approximately 30,000 houses will be built for around 70,000 people—in other words, growth that is comparable to the current population of the city of Mackay.

That is why I announced last week that the Palaszczuk government will make legislative amendments to better coordinate land use planning and infrastructure delivery in new priority growth areas across South-East Queensland. This new bill, focusing on changes to the Planning Act, will enable the state, working in partnership with councils, to strategically identify and coordinate the planning for land use and the multiple types of infrastructure required in priority growth areas.

The Growth Areas Team has been working with councils and industry to identify further candidate sites. I expect to be able to announce more in the new year. The new processes around priority growth areas will also include looking at the trigger points for delivery of new infrastructure or upgrades to existing infrastructure. For Caboolture West, we are working in close collaboration with the council, utility providers, key industry groups and infrastructure delivery agencies.

I can advise that the government will be progressing an amendment to the Planning Regulation in early 2022 to give statutory effect to this interim structure plan for Caboolture West. This will give a robust and fit-for-purpose pathway to quickly lock in structure plans for new growth areas. This will ensure the best land use planning and infrastructure delivery in our priority growth areas with both the state and local governments working together for the best outcomes for future residents.

Economy

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.49 am): Our state's economic performance continues to prove one thing: Queensland is the best. Data released yesterday shows that the economic situation facing our nation is serious. Our nation has endured the third worst decline in economic output since World War II. Australia's GDP declined by 1.9 per cent in the September quarter. The economies of New South Wales and Victoria both contracted. In New South Wales the economic contraction was particularly severe, with output declining by 6.5 per cent. However, not only did Queensland's economy grow but also Queensland grew faster than any other mainland state.

The national economy has endured enormous damage since the pandemic reached our shores. Australia's economy is just 0.1 per cent larger than it was in March 2020. It is barely treading water. By contrast, Queensland continues to surge ahead. Our economy is 6.4 per cent larger now than it was in March 2020. That means Queensland's growth rate is 64 times the national average—and Queenslanders know about 64 times when it comes to COVID responses. It is because of our strong health response, remaining firm on borders and encouraging vaccination uptake that our economic performance has been so strong.


On the major economic indicators, Queensland either leads the national average or we are the best performing state in the nation. 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. Household consumption in Queensland has grown, while the national average has fallen. Private investment in Queensland grew by 4.6 per cent last quarter, 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 one-tenth of one per cent. Business investment in Queensland leapt ahead by almost five per cent. Across the country it managed growth of less than one per cent.

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. In New South Wales and Victoria, there are 300,000 fewer people in work than in March 2020. Queensland has bounced back better than any other state or territory and we have bounced back better than every other state and territory put together.

Our recovery has not been by chance. Our recovery is the reward for the hard work, the fortitude and the dedication of Queenslanders in fighting COVID, putting Queensland in a world-leading position. That is the competitive advantage that the Palaszczuk Labor government is determined to maintain as we move into 2022, as our recovery accelerates and we demonstrate to the world that Queensland is the place to be.

Schools, Air Conditioning; Caserta, Mr C

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.53 am): As part of our economic recovery plan, the Palaszczuk government is investing in world-class educational facilities across this state, and that includes air-conditioning every classroom, staffroom and library in every state school by June next year. I am pleased to advise the House that Queenslanders are again leading the way in achieving this milestone and, in the process, supporting more than 1,500 jobs.

Of the 649 schools requiring air conditioning, 625 schools have now had their air conditioning installed and are fully operational. This represents over 96 per cent of schools in our Cooler Cleaner Schools Program fully completed, or just over 8,600 spaces. To break it down even further, that is over 7,760 classrooms, over 500 staffrooms and over 190 libraries. This is an absolutely amazing, historic achievement of the Palaszczuk Labor government. The Premier and I announced the program in February 2020, around the same time as the start of COVID. They said it could never be done! They must have thought we were in New South Wales. The remaining 24 schools are all at various stages of installation and electrical works, with all contracts in place.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms GRACE: Listen to them. They cannot be more happy than to have air conditioning in their schools. They must be jumping in their seats at the moment!

Opposition members interjected.

Ms GRACE: Listen to them over there. They are loving every minute of the Palaszczuk Labor government. What an achievement in their electorates—all of them! They are loving every bit of it. All I say is thank you very much to all of you.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The House will come to order. Minister, it would help if you—


Ms GRACE: I digress. The remaining 24 schools are all at various stages of installation and electrical works, with all contracts in place. Significant works will occur during the long Christmas holiday break to minimise disruption to learning. This program is well on its way to be delivered by June 2022, six years—I repeat, six years—earlier than the LNP's inferior commitment to air-condition just classrooms. No wonder they are happy—no wonder!

The new air-conditioning systems can also be used to draw outside fresh air to help ventilation in classrooms. At my request, my department has convened a ventilation strategy working group, who have met throughout October and November, made up of representatives from across the government and non-government education sector. They have consulted widely and received advice from several authorities, including Queensland Health, SafeWork Australia, the World Health Organization, the Dorothy Institute, and QUT and, looked at actions taken by other states and territories.

However, the most important thing we can all do to limit the spread of COVID is to get vaccinated, and that is why all school and early childhood staff will need to be double vaccinated by 23 January 2022, in time for the start of the school year. I take the opportunity to thank my department, hardworking teachers and their staff for all their hard work, professionalism and commitment after another big year, and wish them all the very best for the festive season.

On a sad note, my thoughts are with the family and friends of jockey Chris Caserta, who is currently missing after a late-night swim at Surfers Paradise. I can only imagine what Chris's family and friends are going through.

Coronavirus, Update

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.57 am): Yet again, COVID-19 has reared its head in our community. In news that will become increasingly common when we open to interstate hotspots, we have identified a new case which has been infectious in the community. This is a wake-up call to all of Queensland but most particularly the Gold Coast.

The case has been in infectious in that community for a number of days, including at the Black Friday sales in Robina. Genomic sequencing is underway, but the plenary advice is that this is likely to be a Delta case rather than a case of the new Omicron variant. However, our public health authorities are investigating whether this case is somehow linked to the previous cases we have seen in the Gold Coast recently or a new outbreak. Either way, it could indicate that we have had undetected community transmission in and around the Gold Coast for some time. The people of the Gold Coast need to protect themselves, their families and their communities as we head into the festive season. This can be done by getting tested when sick and coming forward for a vaccination if they are yet to receive one.


Our vaccination rate continues to increase at a very encouraging rate. The more vaccinations we administer to Queenslanders, the safer we will be. On that note, I want to extend a heartfelt thankyou to all of the Queenslanders who have played a role in keeping our community safe this year. I want to thank our Care Army volunteers. They have given up their time to make it easier for Queenslanders to navigate our vaccination process. I want to thank all the staff who have worked in our hotel quarantine facilities, the front line of preventing COVID-19 entering our community. It has been a difficult year.

I thank the clinical staff who have treated our COVID-positive patients and our broader health workforce for the great work they do every day. I thank Her Excellency the Hon. Dr Jeannette Young for her stewardship throughout 2021 as our chief health officer; Dr Peter Aitken and our deputy chief health officers; and the department, for their great work. I thank the exemptions team, who have had a really difficult job to do throughout 2021. I thank the Queensland government staff who have helped in answering the calls from Queenslanders through the 13HEALTH and 134COVID numbers. You have been vital in disseminating important information to an often anxious community. Indeed, our statistics show that there have been over 1.2 million phone calls relating to COVID-19 to our government hotlines.


Finally, I thank the amazing health staff who have worked at our testing and vaccination sites. On occasion, we have had to stand these clinics up at exceptionally short notice and for extended hours. There have been more than 4.9 million tests undertaken and 7.2 million doses of the vaccine administered. I thank each and every one of these staff. Each and every time these staff members have surpassed our expectations and gone above and beyond to protect our community.

In recent weeks, we have seen a concerning trend of abuse and harassment towards staff who are working at vaccination centres. On occasion, sadly, police have had to attend our clinics to de-escalate the situation. It creates danger when prominent figures spout anti-vaccination nonsense and perpetrate conspiracy. We all have a responsibility to ensure that our words are not endangering the physical safety of others, so let's rise above that to support our health workers. A bit of patience, a smile and a thankyou can go a long way. In conclusion, I say to every Queenslanders: this Christmas, give your health staff the gift of your kindness and get vaccinated for them.

Blackburn, Ms S

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (10.01 am): In relation to the Shandee Blackburn case, I state that, based on the claims made regarding forensic evidence and whether such evidence could lead to new findings, I believe there is sufficient public interest and questions to be addressed to warrant me writing to the Attorney-General to consider requesting the coroner to reopen the matter.

Weather Event

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.01 am): It is been a challenging few days for many Queenslanders. Flooding has closed up to 450 roads across our state and isolated some towns. Indeed, Inglewood has flooded. We have seen too many swiftwater rescues and, sadly, two lives have been lost in the last week due to vehicles being swept away in floodwaters. Even if you have travelled a road a thousand times and think it is safe to cross, you never know what


lies beneath the water or its velocity. I say to everybody: please do not drive into floodwaters; it is just not worth the risk. After two tragedies, I say again to Queenslanders: if it's flooded, forget it. While the weather is improving, we are looking at another wet month ahead.

We are doing all we can to get that message out, but the Palaszczuk Labor government is also investing in infrastructure to improve the flood resilience of our road networks generally—like the recently opened \$514 million, 13-kilometre-long Houghton River upgrade along the Bruce Highway south of Townsville and the now complete \$158 million Rockhampton Northern Access Upgrade in the Fitzroy River flood plain area, thanks to the advocacy of the members for Keppel and Rockhampton. Works are ramping up on the \$103 million Saltwater Creek flood immunity project on the Bruce Highway, which was so strongly advocated for by the member for Maryborough. This week we called for tenders for a \$30 million upgrade of the Torbanlea Pialba Road to flood-proof this critical link to Hervey Bay.

Tragically, 263 Queenslanders have lost their lives on our roads this year. They are all people whose lives were tragically cut short, leaving devastated families and friends behind. That is why the Palaszczuk government are investing \$1.7 billion in road safety initiatives and improvements, as part of our \$27.5 billion record road and transport plan. That includes the new mobile phone and seatbelt cameras. These cameras have snapped 3,441 offences in the first two weeks. That is why we are cracking down on dangerous driving behaviours—in the same way that we cracked down on drink driving earlier this year through tougher penalties for those caught.

We will be rolling out new high-tech school zone and roadworks speed cameras on the ground next year. The 'fatal five'—speeding, drink and drug driving, not wearing a seatbelt, fatigue and driver distraction—are major factors in more than half the lives lost on our roads. We are sending a clear message that breaking the law behind the wheel means you will be caught and fined. Everyone on the roads deserves to be safe, especially heading into our holiday season. With a wet summer ahead of us, being aware and driving safely is more important than ever. The best Christmas present Queensland drivers can give this year is themselves.

Water Security

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (10.04 am): The Palaszczuk government is focused on delivering water security for Queenslanders wherever they live. Right around South-East Queensland, people have been seeing green parks and gardens in their suburbs and may not have realised that many parts of the region have been in drought. That is why it was only a few short weeks ago that we were talking to South-East Queenslanders about the possibility of water restrictions in the coming weeks.

There is great news for South-East Queensland this morning. As the Premier has already said, there will be no water restrictions for South-East Queensland for Christmas. In fact, we are unlikely to reach the trigger for water restrictions at all this summer. We have seen our water supply in South-East Queensland benefit from the wet conditions we have seen in the last few weeks right across the state. The South-East Queensland water grid is now at nearly 60 per cent capacity, an increase of about four per cent in the past week. The majority of rain has fallen along the coast. While Wivenhoe Dam has seen some mighty inflows, it is still hovering at around only 40 per cent.

We know the weather in Queensland can be unpredictable and we cannot always rely on rainfall when and where we need it in Queensland. That is why we are encouraging everyone to continue to make every count drop.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr BUTCHER: Make every drop count. Don't count the drops; that might be a bit hard. We have a plan. That is the important thing: the Queensland state government has a plan to ensure ongoing water security for their region and we are implementing it right now. Production at our Gold Coast desalination plant has already ramped up and since September last year it has been pumping out 61 million megalitres per day. Around the state we have seen some fantastic inflows into dams like the Bjelke-Petersen Dam in the Nanango electorate, which increased to over 63 per cent, and we have seen increased capacity at Fairbairn Dam in the Emerald area. That has meant that yesterday Sunwater announced some medium priority allocations for irrigators could be returned, which is absolutely great news for those regional customers.

We are also thinking of those communities that we know are currently experiencing flooding and thanking all of our first responders and our volunteers who are helping to evacuate people in those communities safely.

While I am on my feet, I say that it was great to hear recently from the Longreach mayor, Mr Tony Rayner, about the Isisford Weir that is being constructed in time for the wet season. He said that, thanks to a \$1.2 million investment by the Palaszczuk government, the weir is now super strong and is of a very good design structurally. This is all part of our Palaszczuk government's \$2 billion investment that we are seeing right now in projects at work in our communities. I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone here a very merry Christmas.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Gladstone.

FIFA Women's World Cup


 **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): Christmas has come a little early today for Queensland football fans. As they know, the world's biggest women's sporting tournament will be hosted in Australia and New Zealand in 2023. FIFA's Women's World Cup football tournament features 64 games across nine host cities from 20 July to 20 August. Today it has been announced that Brisbane's Lang Park, otherwise known as Suncorp Stadium, will host eight games—five group games including one match starring Australia's national team the Matildas on 7 July 2023. Honourable members should mark that in their calendars.

There is one round-of-16 knockout game just before the quarterfinals and we will see one quarterfinal game in Brisbane and the play-off for third place. Eight games featuring at least nine different teams across four weeks will be a huge win for Brisbane's visitor economy. FIFA's Women's World Cup is predicted to screen to a global audience of one billion. We can expect thousands of fans from regional Queensland, the rest of Australia and overseas to book tickets and accommodation in Brisbane.

One hundred years ago this year, Brisbane hosted the first public game of women's football played in Australia. In 2023 the World Cup will inspire a new generation as the Matildas send a powerful message to young footballers—female and male—to play their best game for a shot at a national team on the world stage, and the excitement is building. Participation in the MiniRoos girls program this year with Football Queensland is up by 31 per cent. Since 2015 the Palaszczuk government has invested \$28 million in female-friendly change rooms because they are critical to encouraging young girls to get onto the team and excel in their code of choice. Queensland's eight FIFA games are only second in Australia to Sydney's 11, with Melbourne hosting six and Adelaide and Perth each staging five matches. FIFA Women's World Cup is another great opportunity to demonstrate our major event credentials.

PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMITTEE

Report

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (10.10 am): I lay upon the table of the House the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee's report No. 108 of the 57th Parliament, *Inquiry into the Crime and Corruption Commission's investigation of former councillors of Logan City Council; and related matters*, and the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee's report No. 108 of the 57th Parliament, *Inquiry into the Crime and Corruption Commission's investigation of former councillors of Logan City Council; and related matters—volume of additional information*.

Tabled paper: Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee: Report No. 108, 57th Parliament—*Inquiry into the Crime and Corruption Commission's investigation of former councillors of Logan City Council; and related matters* [2051].

Tabled paper: Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee: Report No. 108, 57th Parliament—*Inquiry into the Crime and Corruption Commission's investigation of former councillors of Logan City Council; and related matters—Volume of Additional Information* [2052].

Queensland needs an effective, independent, impartial watchdog on public sector corruption and major crime. This report just tabled outlines serious findings and related recommendations that speak to these issues, including by making findings about where the CCC has failed in the role entrusted to it by this parliament on behalf of all Queenslanders.

This inquiry came about in response to a complaint by the Local Government Association of Queensland in which it claimed the CCC acted partially, interfered in the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission's proceedings concerning the termination of Logan City Council's CEO, Ms Kelsey, lacked independence and acted outside its statutory powers in other respects. It was also alleged that the CCC acted improperly in charging former Logan councillors with fraud arising from the termination of the CEO's appointment. The allegations were, and remain, extremely serious. That is

why on 28 May this year the committee resolved on a bipartisan basis to commence this inquiry. Ten days of public hearings were held and thousands of documents were examined. Counsel assisting was appointed to assist the inquiry to get to the core of those issues.

By and large, the committee has adopted the available findings submitted to it by counsel assisting this inquiry. Some have been amended by the committee. The committee makes these findings in full awareness of their gravity but cognisant also of the need to ensure that, where things have gone awry in the past, findings are made in seeking to prevent those mistakes occurring again in the future.

There is no statement of reservation to this report. While non-government members, who constitute a minority of the committee, could have elected to make such a statement in respect of certain available findings suggested by counsel assisting and not adopted by the committee—in particular, in relation to whether a recommendation ought be made to this House concerning the appointment of the CCC chairperson—we are of the view that this report speaks for itself. The comprehensive examination of the facts and circumstances of the Logan matter set out in this report and examined in the inquiry paint a picture of ‘remarkable dealings’, and that is a quote about dealings between the CCC and a private firm of solicitors acting for Ms Kelsey. They are not my words but the words of Mr Bret Walker SC in advice provided to the committee throughout the inquiry and referenced in the report.

The committee finds that the CCC involved itself in Ms Kelsey’s QIRC proceedings and sought to make documents it obtained under compulsion available to her in that proceeding. The committee notes that an inference could be drawn that this was done for the purpose of Ms Kelsey’s reinstatement as CEO.

The committee finds that, in assisting Ms Kelsey, the CCC’s actions exceeded the specific limits on the CCC’s powers under the Public Interest Disclosure Act 2010.

The committee also finds that the CCC acted outside its specific powers in the Crime and Corruption Act 2001 in assisting Ms Kelsey as a public interest discloser in the QIRC process.

The committee finds that the CCC failed in its duty to act at all times independently and impartially under section 57 of the Crime and Corruption Act owing to the totality of the steps taken by the CCC to assist Ms Kelsey in the QIRC, including with respect to her reinstatement.

The committee finds that confidential documents, some of which were obtained under compulsion, were delivered by the CCC to Logan City Council in October and November 2018 for a purpose of making them available to Ms Kelsey in the QIRC even though, in respect of the November 2018 delivery at least, this was contrary to the ruling of Commissioner Black in the Industrial Court of Queensland. The events surrounding these deliveries were described by Mr Walker SC as a ‘very unusual course’ and the report outlines in detail the CCC’s justifications for these deliveries.

The committee finds that the discretion to charge the seven Logan City councillors and mayor with fraud arising from the CEO’s termination was affected by a desire to assist Ms Kelsey and further finds that the discretion miscarried because the CCC failed to take into account and weigh all material considerations and evidence in exercising that discretion to charge. It probably does not need to be pointed out, but the decision to charge is what caused the majority of councillors to be removed from office, for Logan City Council to be dissolved and an administrator appointed. The discretion to charge miscarried.

Counsel assisting submitted that it was open to the committee to find that the CCC chairperson did not ensure the CCC acted independently and impartially. The committee makes this finding.

The committee also makes a series of recommendations, including that consideration should be given to a requirement that the CCC obtain a recommendation from the DPP, or a senior independent legal adviser, before exercising the discretion to charge serious criminal offences under its corruption functions.


Concerns were raised in this inquiry, and have also been the subject of public commentary, about the potential for issues of partiality and bias to arise when organisations hold both investigatory and charging functions. It is argued that investigators can become too close to matters and lose perspective and objectivity in the decision to charge. The CCC has both functions and so the committee recommends that the government appoint a senior counsel to head a commission of inquiry or similar to review the structure of the CCC. There are other jurisdictions in Australia that take a different approach and it is my view a commission of inquiry, a royal commission as they are known, should consider this further.

A lot more could be said, and no doubt this report will bring about some discussion in the community. I wish to thank all committee members, secretariat staff, counsel assisting, all submitters and witnesses for their contributions. I will close by stating that, during the course of this inquiry, a number of people on various different occasions have cautioned me about pushing too hard, if you like, in inquiring into the CCC. It was put across that this could have consequences. The fact that these matters are even raised with me, that they are in the consciousness of people who are interested in these matters and that they would say those things to me is highly concerning. It speaks to the perception about how the CCC goes about its business—a perception that must be borne out of past events. The committee has made recommendations around cultural change at the CCC and these should be taken up so that all Queenslanders have confidence in an effective, independent and impartial watchdog.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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

Health System

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (10.17 am): My question is to the Premier. Steve Brown called an ambulance after suffering the symptoms of potentially deadly sepsis. When his wife called back an hour later, she was told no ambos were available and dispatchers did not know when one would be. They were forced to drive to hospital, where he waited a further four hours before being seen. Will the Premier apologise to Steve, who is in the gallery, for the government's failure to fix the Queensland Health crisis?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. I do not know the personal circumstances surrounding Steve's issue. I am happy to look into that. I am happy for those matters to be referred to the health minister, but I say this in relation to our ambulance officers: they respond to a large number of requests each and every day. We have increased the number of ambulance officers in this state. Queensland is a very big state. We are 2½ times the size of Texas and I pay my respects to the job that they do. In relation to that particular case, I do not have those circumstances. I am happy to refer that to the health minister to look into that matter more fully.

Health System

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question is to the Minister for Health. Alan Hodges, who is in the gallery today, waited nine hours for an ambulance to arrive after the Redland Hospital requested a transfer as they could not manage his serious condition. When his wife called the next morning she was shocked to find he had spent the night on a trolley in the hallway. Will the health minister apologise to Alan for failing to fix the Queensland Health crisis?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. I acknowledge all of those people in the gallery who have come along today who have sought treatment from our Queensland Ambulance Service and our health system. Our health system is doing the absolute best it can with the demand pressures that we are seeing.

This year I have stood up almost every single sitting week—if not every single sitting week—and talked about the additional investment we are making in the health system to open up bed capacity, to employ more paramedics and to introduce new initiatives, such as our co-responder model to divert people away from having to go to an emergency department when they can be treated for mental health in more appropriate settings. In the last few months all of these initiatives and others have seen an improvement in patient off-stretcher time and lost time. Are we where we want to be yet? No. There is still more work to be done and we are doing that work.

Dr Robinson interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Oodgeroo!

Dr Robinson interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Oodgeroo, you are warned under the standing orders. It is highly disrespectful to interject immediately after being cautioned.

Mrs D'ATH: I do not want to see anyone waiting beyond our recommended time. I cannot comment on individual cases. It is not appropriate to do so. I am not the treating clinician or paramedic managing those circumstances and making those decisions every day as to prioritising which job they go to first. We are doing our absolute best to work with our health workforce, to work with our stakeholders, to improve our system so we can reduce these times and take pressure off our system so that we do not have people waiting longer than they should be in our health system.

Coronavirus, Vaccination

Ms BUSH: My question is to the Premier and Minister for the Olympics. Will the Premier update the House on how areas like my electorate of Cooper are progressing with the vaccine rollout and is the Premier aware of any alternative views?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Cooper for her question. On this side of the House we want to see as many Queenslanders vaccinated as possible. I am very pleased to report that in some of the suburbs in her electorate the rates are incredibly encouraging. In The Gap nearly 95 per cent of residents are double dosed. In Ashgrove, Ashgrove West, Dorrington and St Johns Wood 93.13 per cent are double dosed. In Barcaldine in the Gregory electorate more than 95 per cent are double dosed. Residents in the electorate of Moggill, in Brookfield, Chapel Hill, Fig Tree Pocket, Kenmore, Lone Pine, Pinjarra Hills, Pullenvale and Upper Brookfield, are also 95 per cent double dosed. In Logan, in Park Ridge and Munruben, 93.5 per cent are double dosed. Well done, member for Logan.

In Waterford, residents in Logandale and Loganholme are 92.38 per cent double dosed. In the electorate of Mount Ommaney, in the suburbs of Jamboree Heights, Jindalee, Middle Park, River Hills, Sumner and Sumner Park, 91 per cent of residents are double dosed. In the Algeester electorate, in Acacia Ridge, Heathwood, Larapinta, Pallara and Willawong, 90.1 per cent of residents are double dosed. Up north on Magnetic Island, in Arcadia, Arcadia Bay, Horseshoe Bay, Nelly Bay and Picnic Bay, 89.39 per cent of residents are double dosed. In the electorate of Pumicestone, in Banksia Beach, Bellara, Bongaree, Bribie Island and Woorim, 89.39 per cent of residents are double dosed.

I say this because if people and families in these communities can reach these levels we can reach this right across the state. Imagine what our state would be like if the whole state was reaching these levels. I also acknowledge the Longreach region and the excellent work being done out there. They have seen a 10.32 per cent increase in first doses over the last week. We know the member for Gregory supports vaccination. He has told me so. That 10.32 per cent increase over the last week takes first doses to over 95 per cent. That is excellent news. There is also encouraging news from our mining communities of Collinsville and Dysart. In Collinsville we have seen a 3.75 per cent increase on first doses in a week, to 89.77 per cent, and Dysart has increased 5.95 per cent in its first doses, taking that community to 69.94 per cent.

Caboolture Hospital

Mr JANETZKI: My question is to the Minister for Health. Jade, who is with us today, is a victim of Caboolture Hospital and suffered from an alleged botched hernia surgery. Can the health minister tell Jade why she is still waiting to meet with hospital management about her operation?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for his question. As the member knows, I have outlined previously that Metro North have advised, and it is written in the report, that they will be working through every one of those people who have brought forward complaints to the hospital. If the member provides the details, I am happy to follow up with Metro North as to the time frame in which they will be making contact with Jade.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I will wait for silence, members.

Mr Perrett interjected.

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

Coronavirus, Queensland Border

Mr RUSSO: My question is to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure. Can the Deputy Premier outline to the House what the Palaszczuk government is doing to protect the health of Queenslanders when the borders open for Christmas and is the Deputy Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Toohey for his question. It is a good question. Like every member on this side of the House I know that he has worked every single day of this year to keep his community safe to create jobs and to build the economy. Thanks to those efforts we have finished the

year in really good shape. We are hitting our vaccination targets. You have just heard from the Treasurer how well the economy is doing. The borders are ready to reopen. We are putting the finishing touches on our dedicated quarantine facility that will keep our community safe going forward.

We do not make these achievements towards the end of the year by accident. It is the result of hard work every single day. While those on this side of the House work hard every single day, those opposite are more like Santa's reindeers: just lazing around all year. The Leader of the Opposition is like Dasher. Have members ever seen him at the end of his press conferences dashing away? Maybe he is more like Rudolph. Who could forget how they never used to involve him in their LNP games. But then one foggy election eve Clive Palmer called to say, 'Broadwater, with your ego so bright, won't you lead my LNP tonight?' That leaves, of course, Toowoomba South as Dasher—the would-be leader if it were not for Rudolph. Kawana is Dancer—I mean, maybe he is Prancer. Dancer or Prancer—one or the other. Vixen, the beautiful but vain one—Surfers Paradise. Comet, who is stubborn but loyal—plenty of them are stubborn, but only Gregory is loyal. Finally we have Cupid, the romantic and passionate one, and the place for Mermaid Beach.

Mr Bleijie: You're Dopey.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Kawana, this is not about Snow White and on that basis you are warned under the standing orders.

Dr MILES: While those opposite have lazed around all year achieving very little, criticising our health response, attacking our health staff, criticising everything we do and backing in Scott Morrison every single day, all of the members on this side of the House have worked hard to keep Queenslanders safe, worked hard to get Queenslanders vaccinated and worked hard to get Queenslanders into jobs. That is precisely what we will do next year too.

Specialist Outpatient Waiting List

Mr MICKELBERG: My question is to the Minister for Health. Wendy, who is with us today, is one of 254 Sunshine Coast category 1 rheumatology patients who are waiting an average of 12 months to see a specialist when, according to clinical guidelines, they should see such a specialist within 30 days. Given that I raised this issue with the Minister for Health over a month ago, can the minister advise what action has been taken to ensure that Wendy and the other patients do not continue to suffer unnecessarily but get the treatment that they deserve?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for the question. I am more than happy to continue to follow up with the hospital in relation to that individual. I am not going to discuss someone's individual circumstances in this chamber. It has never been appropriate for a health minister to do that but—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Members to my left, I feel that I am having to repeat myself. If a minister is being responsive to the question asked, and in this case the health minister is absolutely doing that, there should be no interjections and members should listen to the response.

Mrs D'ATH: As the member knows, earlier this week I outlined the investment we are making to improve outpatient and elective surgery wait times. I went through in detail the improvements that we have been able to make. There have been significant disruptions to our health system over the past two years in the outpatient and elective surgery categories due to the national cabinet decision to suspend elective surgery for a period. Our health workers did a tremendous job to catch up on a lot of those surgeries.

However, we have continued to have challenges, including in adding to our workforce in those areas. As I understand it, that is part of the reason for the delays in relation to rheumatology. Every jurisdiction in Australia is having difficulties in attracting health workers. We have not had the international arrivals that we normally get each year. That has led to a significant deficit in the number of health workers coming into Australia to supplement our existing clinicians—that is, our doctors, nurses and other specialists. We are working with the Commonwealth on those issues. We are also putting a lot of investment and work into a workforce campaign so that once our borders open up more we can attract people to Queensland to work in those speciality areas.

We know there is a real challenge. There are not enough of those specialists working in the private sector and that is also sending people to the public system, but there are not enough specialists in the public system either. We acknowledge that there are people waiting longer than the clinically recommended times. I went through that in detail earlier this week. We will continue to invest in this space to attract the workforce to fill the vacancies and to improve the waiting times for outpatients.

Economy, Forecast

Mrs McMAHON: My question is to the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment. I ask: what is the forecast for Queensland in 2022?

Mr SPEAKER: I assume that this is about the economy.

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Macalister for her question. The member for Kawana will be pleased to hear that I was thinking about this very topic this morning as I looked wistfully out of my office window. I asked one of my staff—wait for it—to take a break from writing my jokes for me and snap a candid unstaged black-and-white photo. I was contemplating our state's fortunes after enduring two years of me as Treasurer—I mean, two years of the pandemic.

Queensland has not just endured; Queensland has succeeded. The diligence and dedication of Queenslanders has put our state in a position that leads not just the nation but also much of the rest of the world. I thought to myself: how good is Queensland and how good is Queensland Labor in delivering economic recovery that is the envy of the world!

Next year will be challenging for our state. It will be the year when we get used to living with the virus, but I am confident that the strength and the resilience of Queenslanders will get us through. There is not a single mirror in my office that I have not looked into while considering what more we can do. As I reflected on my reflection, I was reassured by what Queensland can offer the world. It does not matter whether you live in Mundingburra, Townsville or Broadwater on the Gold Coast: when opportunities arise, Queenslanders seize them.

Just the other day, as I unlocked the door to my ministerial office and walked in—I spend a lot of time in my office, as the member for Surfers Paradise knows—I looked down at the framed photo of my photogenic dog, Scout, which is right next to the framed photo of the Premier's dog, Winton, and the framed photo of her mother's cat. As I looked down I saw a thought bubble appear above Scouty's little face. It said, 'Can we do even better?' I smiled at her and said, 'Yes, Scout, we can.'

Through our partnerships with companies such as Fortescue Future Industries, Boeing and Rheinmetall, we can create skilled, fulfilling and secure jobs right across the state. While I hope that Santa delivers me a few more questions from the shadow Treasurer and member for Toowoomba South in the new year, I wish him, the current Leader of the Opposition, the member for Mudgeeraba, even the member for Kawana and all those opposite all the best for Christmas and the upcoming holidays. I can assure all members opposite that all of the members of the Labor government will be on this side of the House when we return to parliament next year.

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the next questioner, Leader of the Opposition, I ask you to withdraw your interjections. They are unparliamentary.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I withdraw, Mr Speaker.

Queensland Health, Workplace Behaviour

Ms CAMM: My question is to the Premier. The opposition office has been contacted by many of the women who were sexually harassed by their Queensland Health manager. They say he arranged several political photo opportunities at a Queensland hospital during the federal election with then Health Minister Miles and Labor's Petrie candidate. Those images were used by the candidate to attack the federal government. Has the Premier failed to act on this manager because he is a Labor mate?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I find that offensive and I ask her to withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, I cannot ask the member to withdraw the entire question, but I will give you latitude to respond to that question in any way you wish.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I reject the premise of that question completely and utterly. Yesterday in the House I spoke about the health act, the establishment of the health boards and how they look into such matters. Perhaps those opposite need to have a deep look at themselves and the federal report that was handed down the other day about the treatment of political staffers in—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The member for Everton will cease his interjections.

Ms PALASZCZUK: What that report found was quite alarming. For any woman who works at Parliament House—

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Everton, you interjected after I asked you to cease your interjections. You are warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Of course, as a government we take these issues very seriously. We expect women to be able to go into their workplace free from any harassment or intimidation. My understanding is that an investigation was carried out and that everyone was advised of that outcome. The legislation is there—

An opposition member interjected.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Treasurer, you are warned under the standing orders.

Mr DICK: I apologise.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, it is the last sitting day and this House will not descend into a state which is unbecoming of the positions we all hold.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Let me say very clearly, as I said yesterday, that the act is very clear in this matter. Section 44(3)(b) of the act provides that the minister may not give a direction about the employment of a particular person.

Ms Bates interjected.

Dr Miles: It is your act.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Correct. It was the LNP that set up the health boards.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Ms Simpson interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The members for Nanango and Maroochydore will cease their interjections.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Oh, okay. Just like you disclose people's personal health records when you were in government. You forgot about that!

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, I have given you guidance around directing comments directly at those opposite. You are warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you, Mr Speaker. As I have said, I understand that that matter has been dealt with. If there are any more complaints, I would ask that they be directed to the CEO of the health board—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

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

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! Premier, please resume your seat. All members will now be issued a general warning. If I find any members operating outside of usual standing orders, I will warn members immediately to leave the chamber.

Labour Hire Licensing

Mr O'ROURKE: My question is to the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. Can the minister update the House on the progress of Queensland's nation-leading labour hire licensing scheme? Are there any other alternative approaches?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for Rockhampton for the question. I know that labour hire is particularly relevant in his Central Queensland area. I refer to our very proud history in leading reforms that the Queensland Palaszczuk government introduced when we were the first of Australia's states to license labour hire. It was a system that was unregulated for far too long. We are very proud of our actions. Why did we have to act? We had to act because this was a national issue on which the federal government refused to act. They sat on their hands and did nothing about the exploitation of labour hire workers and other workers, particularly in the federal government area, as we just heard the Premier refer to in terms of that report.

Our licensing system has been a great success since 2018. There are nearly 3,500 licensed labour hire providers. Some 11 businesses, six company directors and one individual have been successfully prosecuted for not looking after and protecting their workers and for not meeting legislative requirements. Action has been taken against 753 labour hire providers, ranging from cancellations to strict conditions on their licences.

When it comes to protecting workers and to looking after their rights and responsibilities, no organisation does it better than the Labor Party in this state. During the last election we had promises from the federal government about introducing labour hire licensing laws. When we talk about protecting LNP mates, I cannot think of anybody more than Christian Porter. I understand that Christian Porter is leaving, but he maintained his ministry after not introducing any labour hire laws or any wage theft protection laws when he said he would. What about the trust account into which were put an untold number of blind trust moneys but ministers are still able to maintain their ministries? To score a cheap political point, they come in here and talk about protecting and make imputations from across the floor. Yet we have a living, breathing LNP minister federally who has failed in every way, shape and form. Let us not talk about the report that has come out as well! The federal minister still maintains his ministry in an LNP government. They really need a shopfront bigger than Myer's when they come in here and make those allegations after what we see happening federally.

We are very proud of what we do for workers in this state. We introduced wage theft laws that were opposed by those opposite. We introduced industrial manslaughter laws that were opposed by those opposite. We introduced labour hire licensing laws that were opposed by those opposite. That is all they do—oppose, oppose, oppose.

Queensland Health, Workplace Behaviour

Ms BATES: My question is to the Premier. Sexual harassment victims have told the opposition a Queensland Health manager would regularly encourage them to join the ALP during team meetings and said the team's main KPI was to provide media which would 'give the Labor minister a stiffy'. Is the Premier putting a Labor mate before the wellbeing of women in the workplace?

Speaker's Ruling, Question Out of Order

Mr SPEAKER: The member will resume her seat. I am ruling the question out of order. The language is unparliamentary, regardless of it being a quote.

Electricity Prices

Mr SULLIVAN: My question is of the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement. Can the minister advise the House on how the Palaszczuk government is on the side of Queenslanders delivering the cheapest electricity in the nation?

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the minister, the member for Mudgeeraba is warned under the standing orders also. I will ask you to leave the chamber because of my previous caution to all members. That was a deliberate and premeditated use of a quote which was unparliamentary. I ask the member to leave the chamber for one hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Mudgeeraba withdrew from the chamber at 10.46 am.

Mr de BRENNI: I thank the member for Stafford for the question, because he and all members on this side of the House know that this Palaszczuk government is on the side of working Queenslanders. Whether it is job creation, frontline services or lower costs of living, this Labor government is on your side. We are on the side of workers building a new clean electricity system that will create more jobs.

Today we welcome a report released by Deloitte Access Economics titled *People powering the future*. Released today, this report shows that demand for clean electricity jobs in Queensland is set to grow by almost 1,000 per cent. There is more good news for Queenslanders, because this Labor government has been on the side of investment in renewable energy. Because of that, Queenslanders are set to have the cheapest electricity in the national electricity market.

I remind the House that that is \$126 back into the pockets of Queenslanders—that is, 10 per cent lower electricity costs by 2024. That is more jobs, lower prices and new renewables industries such as hydrogen powering our economic recovery. That is what we get from a government that is on their side.

Queenslanders know, though, when a government is not on their side. I refer to the national Liberal and National government and its policy of, 'You are on your own.' Queenslanders knew they were on their own when the Leader of the Opposition sat in a cabinet that jacked up power prices on Queensland households by 43 per cent. In office the LNP went on a Black Friday asset sales frenzy and sacked thousands of frontline workers, saying to those Queenslanders, 'You are on your own.' Just as his leader in Canberra did when the nation was ravaged by bushfires, he said, 'I am going on holidays; you are on your own.'

When it comes to this federal government, Australians know that they are on their own, including and especially if they do the same job but they get paid less; if they are a woman who has been assaulted, including at work; if they are a family struggling to pay for petrol; if they cannot run their business because the NBN is rubbish; if they are a company that wants to make things here like trains, ferries or even solar panels; or if their business is still struggling because of the pandemic. Scott Morrison and the Liberal National government have a message for you. They say: 'You are on your own.'

Queenslanders deserve better than that. Australians deserve better than that. They deserve a government that is on their side. Queenslanders know that this Palaszczuk Labor government is on their side and our lower electricity prices and more jobs prove it. Queenslanders and Australians know that an Albanese Labor government will be on their side as well.

Forensic and Scientific Services

Mr NICHOLLS: My question is to the Premier. Is today's announcement by the health minister to reopen the coronial inquiry into Shandee Blackburn's murder a sign the government has lost confidence in the state's Forensic and Scientific Services to provide the services required by law enforcement, the courts and victims to ensure rapists and murderers do not walk free?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Clayfield for that question. The answer is no. I asked my director-general to look into this matter. The health minister and I had conversations about that and we thought it warranted further investigation and sending to the Attorney-General.

I find it very interesting that the member for Clayfield would ask such a question. When he was treasurer under the Newman government they slashed funding to this forensic unit. Seventy-four scientists were lost. Leader of the Opposition, you might want to think about who you give the questions to to ask in this House—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The Leader of the Opposition. There are implications. The implications here are simply that the member for Clayfield was the treasurer. We will never forget seven years ago. We will never forget that because that is when it happened. It happened in 2013. The cuts were made at that time.

We can have a bit of a history lesson, if you want. You come in here and talk about health—\$1.8 billion of funding was slashed by the LNP government—

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

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock.

Ms PALASZCZUK: \$1.8 billion.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, please resume your seat.

Mr BLEIJIE: Standing order 244(7) tells members to address members by their correct titles. The Premier on two occasions in that answer has directly said to the opposition leader 'you' when she said, 'You have to be careful who you give your questions to.' You have already warned the Premier on that today.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, the Premier corrected herself almost immediately. That is acceptable and has always been acceptable when members reflect on what they have said. There has also been a misnomer that the word 'you' cannot be used at all. There is a general use of that word in terms of 'you may think'. I am listening very carefully to what the Premier is saying. I again remind the Premier to ensure that her comments are directed through the chair.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The history lesson continues. The savage cuts that were made were right across the health system. During our first term of government we made an absolute determined effort to restore those savage cuts to frontline health services. The damage was deep and the damage had long-term implications. Not only were the cuts made in areas such as forensic services, they were also made to people on the front line including nurses and professionals. Over 4,000 people lost their jobs in the health sector alone.

I find it incredible that the opposition continues on this path when their record in health is the worst of any government in this state. The architect of that was the member for Clayfield, who asked me that question. We need to make sure that is on the record. I am happy to come in here and talk about this issue every single day this House sits—

Mr Nicholls interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK:—if I am asked questions. I will remind—

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Clayfield, I urge you not to urge me to come on. I have already given a general warning to the chamber about interjections. I will ask you to cease your interjections. I appreciate provocation, but I have given a clear direction to the chamber.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Every single day there was damage done to this state in nearly every sector. Then, of course, there was money spent on massive advertising campaigns and there was the waiting list for the waiting list, the \$70 million and the funds for privatisation to sell off assets. We kept those assets in public hands and electricity prices have come down.

Agriculture Industry, Christmas

Ms KING: My question is to the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities. Will the minister outline the importance of Christmas for consumers of agricultural produce and more broadly?

Mr FURNER: I thank the honourable member for Pumicestone for her question. I wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy new year. Christmas is no doubt a religious celebration but also an agricultural feast for many families and their friends, particularly in Queensland. Whether it is traditional Christmas ham or the prawn or mango salad, the agriculture and fisheries sectors are key to a quality holiday. I thank the industry for their ongoing efforts this year. That is why we declared them an essential industry from the outset of COVID.

For those opposite, Santa has checked his list twice and he knows who has been naughty and who has been nice. Beginning with the naughty, we have the member for Kawana. Just like Elvis, he will be having a 'blue, blue Christmas'. Who can forget the member for Currumbin 'dashing through the snow' or, in the case of last year, the borders. Speaking of 'jingle bells' a nod to the member for Buderim also chiming in during question time yet somehow out of tune with the rest of the French hens.

Perhaps the member for Callide's favourite Christmas song is 'Let it snow! Let it snow! Let it snow!' given his strident views on climate change. We all know he is skating on thin ice in the seat of Flynn. When I think of the members for Southern Downs, Gregory, Nanango and Chatsworth and their colleagues, I am reminded of the old classic 'The Twelve Days of Christmas'—four failing voices, three old ideas, two ex-leaders and a crisis for the LNP.

When it comes to supporting vaccinations, backing Queenslanders during COVID and backing Queensland's economic recovery, it is a case of 'silent night' from the LNP. Just last week we had two greats of the LNP, ex-life member Palmer and ex-LNP ex-premier Campbell Newman singing from the same song sheet. I cannot tell if they are the ghost of the LNP Christmas past, present or future, but definitely no present any Queenslanders wants this Christmas or any other day.

Christmas is all about 'love, actually'! When it comes to the LNP, I hope they spend this time thinking about what Queenslanders really want or they might see their ambitions for office 'die hard'. No matter how much tinsel and decorations around the LNP Christmas tree, it is still a lot of dead wood that will need to be cleaned out next year.

Enough of the grinch—a very 'vaxxy' Christmas to all. I want all Queenslanders to reach out and support Queensland farmers this Christmas. There is plenty of produce and plenty of opportunity. When people do, do not forget to #eatqld.

Mr SPEAKER: Thanks to the minister for agriculture, karaoke is cancelled at Speaker's drinks tonight.

Herberton State High School

Mr KNUTH: My question without notice is to the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. I table 44 letters of support from the community, a petition with 1,246 signatures and letters from 27 students calling for the reinstatement of years 11 and 12 at Herberton P-10. Will the minister commit to reinstating years 11 and 12 at Herberton State High School?

Tabled paper: Nonconforming petition regarding Years 11 and 12 at Herberton State School [\[2053\]](#).

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for the question. We do have a number of schools—I remember meeting recently with the member for Glass House about a P-10 school in his electorate. I will gladly receive those letters and I will read those letters. If there is a way that we can make high school easier and provide the essential curriculum that is required to deliver years 11 and 12 in those schools that are P-10, I would be more than happy to have a look at that in a very encouraging way.

The question is opportune and timely. I already asked my department a couple of months ago—and I referred this to the member for Glass House when we met recently—to have a look at all the schools that are P-10 around the state. We need to have a look at whether those schools can be expanded to P-12 or whether we need to bring them back to provide the curriculum essential for the new ATAR and SATE system that we have introduced into the state and what the best way is of going forward.

I know that a number of students at Herberton then go on to Atherton State High School to do years 11 and 12. When you look at the number of students at Herberton—I think 22 students—there is a small number who are left at Herberton after others go on to Atherton. With 22 students, providing the extensive curriculum necessary for these students to have the broad experience, the broad education and the broad variety of subjects to get them the highest ATAR score that they want or a QCE is sometimes very difficult to deliver.

We are reviewing it. I think it is a great question. I would love to come to Herberton to have a look at the school and also to have a look at Atherton to see how they are working together and to see whether there is a better way that we can provide a linkage between the schools. Similar with Glass House, we were looking at transport mechanisms within the electorate of Glass House as well. What is the best way of going forward? What is the best pedagogical way that we can deliver world-class education in these areas? I think it is timely that my department has a really good look at the pedagogy that is being delivered and the ability to give those students the very best education that they are entitled to receive and how under a new national system of ATAR we can deliver the quality curriculum. All of these things are on the table.

I have a small committee, chaired by ex-principal the member for Mansfield, who is doing an excellent job, looking at a variety of these issues. I look forward to working with Herberton and Atherton, as I am looking forward to working with Glass House. I know that my department is working vigilantly on this and I look forward to the report so we can provide the best system for those students.

(Time expired)

Regional Queensland, Tourism Industry

Mr MELLISH: My question is of the Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement. Will the minister update the House on the government's progress in assisting regional tourism organisations to market their destinations' best holiday experiences?

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I thank the member for Aspley for his question. I thank him for his interest and engagement in our tourism industry right across the state. As the member would be aware, the Palaszczuk government has committed more than \$1 billion in support to tourism operators throughout the pandemic. The state's regional tourism organisations, or RTOs as they are better known within the industry, know their destinations' best visitor experiences better than anybody else. That is why at the last election the Palaszczuk government committed an extra \$15 million over three years to help RTOs promote their best attractions and create initiatives for our COVID-19 economic recovery plan.

I am happy to report to the House that the first \$1 million in grants has been delivered for seven campaigns to support local jobs and tourism operators. In the new year, Destination Gold Coast will launch an innovative campaign aimed at interstate and international students and their families and friends. 'Reunite in Paradise' is a partnership with Study Gold Coast and Rex Airlines. The campaign taps into the interstate and overseas connections of thousands of students, with incentives to reunite on the Gold Coast.

Further, Mr Speaker, as you would appreciate, Tropical North Queensland and Tourism Whitsundays are collaborating to encourage young Australians to put adventure experiences at the top of their bucket list for 2022. Adventures like this will offer deals on overnight sailing escapes around the Whitsunday islands or adrenalin activities in the Tropical North including diving the reef, hiking, pool parties and nightclubbing. That is not quite my scene, Mr Speaker.

There are another five targeted regional Queensland campaigns set to launch in 2022, highlighting the best visitor experiences of individual destinations. Combined, these tourism campaigns are designed to pump millions of dollars into regional Queensland economies. At this time leading into this summer, as we open up and as we have an opportunity to welcome others back to Queensland more easily, I encourage all members of the House to enjoy all the fruits and opportunities that Queensland's tourism industry will provide over this coming summer. I encourage you to have a break and enjoy time with friends and family but to really get out there and support our tourism operators. Doing that double vaxxed will make it even more exciting and will be a better outcome for everyone including our tourism operators right throughout the state who really welcome double-vaxxed visitors back to the state.

Townsville, Flying Foxes

Mr DAMETTO: My question is to the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs. The flying fox breeding season has begun. Townsville Hospital and Health Service's Dr Steven Donohue says they could be carrying bat lyssavirus, which can be fatal. Alice River residents have seen increased numbers inundating their properties, as the Townsville City Council struggles to manage the season's infestation. Will the minister outline what support is available to the Townsville City Council to assist in managing this growing problem?

Ms SCANLON: I thank the member for the question. Of course our flying foxes are a protected and endangered species here in Queensland, but we acknowledge that they do cause a bit of a nuisance, particularly in urban areas. That is why we are focused on trying to get the balance right.

As you may be aware, we announced a \$2 million fund. In the middle of this year I announced the first round of that fund. From memory, Townsville City Council received some of that funding. That is to help those councils manage the impacts of those urban flying fox roosts. I can confirm that Townsville City Council did get that round 1 funding. I do not believe that they applied for round 2, but there is an additional round 3 that will be available that they can certainly apply for.

We have also invested significantly in research into flying fox roost behaviour. That is a \$2.7 million investment. We partnered with the CSIRO, as well as Charters Towers Regional Council. I am aware of that particular case. We are more than happy to work with Townsville City Council, who is ultimately responsible. We have provided an as-of-right authority for councils to manage those roosts. As I said, there are grant opportunities available. I encourage the member to talk to the Townsville City Council. We are more than happy to talk to them as well to make sure that we can get the balance right—that we can protect this important species but also acknowledge that it has an impact on communities.

Climate Change

Mr KELLY: My question is of the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs. Will the minister outline the work the government is doing to take action on climate change in comparison to any other approaches?

Ms SCANLON: I thank the member for Greenslopes for the question. I know he is a passionate advocate for climate action, as is his community. I had the privilege of doing a session recently talking to his community around the action that we are taking.

We are getting on with the job. We have a \$2 billion Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund. We have the highest penetration of rooftop solar in the country. We have the longest electric vehicle superhighway. We are putting renewable energy in our schools and in our hospitals as well. We have just concluded COP26, where leaders from across the world came together in partnership to talk about how we can take real and meaningful action.

Unfortunately, we saw very little from the federal government. In fact, they are not content with their own failures on climate change. They are now actually trying to stop states from taking action as well. In an extraordinary act, DFAT wrote to the Queensland government to invalidate our participation in the important Under2 Coalition for climate, a coalition that five other states and territories across the country are a part of. Surely their time would have been better spent in actually investing in renewable energy or creating incredible policy that would reduce emissions instead of playing these ridiculous bureaucratic games.

It made me consider that maybe this is part of the Prime Minister's new approach to tackling climate change. We saw on the front page of the *Australian* that we are going to fix climate change apparently with a can-do approach. When I read it I wondered where we had heard about that can-do attitude before. I suspect those opposite have heard a lot about that can-do attitude. I wondered whether there was someone who could talk to the Prime Minister about this particular approach.

There was an event held here in Brisbane very recently called 'The True Cost of Net Zero' starring Campbell Newman. Not only was there Campbell Newman; he was joined by Gold Coast economist—or cosplay coalminer—LNP senator Matt Canavan. I table a copy of the invitation so everyone can have a look.

Tabled paper: Flyer promoting an event to be held on 19 November titled 'Net Zero 2050: Lifting the veil on the true costs of net zero' [2054].

For those fiscal conservatives: it was half price, so do not worry. Unfortunately, I could not make it myself because, frankly, I would rather watch paint dry, but I reckon there were quite a few other people from the LNP who were in attendance. I wonder whether the member for Callide was in attendance or even the Leader of the Opposition. Of course, Campbell Newman was his mentor. Campbell Newman is very clearly still calling the shots, despite allegedly leaving the LNP.

You have self-styled progressives out there like Trevor Evans, who go and tout the Morrison government's so-called net zero plan, but in his own electorate there are Nationals directly undermining that very position. While the LNP are still brawling amongst themselves, we are losing economic opportunities right here in Queensland because of their inaction. All I want for Christmas is a federal Labor government that will take real and meaningful action on climate change.

Timber Industry

Mr PERRETT: My question is to the Premier. Timber shortages have increased the cost of timber frames and trusses by 75 per cent since the start of this year and are predicted to increase by a further 20 to 25 per cent. It has been two years since the Premier's commitment in Maryborough to establish a timber advisory panel to address timber supply issues. What recommendations has the advisory panel made to ensure a stable supply of timber in the future?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. Yes, I am aware that the cost has gone up because businesses and consumers have been telling me that. We do know that people are renovating, building more homes and doing extensions because of the pandemic.

A government member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take that interjection. Yes, people are coming to Queensland. They are moving here as well. In relation to the committee, I can advise that that committee is meeting next week. I have asked the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development to ensure that there is good representation on that committee. They have a big job ahead of them. I look forward to the outcome of that meeting.

Arts and Culture, Events

Ms BOYD: My question is to the Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts. Will the minister update the House about arts and cultural experiences that families can enjoy at the Queensland Cultural Centre this festive season?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for Pine Rivers for her question and her commitment to the arts in Queensland. While I have the floor, I would also acknowledge her great work as chair of the Western Queensland regional forum. She did a fantastic job. The minister for agriculture and I, who attended that forum, saw some great results because of her leadership, so thank you.

We know that the arts have been hit really hard by COVID-19. Gigs ended overnight as a result of the very necessary restrictions, and of course the industry has been very much impacted. That is why our government's plan for economic recovery included an injection of some \$79 million worth of initiatives to support the arts and cultural sector through the impacts of COVID-19. That included a \$22.5 million Arts and Cultural Recovery Package and a recent commitment of a further \$7 million to support the live music industry in particular. Because of that investment we have seen the arts and cultural sector continue to rebound back past COVID-19 restrictions.

That means there is plenty on offer at Queensland's arts institutions over the Christmas period. Lego lovers can marvel at 50 awe-inspiring masterpieces by Lego certified professional Ryan 'Brickman' McNaught. Brickman Wonders of the World will be open at the Queensland Museum until 30 January next year, so there is plenty of time to go and enjoy that over the Christmas period.

Visitors to the State Library can move through five-metre high cardboard sculptures brought to life by interactive digital projections or participate in a range of playtime at First 5 Forever activities in the Corner, the library's dedicated children's space—I am so incredibly proud of that First 5 Forever program—and this week we will see the opening of the 10th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art at the Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art. It includes APT 10 Kids, which features seven fun and interactive projects by artists from across the Asia-Pacific region, and it is a great time for kids to enjoy.

QPAC will host three Christmas favourites that local audiences have come to love, including *The Nutcracker*, *Spirit of Christmas* and *A Christmas Carol*. As we know, members opposite have been hard at work in rehearsal for their own take of the fantastic classic *A Christmas Carol*. I understand the Leader of the Opposition is preparing for the role of Ebenezer Scrooge, drawing on his memories of penny pinching and cutting, sacking and selling. Stanislavski style, the Ghost of Christmas Past, Campbell Newman; the Newman Ghost of Christmas Present, a character who will not be around much after Christmas, Scott Morrison—

(Time expired)

Caloundra, Youth Remand Centre

Mr BLEIJIE: My question is to the Premier. I have been contacted by people onsite at the old Caloundra watch house, which is being turned into a youth jail remand centre. They tell me that, despite the government being in a consultation stage with the community, construction workers have been onsite for two months completing major demolition and have been told to keep quiet and that, if anyone asks, to say 'minor works'. Is the Premier confident that the Minister for Youth Justice has not misled the Sunshine Coast community by saying that the government was consulting, but in reality the youth jail is a done deal?

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: I can advise that, as per the budget, the government has allocated \$5 million in infrastructure funding for the centre. Our understanding is consultation and minor works are happening. We have built a new detention centre out at Wacol in my electorate. That was completed. We will continue to make sure that we have the infrastructure that is needed to cater for young people who commit crimes, as the public expects us to. I am glad the member for Kawana asked me that question, because it reminds me of the boot camps. That is right; that was one of the wonderful reports that was handed down during—

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I asked about the Caloundra youth jail and the community being consulted but construction has already started. I am asking the Premier to seriously tell the House: is consultation real or fake? Is it happening or is it not?


Mr SPEAKER: Again you are repeating the question and debating the issue. The Premier has the call. I am feeling generous this time. It is now 11.17 am. The time for question time has expired. Members leaving the chamber, please do so quietly.

BRISBANE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES ARRANGEMENTS BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 1 December (see p. 3928), on motion of Ms Palaszczuk—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (11.17 am): I rise to speak in support of the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021. In doing so, I congratulate the Premier and Minister for the Olympics on her leadership and determination to ensure that this amazing international event will be held in Brisbane and Queensland and to showcase Brisbane and Queensland to the world. I also congratulate the Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement for his determination and work ethic to make sure this amazing event will be held in our great state.

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 establish a board of directors of the corporation to ensure the corporation performs its functions in a proper, effective and efficient way.

Brisbane will be hosting the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, making it the largest ever event staged in Queensland. On 21 July 2021 the historic announcement was made after a vote by International Olympic Committee members at their 138th International Olympic Committee Session in Tokyo. Hosting the world's greatest event will create a two-decade pipeline of opportunity for Queensland. The games will connect communities, improve health and fitness levels, encourage more people to join their local sporting clubs as participants or volunteers, and inspire a generation of children.

As a state that embraces sport wholeheartedly and thrives on overcoming challenges with world-class solutions, we are ready to welcome the world to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Brisbane 2032 will benefit communities, tourism operators, sporting organisations and local businesses right across Queensland, including in my electorate in Central Queensland. In fact, KPMG forecasts that the Brisbane 2032 games will generate \$8.1 billion in total benefits for Queensland and \$17.61 billion in total benefits for Australia, as well as over 91,000 Queensland full-time-equivalent jobs and 122,000 nationally. It will also create an uplift in international tourism and trade worth an estimated \$4.6 billion for Queensland and \$8.5 billion nationally. The KPMG report also forecasts social benefits of up to \$3.5 billion for Queensland and \$9.1 billion nationally through factors such as health benefits and volunteering benefits.

Importantly, these games are the Brisbane Queensland Olympic Games. I note the Premier's messaging and the way she is talking about these games being a games for all of Queensland. That is incredibly important for all regional members in this place. There has been some scepticism about the Olympics bid and its financial cost. However, I believe the games will be something that all Queenslanders will be proud of. It is a badge of honour for all of Australia to have the Olympic Games here in Queensland. Competition events and pre-games training camps will be held across the state, as Queensland's shores are opened up to new tourism, trade and investment opportunities around the world.

While I am on my feet, I would like to take this opportunity to invite Olympic and Paralympic athletes, teams, traders, investors and tourists to visit Rockhampton and the Capricorn Coast. Consider Capricornia. There is no doubt that Rockhampton and the Capricorn Coast will step up and play an important role in the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. We have perfect weather, a strong Indigenous culture, friendly locals, high-quality accommodation, accessibility, a multicultural community and topnotch hospitality, food and professional health services. We have plenty of space, and our love for sport and competition makes Central Queensland the perfect place for pre-games training, manufacturing and investment. You want it? Well, baby, Central Queensland has got it.

Central Queensland already has strong sporting infrastructure opportunities, with the beautiful Southern Great Barrier Reef right on our doorstep, the vast and thriving Fitzroy River, the Kenrick Tucker Velodrome, the international standard Rockhampton hockey fields, the Barmaryee and Emu Park multisport facilities, and the southside and northside swimming pools—just to name a few. We also have the First Turkey Mountain Bike Park, which is one of my favourites.

Recently, the Australian rowing team chose the Fitzroy River in Rockhampton—part of the second largest catchment on the eastern seaboard, second only to the Murray-Darling Basin—to undertake their pre-games training ahead of the Tokyo Olympics. The Fitzroy River is one of five fully buoyed courses in Queensland and the only one fully owned and managed by the local council. It is incredibly rare to have a two-kilometre stretch of flat water to train on just five minutes from the CBD, hotels, food and entertainment precincts, and our international standard airport, which makes Rockhampton the perfect choice for Australian rowing ahead of Los Angeles, Paris and Brisbane 2032.

Central Queensland is already moving to establish a Central Queensland Olympic and Paralympic Games task force. We had our first meeting several weeks ago. I acknowledge Grant Cassidy for his work to recently bring over 100 local people together. There were local people, businesspeople and sporting identities. Catering, hospitality and agribusiness were represented, as well as physios, health professionals and representatives from Central Queensland University and all

three levels of government. They were all there to work together to take advantage as much as possible of the Olympics in 2032 in Queensland and to make sure that Central Queensland is a destination of choice for pre-games training and investment.

Ellen Farlow, a Yeppoon local who actually worked for the International Olympic Committee and the organising committees for the Sydney and Torino Olympic Games, was there providing advice and assistance about how our region can capitalise on the games and attract as much investment, tourism and pre-games training and preparation as possible. I thank Ellen for her contribution. I look forward to working with her into the future. I suggest that anyone in the state government who is working on the Brisbane 2032 games should consider Ellen as part of their team because she has a huge amount of experience working for the IOC and the organising committees in Sydney and Torino. It is great to have her based in Yeppoon.

I have been delighted to see investment already starting to flow in Central Queensland off the back of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games announcement. Just recently we saw a statement from Hancock Prospecting where they confirmed that they have entered into an agreement to potentially acquire the Great Keppel Island development project. Their statement confirms—

With the announcement of the 2032 Olympics to be held in Brisbane, the redevelopment of Great Keppel Island presents as a great time to showcase Queensland as a premium, world class destination.

...


We wish to maintain and improve its natural beauty and tourist facilities, subject to all government approvals, enabling this to make possible, for Queenslanders and others to enjoy for generations to come.

Hancock welcomes the focus of the State Government to support and encourage investment in the State of Queensland and we look forward to working with the Queensland government and Livingstone Shire Council and all stakeholders for the appropriate revitalisation of this beautiful island and tourist destination.

I table a copy for the information of the House.

Tabled paper: Hancock Prospecting press release, undated, titled 'Hancock has entered into an agreement to potentially acquire the Great Keppel Island development project' [2055].

That is proof that the Brisbane 2032 Olympics announcement is already paying dividends for regional Queensland. I cannot wait to see what will happen right across Queensland as a result of this fantastic announcement. We have been looking forward to this kind of injection of confidence in Central Queensland for some time. The Brisbane 2032 Olympics announcement is already delivering that for our region. I cannot wait to see what happens in the future. I know that this announcement by Hancock will not be the last in terms of the opportunities for investment not only in my region but right across this state. To all of those members and some on the crossbench who have concerns about the Brisbane 2032 Olympics, I say that they should get on board because this will be great for Queensland. It will be great for members who represent communities right across this beautiful state. I can confirm that this announcement of the Olympics is already starting to pay dividends. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement) (11.27 am): I rise to support the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021. I would like to start by making this contribution in my capacity as minister responsible for procurement. I was particularly pleased to note that clause 10(1)(d) of the bill, which outlines the requirements for performance of functions of the organisation, says that the corporation must—

... ensure goods and services are procured in accordance with the Queensland Government's policy about procurement, including procurement from Indigenous businesses.

I think it is incredibly notable that this bill enshrines that particular objective. That is important because the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games is an unprecedented and unparalleled opportunity. It is unparalleled in sport in terms of the investment opportunity and, as the member for Keppel just spoke about, the type of confidence that it inspires in communities across the state. I know that we are all incredibly proud that our Premier has secured this for our state. In saying that, I also want to acknowledge and congratulate the minister for his significant achievement in this regard.

Even before the games kick off, it represents a decade-long pipeline of construction jobs and a pipeline of trade and investment opportunities for our state. It represents a legacy opportunity around jobs, around skills and a range of projects that will benefit Queenslanders for decades to come.

Most importantly, this parliament is considering one of the most significant opportunities that we have ever had to inspire young Queenslanders. It is an opportunity that will put Queensland front and centre in the world's eye, giving our tourism and events sector exposure that money simply cannot buy.

Over 29 days of competition, Queensland will host the greatest sporting spectacle in the world—the Olympics and Paralympics. We will have here in our state the world's best and we will be able to show the world the very best of Queensland. Of course, as incredible as those magical weeks of sport will be, it indeed offers Queensland much more: an amazing roll call of financial, tourism and social benefits, secured, as I said, by our Premier.

The forecast is \$8.1 billion in economic and social benefits for Queensland, a \$4.6 billion uplift in tourism and trade for Queensland, but, most critically, it is forecast to create 91,000 jobs. We will make sure that Queenslanders are at the front of the queue for those jobs. We will make sure that Queensland businesses are in pole position for every possible dollar spent building the games legacy. We have the tools and we are creating the tools to make it happen.

The bill ensures the games corporation undertakes procurement activities in accordance with our procurement policy and that policy includes the Buy Queensland approach. To give members an indication of what that might mean, since the Buy Queensland procurement approach was introduced in 2017, this government has worked with more than 57,990 Queensland registered businesses to supply goods and services worth more than \$36 billion to the state of Queensland. That is money that has been invested in supporting Queensland businesses and the workforce they employ. Treasury reckon that for every million dollars invested 3.3 full-time-equivalent jobs are created. On that basis, the \$36 billion invested under Buy Queensland has supported the creation of 118,800 jobs.

In 2020, the Palaszczuk government committed to spend 25 per cent of its procurement dollars with the state's small and medium enterprises. However, in the last six months of 2020 we smashed that target, hitting 28.53 per cent. That equates to \$2.67 billion invested with Queensland small and medium businesses. We are also on track to meet our 2022 target for achieving 30 per cent. The Buy Queensland approach ensures that Queensland workers will get their fair share, too. We are getting on with it.

On 5 September 2021, we launched a register so that suppliers could receive updates about how they can participate in Olympic procurement. As of 25 November this year, I can inform the House that there are now 2,522 suppliers who have registered their interest.

We are aware that the International Olympic Committee will have some existing partnership arrangements. We are conscious of those. The bill reflects that in clause 10 which excludes procurement inconsistent with the host contract, and it is completely appropriate. I am advised, however, that the pre-existing sponsorships account for around 10 per cent of the corporation's procurement. Domestic sponsorships will make up a much larger proportion of the corporation's procurement, and the Queensland procurement policy will apply to those. This will ensure the application of the local benefits test and targets to domestic sponsorships. Beyond the opportunities for those sponsorships, this is a once-in-a-lifetime event. It is the biggest thing we have ever seen here in Queensland. We have had some pretty big events, but this will be the biggest.

As every elite athlete will tell you, form counts. We have that form from our performance with the Commonwealth Games as well. The Buy Queensland approach was in its formative years for the 2018 Commonwealth Games, but it was still a winner with many small businesses. An example that I am very familiar with is Snap Printing in Underwood; it is located in Springwood, not to be confused with Snap Printing in Springwood in New South Wales. It was awarded several printing contracts for the Commonwealth Games. Karen Seage is the owner of Snap Printing and she speaks glowingly about the tremendous boost her business received from participation in the Commonwealth Games. They trained and employed more staff to deliver the Commonwealth Games contract. Now Snap Printing is among the thousands of Queensland businesses eager to help make 2032 a success as well. By using the Buy Queensland approach, we will keep every possible dollar circulating in this state.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the work of Queensland sporting organisations in partnership with the Palaszczuk government—organisations like QSport and QORF that are recognised as leaders in their industry, and all of the state sporting organisations, particularly Queensland state sporting organisations, including the work of the Queensland Academy of Sport as well and the work that they are doing now to prepare our future athletes.

Our \$1.3 billion Activate! Queensland strategy was developed with sport to empower Queenslanders to create partnerships, improve activity and drive elite success. This strategy, the first of its kind, has really kickstarted our push for Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic glory.


With the games 11 years away, we know that many of those who will represent our nation will likely be just getting involved in their sport, perhaps in the next few months or the next few years. It might be a 10-year-old girl living in Blackwater about to get her first road bike under the Christmas tree

this year. It could be a 12-year-old boy from Townsville who recently found the taste for hockey when he tried it on the new fields that this government rebuilt following the significant monsoon event. It could very well be the kid who has not even tried sport yet but he is going to become a champion in a sport after having the opportunity of Olympians visiting him in his school.

Our state is gripped by the Olympics inspiration and all that it brings. The work that we do now, the investments that we make, the infrastructure we build and the partnerships that we create are what will support and encourage them, allowing them to grow and become Queensland's future champions. I think all members of this House and Queenslanders believe that we, as a state, have what it takes to train the future superstars. We will build them the venues that they will train and compete in. You only have to look at the new North Queensland stadium to see how the Palaszczuk government can deliver transformational infrastructure. That is a project that continues to deliver for North Queensland and one that was, as the front page of the *Townsville Bulletin* proudly declared, 'on time and on budget'.

The eyes of elite sport have already turned to Queensland looking at the incredible opportunities we already offer, and we are building on them. We have an incredible opportunity ahead of us for the 2032 Olympics to transform our state and deliver a lasting legacy.

We are set to win gold for jobs. We are set to win gold for tourism. We are set to win gold for investment. We are set to win gold on the stage of inspiration for our young people. These will not be just wins; I am sure they will be world records. That is why I am proud to stand here today to support the next important step and commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (11.37 am): I believe Queensland will stage an amazing 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. It will be the greatest show on earth, an awesome opportunity for us to showcase the best of our state and nation and to inspire another generation of young sports men and women. Queensland will deliver the games and do it well. However, more than great games, we want great legacy from the games that serves all of Queensland, without fear or favour or partisan preference. The Council of Mayors South East Queensland envisioned that with their bold proposal that birthed this bid under former lord mayor Quirk, and I commend them for that.

We want an amazing legacy games that delivers catalytic infrastructure for now and for the future, for all Queenslanders and to grow Queensland businesses, connect Queensland communities and lay a foundation that attracts the real job creators which is the private sector through private investment. That requires a different and much better approach than what we have seen to date with infrastructure delivery in Queensland under the state Labor government where projects blow out by hundreds of millions of dollars, undermining the delivery of many other much needed projects.

I want to see us go for gold with infrastructure for the Olympics, but it is not a handicap. It is about ensuring that the restraints are removed. I speak of the ineptitude of badly scoped projects—projects that were not all bad but were badly scoped and delivered without attention to the fact that it is taxpayers' money. They deserve value for money and they are the ones who want a good legacy, not a legacy of lost opportunity.

It is time to do infrastructure differently in Queensland. I will reference the best practice industry conditions, or BPIC, which have been criticised by industry for being part of that handicap that we do not want to see in Queensland that I just talked about. I will table the submission from the Queensland Major Contractors Association to a federal inquiry which outlines their concerns. Interestingly, they have a different view from that of the minister who just spoke about the Townsville stadium, which is a great facility. They say it actually cost 25 per cent, or \$48 million more, due to BPIC. This Labor government's way of saying a project came in on time and on budget is to change the scope and change the budget.

According to industry, the application of these conditions, which are union favour provisions, is not about safety or Queensland first in terms of industries getting contracts. It is actually about layering extra IR provisions and costs through the union favour provisions which, unfortunately, are going to hamper how much can be delivered with regard to the infrastructure we need for these Olympics and into the future. I table that submission.

Tabled paper: Submission, dated 14 July 2021, by Queensland Major Contractors Association to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport and Cities inquiry into procurement practices for government-funded infrastructure [2056].

Let's get it right. Let's get the infrastructure we need built for all of Queensland and within South-East Queensland. Let's not lose the opportunity to connect greater South-East Queensland.

There are great facilities in the middle of Brisbane. I am on the Sunshine Coast, and Maroochydore is the capital of the Sunshine Coast. There is no plan yet under this government to deliver rapid or express public transport via rail into Maroochydore on the CAMCOS corridor. Whether

it be from the cape to Currumbin or within South-East Queensland, which is expanding rapidly, I am calling on this government to not lose the opportunity for a proper pipeline of works. I want to see CAMCOS and the rail line built into Maroochydoore. I want to see all of Queensland benefit from a golden era that is a golden era for everyone in Queensland, not just a favoured few.

We have seen the \$600 million blowout in the Coomera Connector, the \$330 million blowout in the light rail stage 3 and the \$2 billion blowout that we have heard about with regard to Cross River Rail. When the Premier was asked about some of these blowouts she looked to the project and basically laughed it off. However, that equates to other projects not getting funded when taxpayers' money is not treated with respect.

We are also going to need extra water infrastructure—and I know my colleague the member for Nanango and my other colleagues have been talking about that—if we want to hold the Olympics and cater for the growth that is happening in Queensland. It is time we moved on the water infrastructure, the transport infrastructure and also energy. One of the greatest benefits with regard to emissions is having an effective public transport network that connects people and gives them the opportunity of not needing a second car or maybe not even needing a first car. Let's see economic development that is based on government doing its job and not delivering less with more but delivering more with more because we desperately need it. I will also quote from Infrastructure Australia. In the last Queensland budget the government was criticised by Infrastructure Australia for cutting relative spending. They said—

... the Budget reduces overall four-year public infrastructure investment, with a projected \$3.3 billion reduction in spending relative to last year's Budget.

I also table that document.

Tabled paper: Extract from the webpage of Infrastructure Partnerships Australia, dated 2 December 2021, regarding the Queensland government infrastructure spending [\[2057\]](#).

Let's see more with more and Queensland taxpayers' dollars spent well. It is their money. Providing the real jobs of the future and building the capacity for Queenslanders' jobs through private enterprise means the state government needs to work with private enterprise, with business, to provide that pathway and that pipeline which is clear, transparent and well delivered.

I want to also address some of the concerns in the legislation that were identified with regard to right to information and the fact that there are exemption clauses on documents. We are concerned that the government and others might try to bury things that should be released in the public interest. We accept that there should always be provisions to protect matters such as security and other matters that have a public interest in not being released. However, this goes beyond that. It is not right and it has been called out by no less than the Information Commissioner.


It is not appropriately dealt with when the Premier comes in here and says, 'We have written to people and we are going to ask them to look at what we have done with regard to proactively releasing information.' My word! There is another Olympic event. I think it is called the backflip and shades of obscurity. We want to see respect for taxpayers' money and services and we want to see that these very important actions and decisions are taken with the highest level of probity. The state government simply asking people to proactively release things and not address this matter in legislation is a cop-out and an insult and it fails the test of integrity and transparency.

Concerns were also raised about conflicts of interest. Once again, I find it interesting that in the private sector there are often stronger controls and understanding of how to address conflicts of interest. It has certainly not been a strong suit of this state Labor government. Previously I mentioned best practice industry conditions, which is a union favour provision that adds up to 30 per cent to the cost of infrastructure in this state. That is unfortunate because there is a role for unions in our state. I believe that. I was a member of one. However, we need to see transparency and consideration for the fact that we have to act in the public interest, not just in the interests of those board members who have been appointed by virtue of their external connections. They have to act in the interest of that board. These provisions are well understood in corporate Australia and there are penalties if people do not do that.

However, this Labor government with its connection to the union movement making it an integrated machine does not have an understanding of conflicts of interest or how to put the people first rather than its own connections. It is time there was an understanding that the people should be put first. Transparency matters. This legislation could do better with regard to respecting those principles.

I want to also talk about another facility I would like to see in my electorate of Maroochydore. As the CBD of the Sunshine Coast we need a convention centre. There is the opportunity for that first stage to be multipurpose to stage the basketball preliminaries, as was foreseen in the feasibility document released by the IOC. If it is not done now, when will the state provide assistance to ensure it happens before the Olympics?

(Time expired)

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (11.47 am): In preparation for this bill I thought about writing an amendment to move the games to Bundaberg. I know I would have had the support of the minister, but in good faith I will not move that amendment today. How wonderful is it to know that Queensland will be hosting the 2032 Olympic Games? I remember on 21 July I was in the P&C meeting at Bundaberg North State School. I was listening to them talking about the pie drives and the doughnut drives that they were going to hold to fundraise. I kept refreshing the ABC News page and there it was: we have got the games, Queensland's very own Olympic Games. For the rest of the P&C meeting, which went for about two hours, all we spoke about was how fantastic it was going to be to have the Olympic Games. It means a lot to people in regional Queensland.

I remember when I was at Salter Oval watching the footy. I was with a couple of local punters and they said, 'Make sure the Premier goes to Tokyo, Tom. The Premier has to go to Tokyo. We have to get the games.' Even though we had some mischief from the other side, that is how important it was: everyone across Queensland wanted the Premier to go to Tokyo because they wanted the Olympic Games for Queensland. How fantastic was it that we got that?

The Olympic Games and Paralympic Games is more than just a sporting event. There is that sense of Olympic spirit and national pride, and in 2032 there will be that sense of Queensland identity and Queensland pride that we will show to the whole world. It will also show off the grassroots level of junior sport and participation. That is what the legacy will be; it will be about young people getting active, getting into sport and watching their heroes or becoming heroes themselves in 2032. That is what is so important about this Palaszczuk government leading the charge to deliver the Olympics for Queensland and for Australia.

It is also about the social and economic benefits, especially when we look at tourism, construction and business as well. We know that our state is going to boom because of the commitment to hold the Olympic Games here in Queensland. I note that the Premier talked in her speech about some of the estimated outcomes such as \$4.6 billion for Queensland through international tourism and trade.

I know that throughout regional Queensland we are going to see the benefits, especially in Bundaberg and across the Wide Bay. The member for Hervey Bay is smiling. He knows that there will be a lot of people coming to the Wide Bay region and driving straight to Bundaberg. We know that there will be \$5.8 billion in trade and tourism across the nation; \$17.6 billion in social and economic benefits for our country; and \$8.1 billion in economic and social benefits for Queensland—that is the importance of these games.

The member for Springwood touched on the fact that this represents 91,600 full-time-equivalent jobs for Queensland. This is Queensland's games built by Queenslanders. We are going to be the champions of the world come 2032, regardless of how many gold medals we win, because Queenslanders always deliver—that is for certain.

A government member: We are going to win a lot!

Mr SMITH: We are indeed. This bill will task the board with facilitating the many elements of organisation required to deliver a world-class event on the world stage. What is more, it will task the corporation with delivering the passion of our spirit for the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

As I mentioned earlier, it is more than just a sporting event. When we talk about the sense of Olympic spirit, national pride and state identity that will emerge, I reflect back to the year 2000. I was nine—don't hold it against me—when I lined up along George Street because the Olympic torch was about to run through Beenleigh. What a special day that was. I remember the street was absolutely jam-packed. I was annoying Mum and Dad for a Happy Meal, because we were right outside McDonald's—'I'm lovin' it'.

We were all fixated on waiting for the Olympic torch because of what it symbolised. It was not just the torch of the Olympics; it was the torch of national pride. It was not just Sydney that had the games; it was Australia that had the games. That is what we are going to feel in 2032 as well. We are going to lead our nation's pride at the Olympics. What a fantastic effort.

I think about the young people who will watch athletes compete. For me, it was Cathy Freeman and Ian Thorpe. By competing, they gave a voice and a face to elements of our communities who never before had been so strongly represented in Australia. Cathy Freeman, as a First Nations person, united a country in the turbulent Howard era through a single sporting event. What a great symbol it is—because we know that there is a long way to go in reconciliation with our First Nations people—to take with us from 2000 into 2032. There will be young people growing up now who will have those heroes and will be those heroes that will change the social fabric and create a new sense of identity in 2032. It is those young people who will absolutely lead the charge.

The organising committee will have to ensure it meets the standards of our Queensland identity in 2032; that is, being open and inclusive. The board will be charged with making these games as open and inclusive as possible. I note that the bill ensures 50 per cent of directors who are nominated will be female. This is an important step as we move forward. It is an important legacy of a Palaszczuk Labor government that does support equal opportunities across genders. The Palaszczuk Labor government leads the way in this space; that will be fantastic for our Olympic Games.

Our sporting heroes will be our young people of today. I think about some of the young people of today at the Bundaberg West Little Athletics. They are there every single Friday night, competing. They run and jump—they run off to the canteen but then they come back—and they run and jump again, and they are doing a fantastic job. They will be our future heroes. They have an inspirational Paralympian who visits them on a Friday night. Samantha Schmidt came sixth in discus at the Tokyo Paralympics.

It is good to know that there is a Paralympian there every Friday night to cheer on the kids and to give them inspiration. That is what the legacy of these games will be. Whether you are in Townsville, Bundaberg or Brisbane, you will be able to meet Olympians. You will be able to look up to your heroes and know that one day, if you work hard, that can be you. You will be able to feel that pride and know that there will be a chance for you to succeed in life. That is what Paralympians and Olympians do: they give hope to young people.

I mention Savannah Fitzpatrick and Tim Howard, who recently came to Bundaberg for the under-15 hockey state championships. Tim allowed me to hold his Olympic silver medal. I felt the weight of the world when I put it on! The kids were absolutely thrilled to have Olympians there. They had watched these two Olympians on TV, competing on the other side of the world, and now they were in their backyard, in Bundaberg, teaching them the tips and tricks of hockey and just letting them know that if they worked hard they could achieve anything they wanted. That is what the Olympic spirit is all about, and that is what the Olympics will deliver for regional Queensland.


The Olympics will deliver an infrastructure boom and hope to regional Queensland, because we know that the Palaszczuk government will continue to invest well into the future. I know that those opposite dearly love our economic recovery plan. The 2032 Olympic Games provides a landmark for us to push towards. In Bundaberg we use the new term 'Olympic money'. I know that the rowing club in Bundaberg is talking a lot about Olympic money. Bucca is a fantastic facility. We could definitely host a couple of teams in the lead-up to the Olympics. We are all very much looking forward to it.

The member for Broadwater said that we need a 20-year plan for tourism on the back of the Olympics. We also need a plan for tourism now from those opposite. The best plan for tourism is to have as many Queenslanders as possible vaccinated. The best way to achieve that is by encouraging the vaccine health directive, not having members of parliament go on radio and call it a nonsense, fear-monger and say that the Premier was hesitant to get the vaccine. That is how you generate fear and hurt tourism. People will look at which parts of regional Queensland have the highest rates of vaccination and will go there. The member for Broadwater needs to call out the members of his opposition who go on local radio and call the health directive a nonsense.

Mr MANDER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 118 on relevance. This has nothing to do with the Olympics bill. It is a simple rant of his latest ranting.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): I know that there are only 10 seconds remaining, member, but I draw you back to the bill.

Mr SMITH: I will no longer rant about my ranting. The Olympics are fantastic. It is a great win for regional Queensland, a great win for Queensland, a great win for the Palaszczuk Labor government.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (11.58 am): I rise to contribute to the debate of the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021. As has been expressed by my colleagues, the LNP has provided and will continue to provide bipartisan support for Queensland hosting the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. However, I would like to remind the government and

those opposite, particularly the member I speak after, that we on this side of the House have always supported the Olympics being held here in Queensland. In fact, on 13 June 2019 I stood in this House and said—

We will also give Queenslanders certainty about our Olympics bid. Disappointingly, the Treasurer failed to back the games in her budget speech. The Palaszczuk government has failed to provide any leadership on this issue. The LNP wants Queensland to go for gold. We are backing a bid for the Queensland Olympic Games. The games would supercharge our tourism industry, showcasing Queensland to the world. It would ensure that future-proofing infrastructure is delivered. Queensland will need this infrastructure with or without the Olympic Games, but a games bid will ensure the infrastructure is delivered.

I have to say thank you very much to the federal Morrison government which was leading the Olympic bid off the back of the Council of Mayors. This bid was lead at the time by the chair of the Council of Mayors, Graham Quirk. What an inspirational man former lord mayor Graham Quirk is. He is a visionary. He went around this state and was the genesis of this. It was former lord mayor Graham Quirk who did the boot work. He went around this state. He spoke to Queenslanders about the benefit of an Olympic bid for Queensland, and that was exactly what the Council of Mayors did.

I congratulate Mayor Karen Williams for being appointed to the committee because she was a part of that, as was Graham Lehman, the Somerset mayor. Somerset Mayor Graham Lehman knows the absolute benefit to the Somerset region these Olympic Games will bring, as they will to the Lockyer, as they will to Moreton Bay, as they will to the entirety of Queensland because Queensland will be showcased to the world. Imagine being able to showcase the Scenic Rim to the rest of the world. I know the Scenic Rim is a beautiful part of the world but maybe not as nice as the Somerset. However, we will be able to showcase that to the world and that was the vision of former lord mayor Graham Quirk.

This is a bipartisan games. It is three levels of government working together. This is not the Palaszczuk games. This is Queensland's games. That is why I am so proud to stand on this side of the House to remind those opposite about the work of the Council of Mayors. It was the members of that body who did the work—did the legwork—backed by the federal Morrison government, and in at the last minute the Palaszczuk government decided to jump on board because it knew the benefit for the future of Queensland and because it knew it would need to partner with the federal government to bring infrastructure to this great state of ours. That was the only way that Queensland would be able to get ahead, and that was by partnering with the Morrison government on this catalytic project that will bring catalytic infrastructure to this great state of ours.

The bill that is before the House establishes the Brisbane Organising Committee for those games and is to undertake and facilitate the organisation, conduct, promotion and commercial and financial management of the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. As I have said, I congratulate Mayor Karen Williams for her appointment to that committee. That is a very good appointment. I want to congratulate the incredible, amazing Paralympian Kurt Fearnley. There is no greater Olympian or Paralympian than Kurt Fearnley, and I really want to congratulate him. Of course then there is Queensland's great Bronte Barratt. It is wonderful to see her appointed to this committee as well and I look forward with much interest in the years to come on who will be making up that committee. It is very important who is on that committee, and I know that through my experience with the G20 in Brisbane—the most successful G20 ever held and I was very proud of my work on that G20 and how successful it was. The Olympics is the world's largest event and will be held right here, so we have to get it right. We have to get the right people on that committee—people with drive and enthusiasm. They are the type of people we need on that committee.

When talking about the Olympics I want to congratulate two incredible women from the South Burnett. I looked up which Olympians have come from my electorate. We all know Taliqua Clancy. What an incredible dual Olympian. In 2016 she went to Rio to play beach volleyball and came home with the silver medal from the Tokyo Olympics. I know Taliqua is very proud of her silver but wants to better it, so go, Taliqua! Go for gold in Paris! I know that she will be very successful in Paris.

In 1964 Robyn Thorn from Kingaroy brought home a silver medal for her role in the four by 100 freestyle and came second to Dawn Fraser in her individual event in the semifinal and did not make the final. I was really pleased to read that about Robyn Thorn because the South Burnett has an incredible sporting history, and swimming and beach volleyball are obviously at the top of the list. What is next? We know we will bring home a gold for Kingaroy in the South Burnett before 2032 but—


An opposition member: Breakdancing?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON:—what is next for those young kids who are growing up out there and all across Queensland? How exciting! There are new sports like breakdancing, so I take that interjection. I know that is in Paris, but I am not sure whether Kingaroy will have a breakdancer representing us at

the Olympics. However, sport is so important for every child. It is important to get out in the sunshine and play sport, whether it is a team sport or individual sport. It does not matter how good you are and it does not matter whether or not you are wishing to get to the Olympics; it is just fantastic to get out and play sport. It is so important to have a healthy lifestyle and I know that my local schools are so excited about the future Olympics. Whenever I go to those schools I ask the kids what sport they would like to play. They often nominate many sports that are not in the Olympics. However, skateboarding is now an Olympic sport. How fantastic is that? I know that I am working extremely hard to get a skate park for Wooroolin. I met some great kids and I said to them that we need to fight for this skate park in Wooroolin and one of the little boys said to me, 'Well maybe, Deb, I can go to the Olympics. If you tell the Premier that, we'll get a skate park in Wooroolin.' So here is hoping for a skate park in Wooroolin so we can have a future Olympian skateboarder coming straight from Wooroolin. I am not going to name—

Mr Millar: You could hold the event there!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: We could hold the skateboarding in Wooroolin. Wouldn't that be fantastic? Wooroolin is just out of Kingaroy. It is a beautiful little town and I encourage people to get out there. I also want to wish all future Olympians who are training right now all the very best, who are doing the hard yards, training hard and watching the black line if they are a swimmer or running or cycling. Whatever the sport is, keep going because you are doing very well and we look forward to supporting you in Paris. We may not be there in person, but we will certainly be cheering on from the sidelines. I for one am beyond excited for the 2032 Brisbane Olympic Games.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (12.07 pm): It was really lovely to hear that speech from the member for Nanango and I am delighted that she is so enthusiastic about the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games and that her side of the House is supportive, but it is interesting to note that opposition members of the committee submitted a statement of reservation to the report. So are those opposite supporting it or are they not? It is a bit like their general persona in this House. If we said that the rain comes from the sky, they would want to argue that that is not the case. It is the same with the Premier. The Premier went to Japan to represent Brisbane to make our case for the bid to the IOC. She was howled down by those opposite for going there to present our case and then she was howled down for going to events and then howled down for not going to events. It was never good enough and yet those opposite stand here and go on and on and on, and I have to listen to the member for Theodore go on and on and on about the vaccination of the Premier. The Premier had her vaccination. She did the right thing. She has done the right thing.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PEASE: Again, thank you very much. The fact that those opposite are interjecting demonstrates exactly what I am saying and shows my point exactly. It is flip-flop—do we do it, do we not? They cannot say out loud whether or not they support mandatory vaccination, but I digress. I have always loved sport. The Olympics and the Paralympics were so much anticipated in my household with my two sisters and I because we were able to see females competing and being recognised for their achievements and their skill. Seeing female athletes on television then was practically non-existent and in fact almost a rarity back in the day, and I am giving my age away there because it was black-and-white TV of course.

The games really filled the void of seeing people who looked like me and the other females in the room on TV competing on a sporting field. It was great to see that. My canny and social justice campaigner Glaswegian mother also loved her daughters seeing the bigger world outside of the tiny rural farming community of Birkdale, which it was back then—again showing my age—not only the bigger community of the world but also female athletes. These social legacies of the games are one of the many benefits of a hometown games. I recall, like the member for Bundaberg, standing waiting for the Olympic torch at Birkdale and watching the torch bearers go past. I and my kids and the crowd cheered so hard for the torch bearers as they ran past, holding the flame high on its way to light the Sydney Olympic flame. We watched its progress until the opening ceremony when the wonderful Cathy Freeman stood proud to light the flame.

Queensland is poised to deliver an Olympic and Paralympic Games that will leave a lasting legacy of infrastructure and also memories for generations to come. Already there are young athletes who have been inspired to represent Australia in 2032. I know firsthand how this drive to make the games can ignite an aspiring athlete. My daughter, Audrey, was inspired watching the Hockeyroos win gold at the 2000 Sydney Olympics. Audrey has since gone on to represent Australia at the Youth Olympics, where she won a gold medal, the junior world cup and the world championships. She

travelled around the world with the Hockeyroos until her retirement in 2017 when she got a job that actually paid. I am so proud of her and her achievements and I thank her for the great times that we had following and supporting her on her journey.

I also acknowledge the commitment of the parents of the athletes. I know firsthand the commitment from parents that goes into the making of an elite athlete—the training, the tears, the team selections, the losses and the wins. It is a roller-coaster ride for we parents. There is no training for the parents of athletes, nothing to prepare you for this important role that you play in a young athlete's life. Given that we get an opportunity to introduce a sport, we could perhaps introduce an Olympic event for parent support. It could be a tri series. We could have one event which was an early morning dash to training, a record and diary keeping event and, finally, supporting your young athlete emotionally.

Whilst I am being a bit lighthearted about this, I do genuinely acknowledge that the parents or support persons of our athletes play an important role in supporting their players. My daughter's friends are still playing in the Hockeyroos. The member for Bundaberg mentioned the Fitzpatrick girls. Audrey played with those girls, as well as many of the others who are still in the team. I know that their parents are continuing to support them. I acknowledge the great work that they do. I thank and acknowledge the current and future parents of the Olympic and Paralympic athletes. The games are nothing without you.

My family also has very fond memories of the 2000 Sydney Paralympics, as my brother-in-law, Roger Rynd, who sadly passed away in 2010, was the artistic director of the sensational showcase of Australian talent at the opening ceremony of this amazing event. The 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be an amazing event in the history of the great state of Queensland.

The bill before the House establishes the Brisbane Organising Committee for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. We know that these games will not only deliver opportunities for our athletes but also be an economic enabler, providing legacy infrastructure, employment and opportunities across Queensland. This bill establishes a corporation as an independent statutory body with a board of directors overseeing its operations. The size of the board, approximately 20 members, will be similar to the Sydney 2000 organising committee which had 15 members, the London 2012 committee which had 18, but will be less than half the size of the delayed Tokyo Games which had 45 members. There are provisions around those appointments, including that where they are elected members they are there at the behest of the government that is in power at the time.


There are also provisions in the bill to ensure that the Queensland Procurement Policy will apply to the corporation to the extent that is consistent with the Olympic host contract. This is welcome as it means the goods and services procured will, to as great an extent as possible, comply with measures such as maximising Queensland suppliers' opportunities to participate. I am already getting onto my local businesses and manufacturers to make sure they are getting involved as best they can. There will also be compliance with strong workplace health and safety systems and standards, a commitment to apprentices and trainees, best practice industrial relations and history of compliance and procurement tendering and other government policies.

As I have stated, the economic opportunities alone of these games will be substantial for our state. Over the next 20 years the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games is forecast to generate an estimated \$4.6 billion increase in international tourism and trade, approximately 91,600 full-time jobs will be generated and a 10-year pipeline of construction jobs and trade investment opportunities and legacy projects will benefit Queenslanders for decades to come. The 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games will be a games for all Queenslanders. It will trigger increased investment and opportunities that will benefit our regions through a 10-year pipeline of construction jobs and industry investment in new skills, capacity and supply chains, attraction of major sporting events and training pre and post games and investments in renewable energies to deliver a climate positive games.

We have already seen an example of attracting teams to the bayside. Prior to the Tokyo 2020 delayed games, the Paralympic cycling team and the Australian cycling team were based in Manly and did a lot of their training there. I am sure they will be coming back because they saw what a beautiful venue it was to train in. Many of my local traders benefited from having the Australian cycling team there, not only in terms of the accommodation providers but also through increased investment in the community. They shopped locally and they ate out locally. It was fabulous. They also inspired a lot of young local cyclists by going down to the local BMX track.

The bayside is incredibly excited about the venue for sailing being at Manly. It is a great opportunity. As a sailing community we already contribute greatly, with our sailors from the area having won many gold medals. Sailing being an Olympic event will highlight and showcase this most magnificent—and I believe the best—side of the bay. Baysiders are supportive and excited. Like the

member for Bundaberg, I was at a P&C meeting on the night of the announcement of the awarding of the games and I was so excited when it was announced. A cheer went up at our local P&C meeting. I am tremendously excited that we are not only getting the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games for Brisbane—it will be fabulous—but also getting sailing in the bayside and that in the lead-up to that we will have training events and other activities. As part of the lead-up, the whole of Queensland will be showcased to the world. I look forward to the games with great excitement.

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (12.17 pm): I am immensely pleased and proud to speak on the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021. If I may briefly take this opportunity, before I speak on the elements of the bill, to wish members of parliament and their families and the parliamentary support staff the compliments of the season. I look forward to resuming stumps next year.

Like many members in this chamber, I too have witnessed many milestones in the evolution of Brisbane from a sleepy river town to what will become an Olympic city on the world stage in 11 years time. I too can recall using the dreaded outhouse until Brisbane was sewerred by the Clem Jones City Hall administration, catching one of the last trams in 1969, the Brisbane flood of 1974, attending—like many claim to but I was there—the first State of Origin match in 1980, the Commonwealth Games in 1982 when we thought it was a big deal when Matilda gave us that wink and we thought we had made it on the big stage.

Mr Stewart: Joeys came out!

Mr MINNIKIN: They did. Joeys came out of the pouch, from memory. I take that interjection. And who could forget World Expo in 1988 and for me, as a cricket tragic, one of my all-time favourite Brisbane memories, attending the inaugural Sheffield Shield win in 1995 at the famous Gabba.

The first Olympic Games memory that I really have was in 1974. I was a member of Laurie Lawrence's swimming squad at the Carina pool. Lanes 7 and 8 were roped off. We would get there after school at circa 3.30 and we would train for a couple of hours. We were expressly told that under no circumstance were we to interrupt—dive under the ropes into—lanes 7 and 8 because there was one Steve Holland who was training for the 1976 Montreal Olympics. In that two hours that we trained, we never saw him come up for air. He was up and down those lanes.

Even as a young boy I recognised the amount of dedication that such athletes, regardless of their chosen sport, are required to have if they aspire to be an Olympian. In fact, I admire anyone—forget about gold, silver or bronze—who can lay claim being an Olympian. I absolutely 'dips me lid' to each and every one of them.

I note that the speaking list for this bill is a very full docket, which I think goes to the very heart of the bipartisan spirit that has been shown and should continue to be shown. While in a robust democracy, we can all agree on a final outcome—we have to have checks and balances. At the end of the day, when our parliamentary careers have faded into oblivion and the games are on, I hope that we can all say that we played some role in making sure that they will be—and I am very confident that they will be—the best games ever delivered. As a few other speakers have done, I acknowledge the great efforts of former lord mayor Sallyanne Atkinson, the South-East Queensland Council of Mayors and, in particular, Graham Quirk who drove the genesis behind making sure that the flame and the ideal of holding these Olympics has come to fruition.

I note that the explanatory notes state that 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—

and this is the essence of the bill—

- establish a board of directors of the Corporation (the Board) to ensure the Corporation performs its functions in a proper, effective and efficient way.

It needs to be repeated that the LNP absolutely supports the bill. A couple of issues were highlighted in the statement of reservation. I assume that most learned members would have availed themselves of the opportunity to read the report. That statement of reservation relates to a couple of points that I will come back to if time permits.

One thing needs to be restated and it was said by a couple of members, I think, very eloquently: many people love sport. I would say that probably 99.9 per cent of Australians love sport. The simple fact is that, even if you are more into cultural pursuits, the Olympic and Paralympic Games are more than just an ideal. They are more than just two signature sporting events. They forever change the fibre,

tone and timber of the way that a city is seen. We need only look to recent history to see that. Some leaders have talked about Brisbane being a new world city. I say this with the utmost respect to them: I do not think you can ever consider your city a truly real world city unless it has successfully hosted an Olympic Games. From looking at both this and the other side of the chamber I know that many members are true sporting diehards.


As a shadow minister, it is beholden on me to keep the government of the day in check. A fundamentally important element of the games that will affect infrastructure is the very important transport portfolio, which I represent as shadow minister. Overnight I was thinking about whether I would speak on this bill and I decided, 'Why not? It's an important bill.' I then had a very important choice to make: do I use this 10-minute speaking opportunity to talk about where we are heading given current infrastructure delays or do I maintain the spirit of true bipartisanship? I was shocked myself when I landed on the position that on this particular bill I will stay completely bipartisan. There will be plenty of other opportunities to speak in the future.

I make it very clear to the government members that we need to be mature. If we want our city to grow up and be a true world city, we have to start that growing-up process right here. There may be criticism in the future, regardless of who sits on that side of the chamber. There will be a couple of elections before 2032—tick-tock, that never changes. We have to make sure that, regardless of who forms the government of the day, they take on board the fact that we shared one defining outcome. In 2032 many of us will not be members of parliament. Let us be frank about that. However, we do have the opportunity to speak on these matters now and if criticism of a process or a project is delivered in the right spirit to try to forge a better outcome, then that is fair, it is just and it should not be misconstrued as simply bashing the government of the day.

I have had many years of development and project management experience on multimillion dollar infrastructure projects in the private sector. As the Register of Members' Interests shows, I am still involved in property development. It is all declared on the interests register. There are always three essential elements to project management: time, quality and cost. In relation to infrastructure for the 2032 Olympics Games, everything has to be done within that time-quality-cost triangle. If one of the corners of that triangle is compromised, the others can be as well.

In reference to the 2032 Olympic Games, I would be honoured to continue in my role as a member of parliament and, if still in opposition, I would be honoured to continue to be the shadow minister for a portfolio that will to a large degree decide the efficacy and the success of the games. You have to be able to get athletes from point A to point B. We saw the importance of that with the Commonwealth Games and we saw it 20-plus years ago in Sydney. I give my absolute commitment to this House. I wish the 2032 Olympics all the very best.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Mackay, I acknowledge in the gallery former attorney-general and member for Toowoomba North, Kerry Shine. Welcome.

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (12.27 pm): From the outset I say that my contribution to the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021 will be unashamedly regional—the best part of Queensland. I enjoyed hearing about the member for Chatsworth's brush with Olympians and I have a few names to throw out myself. Cathy Freeman grew up down the road from me. Although they did not all live in my street I also acknowledge Geoff Huegill, Linda Mackenzie, Tracey Belbin, Nick Ffrost, Beau Menzies, Baeden Choppy, Cobi Crispin who all have one thing in common—that is, they have all competed at an Olympics or Paralympics Games and at one time have lived in the great City of Mackay. Our great champions, Benita and Caitlyn Willis, have also competed on the world stage. The list could go on but I have only 10 minutes in which to speak.

Regional areas of Queensland, such as mine, are the nurseries for Australia's Olympians and Paralympians. The 2032 Brisbane Olympics are exciting for not just the south-east but also all up-and-coming athletes. They all have their eye on representing Australia at the great games. When I speak to young people in my region, they all tell me that they are dreaming about representing Australia in front of a home crowd. The 2032 games are a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for athletes from all over Australia.

Regional Queensland is also gearing up for the once-in-a-lifetime economic development that is not just for the south-east but all of Queensland. My region is looking at how we can get ready and take full advantage. 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.

This bill is in keeping with the obligations of the Olympic host contract. The IOC entrusts the state of Queensland, Brisbane City Council and the Australian Olympic Committee with the planning, organising, financing and staging of Brisbane 2032 in accordance with the terms of the Olympic host contract, the IOC's Olympic Charter.

All Queenslanders want to be included and compete for the economic opportunities that the games will bring. Clause 10 requires that the corporation procure its goods and services in accordance with the Queensland Procurement Policy, except where inconsistent with the Olympic host contract. Engaging local industry and ensuring jobs are two objectives of the Palaszczuk government. Clause 10 of the bill will ensure that Queensland businesses can capitalise on the decades of investment, growth and opportunity that Brisbane 2032 will bring to Queensland.

The world spotlight will be on Queensland pre and post the games. This exposure will attract interstate and international visitors for tourism and visitor investment. In regional Queensland, we have some of the best and innovative engineering and manufacturing. We want some of the economic opportunities that this focus will bring. With the support of the Mackay manufacturing hub established by the Palaszczuk government, we will be ready to sell our skills and goods to the new markets across the world. We are ready to be in the mix of the expected \$8.1 billion in national trade and investment expected in Australia to be generated by the games.

Expertise in my regions centres on the resource sector, emerging industries, food manufacturing and the bio futures space. The Mercurius trial plant positioned at the QUT research centre at Racecourse Mill could very well be producing the green low emission bio jet fuel developed from the by-product in sugar milling, the bagasse. It will be fuelling the green fuel aeroplanes that will be bringing thousands of visitors to our shores. Entrepreneurs are already testing innovations in the resource sector in the Mackay Resources Centre of Excellence. Biannually, we host the largest resource trade show expo in the Southern Hemisphere. Leading into the games, Queensland's exposure will only enhance participants from this expo from around the globe, promoting all of Australia's innovations and products in the resource industry.

The international focus is a unique opportunity to sell Australia as a safe travel destination and to promote our vast range of experiences. Our state and local campaigns to woo visitors need to be ready with our holiday experiences and products in tiptop condition. When people travel to Australia, they will experience world-class tourism ventures across Mackay, Isaac and the Whitsunday region. With the injection of nearly \$900,000, the Palaszczuk government has invested in Wild Cat which has just launched in my region. Wild Cat is an extension of Red Cat Adventures that already operate in the Whitsundays. They are ready to take visitors to our pristine islands and beautiful reefs.


Marine Safety Queensland is in the process of cleaning up our waterways and is cleaning up all of the sunken sea vessels. This will ensure that our waterways and sea adventures will be truly ready to shine in welcoming visitors. We are building a reputation for adventure tourism. Our mountain bike tracks, our fishing experience and all the natural beauty of the environment will encourage people to keep returning to the region well past the games. Our region produces some of the best food in the world, some of the best seafood—wild caught and farmed—beef, cattle, fruit and vegetables. We are developing a future foods industry that will be ready to feed the many visitors to Queensland and also open up potential export markets for the product.

Regional Queensland is also the most talented. Regional Queensland has one of the largest eisteddfods in the state. I believe that all the entertainment for the games will come from regional Queensland as well. Do not worry South-East Queensland, we will leave a few opportunities for you! The sporting clubs in my region have already rolled up their sleeves and are planning and undertaking development for their different facilities. We want to attract people from all countries and invite them to come to my region to start preparing with pre-game training and acclimatise to Australia. We have the facilities, and what we do not have we are building.

We have already proven that we can host world-class matches and games. Recently, the Australian women's cricket team played India in thrilling one-day matches. We have hosted NRL and AFL matches. Regional Queensland is ready to go. The Mackay Gymnastic Association has its plans to join up and is making contacts with international gymnast communities to host them pregames. The shovels are ready to go at the Great Barrier Reef Arena. We are ready to break ground on the \$24 million project that will be completed by the end of 2022. We will then be ready for stage 2.

I am sorry to the member for Nanango, but Mackay has the Sugar Bowl—the best skate bowl in Queensland. The skaters will be heading to Mackay. We can also host netball at our 16 high-quality courts. We have the Mackay Aquatic Recreation Complex, Olympic swimming pools, Olympic standard running tracks. We also have all the other facilities for athletes—discus, shot put, long jump, high jump and all the other sports that are played out there.

I sincerely hope that we will see sailing in the Whitsundays—not just training but Olympic races. We could have parasailing as well. The Mackay region is ready to go. We could take the whole Olympic Games into my region.

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (12.37 pm): I also rise to talk on the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill. I was not intending on speaking to this bill, but I have been inspired by some of the speeches of members opposite. I thank the member for Mackay for that thrilling speech just then! There are a couple of issues about this bill that I would like to talk about. One issue that the member for Mermaid Beach raised the other day concerned the lack of appointment to the board of the mayor from the Gold Coast. We just had the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast in the past couple of years. There are some things—

Mr McDonald interjected.

Mr HART: I take that interjection from the member for Lockyer. There are a few things we need to learn from the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast. They were very successful sporting games but, as far as being a successful games for the people of the Gold Coast, they were a little bit off. A lot of people were scared away from coming to the Gold Coast while the Commonwealth Games were on. We saw a dearth of people at our restaurants and our hotels, because the government said that this would be a very busy time on the Gold Coast and that people should avoid visiting. They told us the roads would be chock-a-block and that there would be no opportunity to get anywhere on the freeways, but I did not have any trouble at all getting around the Gold Coast during that time. There was just no-one there. Between now and 2032 when the Brisbane games are on, it is very important that we learn from our previous mistakes.

Unfortunately, at the moment we have a Labor government and they never learn from any mistakes they make. Hopefully, future governments will learn from that. I would encourage those who are deciding on who should be on the board of the Olympic Games to look at adding to the board the position of mayor of the Gold Coast council, whoever that might be in 2032. Do we have any volunteers for mayor of the Gold Coast in 2032? We would like to see someone from the Gold Coast appointed to that board. I will table an article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin* that talks about traffic issues and other issues around the Commonwealth Games so that someone can perhaps learn from that.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin* online, dated 9 April 2018, titled 'Gold Coast business owner livid at Commonwealth Games traffic warnings' [[2058](#)].

The issue I want to talk about today was touched on briefly by a few ministers and a few members on the other side, but they skimmed over the particular point. I note that when the Minister for Sport was talking about this he mentioned clause 10 of the bill. I want to concentrate on this issue because other members have covered off on every other issue around the Olympic Games.

Clause 10, which is headed 'Requirements for performance of functions', is important. Clause 10 states that 'In performing its functions the corporation must' and then there are a whole lot of things it must do. At (d) it states—

ensure goods and services are procured in accordance with the Queensland Government's policy about procurement, including procurement from Indigenous businesses.

At face value that seems great. It sounds like we are going to purchase things in Queensland and that that will benefit the people of Queensland when we get to the Olympic Games in 2032. Subclause (2) states—

For subsection (1)(d)—

and that is the one I just read out—

the Queensland Government's policy about procurement does not apply to the extent it is inconsistent with the host contract.

Do we all have that now? We have a procurement policy that applies to the Olympics which says we will buy things in Queensland but it does not apply to the extent it is inconsistent with the host contract. Let us have a look at the host contract? That is not available to us. We cannot have a look at that because that will no doubt be commercial-in-confidence. This bill does not allow for any right to information applications to be made to obtain that document.

The government has a perfect excuse to blame the host contract for the fact that they will not end up spending any money in Queensland or the fact that most of the major contracts go to businesses that are in places other than in Queensland. The government has a history of this when we look at some of the infrastructure projects going on around the state at moment. For instance, the Cairns Convention Centre is supposed to be using local contractors, but there are contractors from Sydney and Melbourne doing some of the work up there. This government does not have a good record in that regard. They need to get their ducks in a row as far as procurement goes.

A couple of members mentioned that some of the infrastructure will be covered by best practice industrial conditions.

Mr McDonald: Busted.

Mr HART: I will take that interjection from the member of Lockyer. We have seen with a number of infrastructure projects happening throughout the state at the moment that this has caused a cost blowout. Gold Coast Light Rail stage 3 has blown out by 50 per cent because of best practice industrial conditions. The government crows quite a lot about how Cross River Rail will fit into the Olympics in 2032. Again, we have seen massive cost blowouts. We have not seen the end of that. It will be ginormous—if there is such a word—when we see the final cost of Cross River Rail.

I wanted to question the Premier about clause 10 of this bill during consideration in detail. I was hoping the Premier would be able to give me a guarantee that the majority of goods and services would be sourced from Queensland companies for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games. Given that we have had an extra seven enthusiastic members of the Labor Party added to speaking list overnight, it looks to me like this bill, like a lot of other bills in the Queensland parliament, will be guillotined all of a sudden and we will not get to have consideration in detail. Never mind; I will be hanging around to see whether the Premier comes in to consider the amendments that the member for South Brisbane has proposed, for instance, and whether she answers my question about clause 10 of this bill.


That is going to happen at 5.15 this afternoon. By my count, with 10 minutes allowed for every enthusiastic member of the Labor Party who has decided to add themselves to the speaking list on this bill, we will run out of time and the Premier—

Government members interjected.

Mr HART: Members, I have a lot of notes to speak to so you will excuse me. I would like to hear an answer around procurement because this is a very important issue for the people of Queensland. They want to see food purchased from Queensland. They want to see the infrastructure built by builders from Queensland. They want electricians in Queensland hooking up the wires. They want the roads to be built by Queensland contractors. They want to see this government do the right thing.

There are a couple of things that I would ask for. I would like to be given an answer on that. If the advisers in the corner could make a note of that for me I would appreciate it. I would like a guarantee that items will be purchased in Queensland and a guarantee that the government will not use as an excuse not to do that a contract that we cannot see, we cannot RTI and that is invisible to us because this government is not transparent and accountable.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Thank you, member for Burleigh, for that provocative speech.

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (12.47 pm): I rise to support the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021. I thank the Premier for having the commitment to travel to Tokyo to secure these fantastic games for Queensland. Every Queenslanders should be proud of what she has done and what this government is delivering leading up to the games and further afield. I thank the chair of the Economic and Governance Committee, the member for Logan, and the other members of the committee for their work on this legislation.

This bill establishes the Organising Committee for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The committee will be a statutory body that can operate at arm's length from the Queensland government. It will give the board of directors and the CEO the necessary independence to achieve the objective of hosting a successful Olympic and Paralympic Games here in Queensland in 2032 while also operating under a level of public accountability. Similar committees have been set up by previous host cities. Who could forget the Sydney Olympic Games 2000. What a successful Olympic and Paralympic Games that was.

I note the statement of reservation from the opposition members on the committee. They also say this bill has bipartisan support. I listened with interest to the member for Chatsworth's contribution. No doubt it was a fine audition for a leadership challenge in the new year.

They also say the government needs to build infrastructure that will benefit all Queenslanders. They only have to go for a short walk from this House and see what is happening in Albert Street. Cross River Rail—a legacy-building game changer for the people of Brisbane—is being constructed as we speak. The minister spoke the other day about the boring machine breaking through for that particular leg. No doubt all of those tourists and people wishing to go to the games will be able to get there in time and with no issues.

The LNP only have to travel anywhere in Queensland to see the infrastructure that is being built to benefit all Queenslanders now and into the future—like the Smithfield Bypass in Cairns which was opened just last week and the Rookwood Weir near Rockhampton. This record-breaking infrastructure will benefit not only my portfolio but many areas surrounding Rockhampton with growth and jobs in Queensland.

There is the \$2 billion Queensland Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund—a more productive kind of hot air than what we normally get from those opposite. Also, in their statement of reservation, the LNP want to see more skilling and training. Where have they been in the last six years? Just this year the Palaszczuk government announced \$25 million for a pre-apprenticeship support program to help Queenslanders secure the training they need for the job they want. In my portfolio alone we are investing nearly \$12 million over the next four years on upgrading or building new agricultural training facilities in high schools across this state. That is on top of our hugely successful Agribusiness Gateway to Industry Schools program.

The 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games do not just mean benefits for Brisbane and the south-east. It will have massive benefits right across Queensland and for our primary producers. I have been extremely fortunate to have travelled the length and breadth of this state as part of my portfolio. I have seen how Queensland food and fibre is produced and how Queensland seafood is harvested. I can see why it is world-class and sought after right around the world. That is why our farmers have a reputation in the export market as consistently having the cleanest, greenest and best produce.

With the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Queensland farmers will have a captive audience of billions. What better way to showcase Queensland produce to more markets around the world? Since coming to government in 2015, we have worked hard to help our farmers do what they do best. Take, for example, our Rural Economic Development Grants.

In the last term of government, \$10 million was given in matched grants to businesses to expand their operations and, more importantly, grow jobs in regional Queensland. Some of those jobs are in your electorate, Mr Deputy Speaker Krause. These grants have created 1,800 direct and indirect jobs right across this great state and have seen agribusinesses flourish—businesses like Kialla Pure Foods on the Darling Downs, who saw demand for their organic flour products increase 300 per cent during the height of the pandemic last year. They were able to meet that demand, thanks to the RED Grants that we provided them.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind producers that there is still time to put in an expression of interest for the next round of RED Grants funding of \$3.3 million. It was part of our election commitment last year. I know these grants will help our producers realise their full potential in time to show off their produce at the 2032 Olympics. We will be feeding thousands and thousands of overseas and interstate visitors and Queenslanders during those Games. That is why we need and will supply good Queensland produce in 2032 and beyond.

Our beef industry is second to none. Earlier this year we had what has been described as the Olympics of beef—Beef Australia 2021 in Rockhampton. It was a wonderful week showcasing all that is great about our cattle industry. I was very proud to be named by Bryce Camm the 'Minister for Beef'. I will continue supporting that great industry, as every member in this government does.

I cannot wait to see Queensland beef being enjoyed by the world's athletes at the Athletes Village in 2032, just as it was by our Aussies at the Tokyo games earlier this year. After all, beef is a gold medal Queensland agricultural export. It is not just the cattle industry that will benefit. It is all commodities from fresh Queensland seafood to top quality fruits and vegetables, not to mention the cotton grown on the Darling Downs and in Central Queensland that may, no doubt, end up in the uniforms being worn by our Olympic athletes as they walk into a redeveloped Gabba in 2032. That is what this bill does—it sets up the functions, the structure and the organisation now to ensure that we can harness the wonderful opportunities available to us to ensure Queensland farmers make the most of the games in 2032.


What this bill and this event means for Ferny Grove is immense. There are few debates in this place that will resonate strongly in the community for years to come—and resonate in such a positive way. To all children of today: this organising committee will set a future that will see world-class sporting events take place here in Queensland, sporting events that they can aspire to be involved in, whether they will be the Olympians of tomorrow or whether they will be a volunteer at the games or work at the games. Importantly, those children will grow to become apprentices or workers involved in the construction and fit-out of these games venues over the years to come. I cannot highlight more strongly what these games will mean not just to my community but to communities across Queensland in the coming years and when the Olympics takes place.

It is important to realise that Queensland has a special opportunity to plan for these games longer than many other hosts. This bill will ensure that this planning will leave Queensland with infrastructure and facilities that will not be white elephants but will be key resources for the years to come.

Queensland has already experienced the world coming to our state and what that has meant for our development and reputation as a state. Many may not remember the Commonwealth Games in Brisbane in 1982 or maybe just the memory of the special XXXX beer! Many Queenslanders and Australians will remember Expo 88—a game changer for Queensland, leaving a legacy right across Queensland. Even here at Parliament House we have statues from that event, as well as those from outside the old primary industries building that are now on display in Longreach.

Three years ago I had the pleasure to attend some of the events at the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast. What a showcase to the world that was! It was a huge success not only for those who attended but also for those who had the opportunity to see the fine display of athletes from right around the world. I thoroughly enjoyed it. I am sure that the then minister for sport in his capacity and every other person who attended those games would be proud of that. You would think that every member on the Gold Coast would support the good outcomes of those games as well.

The Commonwealth Games highlighted the ongoing success of showcasing Queensland to the world. That is what the Olympic Games will do. It will showcase what we will be supplying, not only our produce but also the fine infrastructure that will be built for those games into the future. This is a great opportunity for us to be showcased to the world. In closing, I want to express the opportunity and the value gained from the commitment of our fine Premier in making sure we secured these games.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (12.57 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021. What can we say but bring on the games! I have had the great honour and privilege of attending the opening ceremonies of both the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games and the Sydney Olympic Games in 2000. What a spectacle that was! What an incredible event. What a magnificent opportunity to showcase all the very best that Australia and our region have to offer to the world, to show off our culture and our heritage and it goes without saying our sporting process because Australia knows how to turn out gold medal champions, we know how to turn out medallists and we know how to demonstrate great sporting spirit to the world.

Back when the Sydney 2000 Olympics were being organised, I also had the privilege of being on the Olympic 2000 team fund for Queensland as a board member. Our role was to raise money to support Queensland athletes who were going to compete at the games. It was such a great honour to stand by then mayor Gary Baidon, who was the chair of that fund, and other board members like Glynis Nunn and work together side by side for two or three years running events and raising money for our Queensland athletes.

I have to say that one of the amazing things about the Olympic Games is the culture. There is just an incredible culture around the games. There is so much pomp, so much history and so much heritage that you cannot help but be caught up in the aura and wonder of this truly global event. I know that for Queensland the hosting of these games, which both sides of the House have said repeatedly we fully support, will be a great triumph for Queensland and a great moment in Queensland's history.


I was also lucky enough during the 2000 games to be the general manager of Macquarie Southern Cross, one of the official broadcast partners of the 2000 Olympics. It was just an incredible journey working through the negotiations, looking at the contracts, coming to understand what it meant to have broadcast rights and what we could and could not say.

Debate, on motion of Mr Molhoek, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Forensic and Scientific Services

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (2.00 pm): Serious questions have been raised about the adequacy of Forensic and Scientific Services in Queensland, and those questions have only increased with today's announcement that the health minister has asked the Attorney-General to reopen the coronial inquiry into the death of Shandee Blackburn, followed by the Attorney's response that she is seeking legal advice about doing so. The Attorney could direct an inquiry today if she wanted to. The Attorney has that power under section 27 of the Coroners Act. Hopefully, a new inquest will provide some clarity and comfort for Shandee's mother, Vicki, and her family.

Why is it that yet again this Labor Party government only acts when the story gets a run in the media? What about the many other people relying on forensic services to get it right who have missed out because of the government's incompetence? This inquest, if it proceeds, will not answer the many serious questions raised about the state of Queensland's forensic science service. This is a serious matter that deserves so much more than the Premier's shallow and glib brush-offs in question time—brush-offs that do not tell the full story revealed in Audit Office report No. 21 of 2018-19, *Delivering forensic services*.

That report bells the cat on the Premier's claims and reveals that: the number of staff in the forensic DNA team declined from 65 in 2014 to 61 in 2018; the budget was reduced by \$1 million over the same period; and DNA exhibits older than 120 days increased by 344 per cent, from 289 to 1,284 over the same period. The problem has been around for many years. Indeed, a pioneer of DNA testing, Professor Angela van Daal, is reported as saying that the problems go back two decades. Recently I received another report into Forensic and Scientific Services that was done in July this year. This report has not yet been made public or published, but this internal analysis makes some damning statements, including that timeliness is an issue. The report states—

Feedback from coroners is that the timeliness of autopsy reports is unacceptable, with 32% of reports being delivered within 120 days—

meaning 68 per cent of reports are not being delivered on time, and that—

There are coronial cases being closed prior to receiving the autopsy report due to significant delays in completion.


Significantly—

There is a long standing issue that current IT systems including the Laboratory Information System (LIS), Auslab, are not suited to forensic pathology.

There is of course much more in that report, but it shows that it is well past time for a full and open investigation into the delivery of forensic services in Queensland. An inquiry is necessary because without an effective and up-to-date Forensic and Scientific Services justice is not served. Courts, coroners, the Director of Public Prosecutions and police are not provided with timely and accurate scientific evidence. It is serious because victims and their families are denied justice, closure and the satisfaction of knowing a perpetrator has been convicted and held accountable for the crime and removed from society. This is a serious matter that needs a serious response.

(Time expired)

Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (2.03 pm): I am very pleased to table a report from the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce: *Hear her voice*.

Tabled paper: Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce report titled 'Hear her voice—Report 1: Addressing coercive control and domestic and family violence in Queensland', Volume 1 [2059].

Tabled paper: Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce report titled 'Hear her voice—Report 1: Addressing coercive control and domestic and family violence in Queensland', Volume 2 [2060].

Tabled paper: Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce report titled 'Hear her voice—Report 1: Addressing coercive control and domestic and family violence in Queensland', Volume 3 [2061].

I would like to say to the over 700 brave victim survivors who have come forward to share their stories, 'We hear your voice and we will listen.' The government will now carefully consider all 89 recommendations. Coercive control is a dangerous form of domestic violence used to instil fear in victims. Fundamentally, it is about power and control and the belief too many men have that they are entitled to this power over women.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Sue and Lloyd Clarke, who have, since the death of their daughter Hannah and their three beautiful grandchildren, shared their story to raise so much community awareness about this dangerous abuse. Sue and Lloyd are here today in the public gallery, and I want to thank them so much for their advocacy.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!


Ms FENTIMAN: This report recommends criminalising coercive control. However, the report is also clear that we cannot criminalise this behaviour until our systems, our community and our first responders understand, identify and know how to respond to this form of abuse. This is a complex issue, and the task force is clear that moving to a criminal offence requires a staged approach. It does include recommendations for immediate legislative reform, including modernising the offence of unlawful stalking to capture technology facilitated abuse and amendments to the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act to clarify definitions and reduce the incidents of perpetrators using cross-applications to continue inflicting violence and coercion on their victims.

The task force also includes several recommendations aimed at improving both police and judicial responses to domestic and family violence. The report acknowledges the hard work of the Queensland Police Service in responding to ever-increasing reports of domestic and family violence and recognises the leadership of the Queensland Police Service in this regard. The task force notes that every day hardworking police officers are saving the lives of women and girls, and in many instances police themselves are experiencing vicarious trauma and compassion fatigue due to the increasingly high numbers of reports and case complexity. However, in many submissions the task force heard that women did not get an appropriate response from the police and there is always more that can be done. Likewise, the task force acknowledges the work of our courts and judicial officers but emphasises the need for further reform and training to create a more trauma informed system.

To the chair, the Hon. Margaret McMurdo, the task force members and the secretariat staff, thank you for your dedication and hard work. Thank you for being the custodians of the stories of so many Queenslanders who have suffered due to this insidious form of abuse.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): I too would like to acknowledge the constituents of my electorate, Sue and Lloyd Clarke, and thank them for the work they do in our community.

Kawana Electorate; Caloundra Youth Remand Centre


 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (2.06 pm): I can tell the parliament that the state Labor government is trying to fool the people of the Sunshine Coast with the youth jail they are planning in Caloundra. As I revealed today in question time in a question to the Premier, when the government said they have been consulting with the Sunshine Coast community that has been a complete misrepresentation, because as the government have been consulting with the Sunshine Coast community the builders have been onsite doing major construction work turning the old Caloundra watch house into a youth jail facility. That is not consulting; that is a ruse that 'we are consulting' while at the same time the community is not being told the truth because there are builders onsite. As I said to the Premier this morning, I received an email from construction workers onsite saying they are doing all the work and they have been told that, if they were asked, to not tell the truth about it and say they are just doing minor works.

The reality is that the member for Caloundra has hidden this from the people of the Sunshine Coast. He should have stood up and objected to this youth jail facility. There are places for jails and there are places for youth jails, but Bowman Road and Bulcock Street in Caloundra is not the place. When this jail opens we will see crime rates increase on the Sunshine Coast. With my Sunshine Coast LNP colleagues, I will continue to fight against this Caloundra youth jail because the member for Caloundra is not fighting his own government about this. He is getting away with not saying much at all. Where are the public meetings about it? Why doesn't he front up to the public and tell them how great this facility is going to be? He knows it is not. He knows it is going to be a danger to the community; that is why he does not.

I also want to address the issue of the lack of bus services—or no bus services—in the Kawana Forest area. Months ago I took the Kawana Forest Residents' Association to meet with Minister Mark Bailey. I call on the minister to please give Kawana Forest a bus transport system, which they do not have at the moment. They would catch public transport if they had buses going there, but they do not at the moment. I would ask the minister to respond to the many emails I have sent to his office.

Finally, can I say on behalf of the Kawana business community that there are huge concerns in our business community come 17 December about what the government mandates will mean for them. I have a coffee shop in Kawana that is also a fruit and veggie shop. Someone will be allowed to go in and buy fruit and veggies because that is an essential service, but they will not be able to get a coffee. There are huge concerns in our business community about not knowing what the rules are because there have been no guidelines issued by the government. I call on the government to give our business community certainty so they know what is happening on 17 December. They need to know what is happening to their staff and what is happening with their customers. There is no detail for our business community. I say to the government: get on with it and tell our community what is happening on 17 December.

Aspley Electorate, Schools

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (2.09 pm): I would love to give a recap on a challenging but ultimately successful year for local schools in my electorate of Aspley. It was great to see a school year that was much less disrupted than elsewhere in Australia and less disrupted than last year. Our graduating year 12 students were able to have their final exams and their school formals with very minimal restrictions, which was great to see. They were even able to go to schoolies on the Gold Coast and elsewhere. Similarly, our year 6 students graduating from our primary schools were able to celebrate that milestone with their friends as they transition on to different high schools and different pathways.

I give my enormous gratitude to our local principals, teachers, teacher aides, school staff, cleaners and everyone else involved in the day-to-day running of our great schools for being able to adapt and adjust to required health measures, such as mask wearing, social distancing and everything else we have had to get used to over the last two years. Of course our parents and the students themselves are also to be congratulated for their resilience through an anxious time as we saw other states and other parts of the world battling COVID outbreaks, school shutdowns and city lockdowns that we were able to largely avoid in Queensland thanks to the tough decisions of our Premier and health minister in particular.


In terms of how I can best support our locals schools, I will continue to fight for upgrades and improvements across our community. It was a great day last week when I joined the education minister, principal Jacquita Miller, P&C president Ian Marshman, teachers and students to formally open the brand new sports hall and performing arts centre at Aspley State High School. These two new buildings will see the school go from strength to strength, helping their outstanding sports programs—including football of course—as well as Aspley's high-achieving music programs and other performing arts, such as dance. I congratulate the principal and the school community for pushing for this for many years. I was so pleased to commit to this project in 2017, and with the help of the education minister we made it happen. It will be a great boost for the entire Aspley community now and well into the future.

In the new year, Bald Hills State School will be receiving a refurbished administration building which will see accessibility improvements for teachers, students and visitors to the school. Additionally, there have been significant investments in the local special schools in the electorate of Aspley, including over \$11 million towards Aspley Special School and over \$7 million towards Geebung Special School which will see additional classrooms being built at both schools. These are fantastic schools which do phenomenal work and service the broader northside community.

There is also additional capital works investment in many other schools in my electorate, including Aspley State School, Aspley State High School, Geebung State School and Zillmere State School, among others. We cannot forget the investment in Craigslea State High School for a new volleyball centre of excellence which will be growing volleyballers to compete in our home Olympics in the 2032 Brisbane Olympic Games.

On a final note, it has been a great pleasure to again sponsor local support dogs in our local schools, including Alfie at Aspley State High School and Gatsby at Craigslea State High School. I give a warm welcome to new addition Arlo who is starting at Aspley Special School next year. Well done to every school on a great 2021 and I look forward to 2022.

University of Queensland, Institute for Molecular Bioscience

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (2.13 pm): As the Liberal National Party's shadow minister for education and shadow minister for the arts, I was delighted to attend the 21st anniversary celebrations of the University of Queensland's Institute for Molecular Bioscience. It was a very important celebration

of more than two decades of world-leading translational research conducted right here in Queensland by not only some of Queensland's most talented and esteemed scientists but also researchers from around the world. I was especially delighted that this celebration also showcased the Institute for Molecular Bioscience's Institute of Light installation, which was held in collaboration with the Brisbane Festival. This installation featured an interactive, large-scale sound and light experience throughout South Bank's famous Rainforest Walk.


Throughout the event, some of the wonderful achievements and scientific translational research outcomes achieved by the Institute for Molecular Bioscience were highlighted, including: the discovery of the underlying mutations which lead to pancreatic and ovarian cancer; the delivery of new drugs for inflammatory diseases; the development of the world's first eco-friendly pesticides; and the production of an innovative first-in-class treatment for blood cancer, as well as the development of additional medicines for bacterial infections, since the last class of antibiotics were discovered in the 20th century.

In May of this year and in the lead-up to the 21st anniversary celebrations, I was fortunate to take part in an extensive visit to the Institute for Molecular Bioscience's research facilities at the University of Queensland's St Lucia campus. During my visit, I was briefed on the ongoing research conducted into new pharmaceutical medicines and the ongoing efforts to repurpose microbes and molecules found in nature for new discoveries, including through the world-leading Soils for Science initiative. I also directly encountered some amazing research that is taking place by utilising the venom of spiders. This is certainly something not to be experienced by those who may be suffering from any form of arachnophobia. This research, quite literally, will save lives, with incredible findings for those suffering myocardial infarction, heart disorders and other forms of cardiovascular disease.

I would also like to acknowledge Emeritus Professor Paul Alewood, Group Leader, Chemistry and Structural Biology Division, for his substantial contribution and body of research in protein and peptide chemistry, including venoms-based drug discovery and the potential for venoms to be used in the treatment of chronic pain. I also congratulate the University of Queensland's Professor David Craik on being elected as a fellow of the oldest scientific society of the world, the Royal Society, for his outstanding contribution to science. Past fellows of this society include Charles Darwin, Sir Isaac Newton, Sir Stephen Hawking and many Nobel prize winners such as Australia's Professor Elizabeth Blackburn AC and Professor Barry Marshall.

As an alumna of the University of Queensland, I also wish to place on record my sincere congratulations to Professor Aidan Byrne, the Provost and Senior Vice-President of the University of Queensland, as well as Professor Ian Henderson, Director of the Institute for Molecular Bioscience, and all past and present researchers and students on an incredible two decades of outstanding translational health research and scientific achievement.

Drought Assistance

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (2.16 pm): It is a proud moment as the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries to stand in this place today to announce new drought support measures for Queensland's farmers. In 2018 the Premier and I went to Canberra for the National Drought Summit. From there, we committed to reforming our drought support programs in line with the National Drought Agreement, and we delivered a report by Charles Burke and Ruth Wade recommending those reforms. Although a La Nina event has been declared and there are predictions of wetter than average conditions over the summer, it is not raining everywhere and some producers are entering their eighth year of drought. In fact 64.7 per cent of Queensland is in drought currently. Of course our thoughts are with those who are currently suffering flood impacts because of recent rain.


Today we are launching new drought assistance programs that will help our farmers to be better prepared for future droughts. We are expanding drought program eligibility to primary producers across all industries and removing the requirement to be in a drought-declared region to access the new preparedness assistance. Our reforms include supporting producers through farm management grants to develop a farm business resilience plan to identify pathways to help them manage climate and other risks. They can also apply for drought preparedness grants of up to \$50,000 and low-interest loans to implement drought mitigation measures. When in drought, they will have access to low-interest loans to help their operations.

More farmers than ever before will be able to receive support to prepare their properties for drought conditions. We have listened to industry and worked alongside them to make sure we got the details right. These reforms fulfil a major election commitment to reform drought support to bring it up to date for the innovative, creative and dedicated Queensland producers of the 21st century. Just as

we promised, producers in drought-declared areas currently accessing the existing assistance programs can continue to receive that assistance for as long as the current drought lasts. In fact, they will have the option of choosing between staying on that assistance or transitioning to the new assistance. My department will continue to work with industry and other stakeholders to provide information and assistance to producers through information sessions across Queensland starting next year once the loans are available.

Queensland's new drought reform measures will back our farmers to be better prepared for the next drought, wherever they are. The Palaszczuk government has always backed our farmers and we will back them shoulder to shoulder with these reforms. I am really proud to get out in the regions and meet our farmers. They are the salt of the earth. Once again, I call on all Queenslanders to support them leading into Christmas by buying Queensland produce. That is why I am known in the region as 'Furner, the farmers' friend'.

Warrego Electorate, Weather Event

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (2.19 pm): I extend my deepest sympathy to the family and friends of the 73-year-old man from Roma in my electorate who sadly lost his life at Oakey in the floodwaters. Roma has lost a community champion.

The community of Inglewood have not seen flood levels which they experienced this week since 1976. It is a frightening experience to get that knock on the door at night asking for you to get your belongings and evacuate. It is a difficult experience during the day, but it is absolutely frightening when it comes at 10 o'clock at night.

Mayor Lawrence Springborg spent the night with the people of Inglewood, and I thank him for doing so. I especially want to thank the chair of the Goondiwindi LDMG, Councillor Rick Kearney, for the great job that he has done with little sleep, as have all the councillors in the Goondiwindi Regional Council and their staff.

Inglewood, Yelarbon and surrounds are cleaning up today. They are cleaning up the slippery, smelly mud from their homes and businesses. On behalf of the LNP opposition, I want to thank all of the volunteers involved in the clean-up—the rural fire brigades, the council staff, the neighbours who have come forward to help neighbours.


Goondiwindi and Texas are anxiously waiting for their rivers to peak. This water will take several days to make its way to Mungindi in my electorate. Communities along the Condamine-Balonne system await the water from Warwick, Dalby, Chinchilla and Miles as it makes its way through the townships of Condamine—who I add were evacuated twice in the 2010-11 flood events—Surat, St George and Dirranbandi. They are awaiting that water to make its way to them. Communities such as Goondiwindi and Mungindi are protected by levee banks and hopefully these banks will do their job and keep the floodwaters out of the town and away from floorboards.

Queensland is one of the most disaster-prone states in the country. Only three per cent of the funding goes towards the prevention of disasters and the other 97 per cent goes to recovery. Doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different outcome is not responsible. We will always have floods, bushfires and cyclones. There needs to be change. Floodwaters can be prevented. The focus needs to be on prevention, be it a levee bank, be it lifting homes or be it better drainage. Flood mitigation involves a suite of different measures.

Just a couple of weeks ago, the community of Roma came close to a 2010 flood event. The levee bank was engaged and the diversion channel took the water away from the house yards and the floorboards. It worked just as it should.

I call on the state Labor government to work harder to protect these flood-prone communities and help the local governments with this task of keeping communities safe.

Natural Disasters, Preparedness

 **Mr WALKER** (Mundingburra—ALP) (2.22 pm): I rise today to talk about the importance of being disaster ready. The LNP should listen very carefully. We Queenslanders pull together in a time of need and we support each other when the chips are down. Queenslanders are doing it right now during the global pandemic. However, it is that time of the year again here in Queensland, and more so in the tropical north, where we can have some very heavy rain, flooding and, on the odd occasion, cyclones. It does not mean we have to be scared, it means we need to have a heightened awareness and have a disaster-ready plan.

Like managing a global COVID pandemic, we need to have a plan. Each and every family should consider their circumstances and plan for the cyclone season. That means getting the latest advice from the Queensland emergency services websites. When visiting these sites, you will find a list of things we must be aware of and must do to help during these extreme weather events.

There are three important steps: one, understand your risk; two, prepare a household emergency plan; and, three, pack an emergency kit. This is very important for our new friends who have moved here to Queensland and to remind others to be prepared. Understand the risks, know the types of disaster you are most likely to be impacted by, when they could occur and the likely risk to you and your family. This also includes your business, travel plans, your home and other assets. Once you have a clear understanding, you can take action to get ready in advance and plan to manage the risk.

Preparing a household emergency plan involves an emergency plan and an evacuation plan, a plan that everyone in your family clearly understands if the worst happens. You might want to include your neighbours when developing an emergency plan. This will assist when extra support and help is needed.

To make it much easier to develop a plan to be ready for a natural disaster, I encourage everyone to take a few minutes and type the words 'get ready Queensland' in the search engine on your mobile phone or home computer and follow the three easy steps. It takes just 15 minutes to develop a plan that will suit one's personal needs. If you have an elderly neighbour or neighbour with special needs, please reach out and give them a hand to develop a plan that meets their needs. I urge everyone to be disaster-ready.


Also, a very important message: if it's flooded, forget it. As the member for Hinchinbrook knows too well, if you ignore the law, you get a fine. The fine is \$120 if you drive through floodwaters. Remember, don't risk it: if it's flooded, forget it.

While I have the call, I wish everyone here in the House a merry Christmas.

Interruption.

PRIVILEGE

Hard Copy and Electronic Copies of Documents

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (2.25 pm): Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order and a matter of privilege. Standing order 24 of the standing orders of this place deals with the delivery of tabled documents—'Hard Copy and Electronic Copies of Documents'—

The Committee of the Legislative Assembly shall determine and publish the number of hard copies of documents tabled by the Speaker, Ministers and Members required to be supplied to the Clerk.

My understanding is that the Committee of the Legislative Assembly has determined that 25 copies be delivered.


Earlier this afternoon in her address, the Attorney-General tabled the document. It is now almost half an hour since that has occurred and there are no copies of that report available to members in this House, in accordance with this standing order. I would ask that the Office of the Speaker consider this matter and direct the Attorney to provide the requisite number of copies as determined by the committee and by standing orders.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Thank you, member. I will confer with the Clerk about that.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Resumed.

Emergency Services Volunteers

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (2.26 pm): I want to take this opportunity to pass on my appreciation and that of the opposition for the work that our volunteers have performed this week in the flood affected areas of the state. In large parts of regional Queensland it is volunteers who respond to the floods, fires and traffic accidents. They are the people who assist with search and rescue, and they are the people who respond to cyclones and flooding. Their role is a vital one and one that is getting harder.

According to the Rural Fire Brigade Association of Queensland, in five years we have seen a decrease in volunteer numbers of over 25 per cent. That is over 9,200 volunteers who have left the service. That 9,200 does not include volunteers caught up in this government's blue card debacle.

It will be no surprise to the people of rural and regional Queensland that on a region-by-region basis, it is their areas that have suffered the most from these declines. In the far northern region, the reduction was almost 32 per cent; in the northern region, 24 per cent; and in the south-western region, it was almost 20 per cent.


It is not just the Rural Fire Service that has had their numbers reduced significantly under the watch of this Labor government. Earlier this year the *Sunday Mail* reported that active volunteer numbers in the SES had reduced by over 1,000 and that several SES members attributed the reduction at least in part to 'government red tape'. This decimation of volunteer ranks has not happened overnight.

When it comes to volunteers saving lives in Queensland, this government has historically failed to act and even when they do act, there are delays and what can only be described as glacial progress. Failure of the minister to release the SES review is just one example of that failure to act. To give you an example, the number of volunteers in the SES—that is right, the orange army—has dwindled significantly over recent years to a record low of under 5½ thousand members this year. That should be ringing alarm bells across the state. These are the people we rely on in times of disaster. I have a real fear that their numbers have eroded to the extent that our response to disaster events will be compromised.

Recently, submissions into the KPMG review of the structure of QFES closed. It should come as no surprise to the minister that the LNP will be demanding the public release of that review in a timely manner.

People who volunteer in the Rural Fire Service, the SES and other volunteer-based groups do so to help their community. It is time for this government to address the issues they face and give them surety. Most of all, it is time for this government to give them the respect, the resources and the support that they need to grow their membership base across this state. We certainly need their assistance. We need these members on the ground for the upcoming season, and time is of the essence.

Soldiers Memorial Hall, Ipswich; Bowden, Mr M

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (2.29 pm): On Saturday, 27 November I was honoured to attend the centenary celebrations of the Soldiers Memorial Hall in Ipswich. Along with a number of veterans I was joined by the member for Ipswich, Jennifer Howard; the member for Blair, Shayne Newman; the Mayor of Ipswich, Teresa Harding; as well as Ipswich city councillors, with the new Queensland Governor, Jeannette Young, officiating. For 100 years the Soldiers Memorial Hall has served as a memorial to Australian servicemen, servicewomen and medical personnel as well as a meeting place for current and former Defence Force personnel.

In September 1918, as the war neared its end, the Ipswich sub-branch negotiated for the acquisition of council owned land for the hall. There were many donors including Ipswich City Council, who contributed £6,000; the Returned Services and Soldiers Imperial League of Australia, who contributed £1,250 pounds; the Ipswich patriotic committee, who donated £500 pounds; as well as a donation from the railway tea ladies.

The foundation stone for the building was laid on 4 September 1920 by General William Birdwood, who had commanded ANZAC forces at Gallipoli, and the building was officially opened on 26 November 1921 by the then Governor of Queensland, Sir Matthew Nathan. Thanks are due to the organising committee for this centenary celebration, the current RSL subbranch president, Mick Blaine; the former president, Rob Wadley; vice-president Paul Rogers; secretary Debbie Wardell and Mick Corckery.


I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the passing of Matthew Bowden, son of Julie and Dan Bowden of the historic Marburg Hotel. He was the brother of John and a fellow St Edmund's College old boy. Matt passed away on 24 November and, thankfully, I was given leave to attend his funeral earlier today. I am very grateful to all concerned for that.

He was the partner of my niece Lauren Thompson and parent of Milla, my great-niece. Matt was just 42 and Milla is just five. Matt was a sportsman, a family man, a good man, a punter, a prankster, a funny bloke, a good mate to many and loved by more than he knew. He was always up for a chat. He

was the sort of bloke everyone wanted to call their friend. I am so glad Matt fell in love with my niece. They were the perfect couple. My sincere condolences to the Bowden and Thompson families on this sad day, particularly Lauren and Milla. Vale Matt Bowden.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Thank you, member, and condolences.

Coronavirus, Vaccination


 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (2.31 pm): Hundreds of thousands of Queenslanders are putting the 'together' back into our COVID mantra. Segregating people in our communities based on vaccination status is not what Australians aspire to. Never in any road map did it say that as international borders opened, we would lock out loved ones from cafes and libraries or from being able to travel in our own country or that telehealth would not continue to be used by our psychologists when we have a chronic shortage. None of these decisions pass the pub test, nor does the divisive labelling used by governments and media of 'vaxxer' and 'anti-vaxxer'. It is discriminatory and misinformed.

Across Queensland many who practise wellbeing through natural therapies do not normally participate in vaccinations, just as some religions do not. Noosa is renowned for its healing and wellness retreats as well as high vaccination rates. Our respected and educated practitioners such as chiropractors, holistic dentists, therapists, social workers and naturopaths focus on prevention through education, nutrition and alignment to develop strong immune systems as part of healing. These professionals who look after us and our loved ones through domestic violence, cancer and other health battles work daily with those who have transmittable diseases, including HIV. They do not reject them; they mitigate the risk. They have hundreds of thousands of patients, clients and staff who do not or cannot put any form of toxins into their systems including sugars, metals, chemicals or preservatives as part of their beliefs and recoveries. They are not anti vax; they are pro natural and pro choice.

Queensland struggles to meet the demand for health services to accommodate our poor lifestyle choices that diminish our immune systems, lead to preventable chronic illnesses and death. One would think we would support those who work on decreasing our reliance on interventions, medications and hospitalisations. Instead, we are ostracising these Queenslanders by labelling them, often referring to them as 'hippies in the hills' or 'renegades'. These practitioners and associated research are vital components in a world that will continue to face pandemics and mutating viruses. The Australian Institute of Tropical Health and Medicine is utilising nature and Indigenous knowledge in developing medicines. The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research is spending millions on a treatment to get our immune systems fitter to deal with viruses and other diseases. Who knows? We may ultimately not need vaccines at all.

Until then, I ask the handful of extremists from both ends of the spectrum to stop spreading fear and drowning out those who seek ways to keep our community safe without segregation. We entered this pandemic together and can only get through it together, masks and all, not by dividing our communities and families, devastating small businesses and vilifying what has been termed a minority. We are much, much better than that.

Mackay Electorate

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (2.35 pm): On the last parliamentary sitting day of 2021 I would like to reflect on how my electorate and wider region has been travelling during the COVID-19 pandemic. To start with, I would like to thank all the health workers who are out there testing for COVID-19 and giving the jab because it is very important that we are all vaccinated. Because of the quick and decisive action of Premier Palaszczuk and her cabinet when taking advice from the Chief Health Officer, we have enjoyed a relatively free way of life.

The resource sector keeps powering ahead. The cane-crushing season has been extended to get as much of the crop out of the paddocks because of the higher than expected sugar prices this year, and that is great for our canefarmers. In most cases our local engineering workshops and manufacturers are working 24/7 shifts just to keep up with demand, so things are powering ahead.

There is also research and development happening as we meet here today. The Townsend family headed by Graham are preparing their pilot plant that could potentially change the way cane is milled so that an extraordinary number of bioproducts can be produced from cane-milling waste. These products range from single-use compostable wrappings to plastics and also to carbon bricks and many other products. Mercurius have also set up a pilot plant in Mackay producing bio jet fuel and biodiesel

from cane-milling waste bagasse. These two projects alone have the potential to grow the jobs of the future for Regional Queensland and potentially relieve canegrowers of the worry of being at the mercy of world sugar prices.

Bioethanol buses are hitting the roads in Mackay. They are trialling ethanol made at Plane Creek mill just outside of Mackay. If it is successful, honourable members may be getting some of these green buses in their communities. That is fantastic for our region.

Mackay Manufacturing Hub is one of the six hubs that was launched by the Palaszczuk government across Queensland supporting our local manufacturers to step into the national and international markets. Deb Allan heads up the Mackay hub and is doing a mighty job connecting local businesses with grants that will help their businesses grow and develop. Tourism is also powering ahead. The Wildcat catamaran has launched and Tas Webber is doing a mighty job of growing the Mackay-Whitsunday tourism brand.

A huge thankyou must go to health workers, volunteers, cleaners, wardies, kitchen staff, doctors—all the adult health professionals that make up our teams in our great hospital and health services—and, of course, our great paramedics not just in my region but across the state. Their service is not forgotten. I hope everybody has a safe and merry Christmas.

Hinchinbrook Electorate



Mr DAMETTO (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (2.38 pm): My poem reads as follows—

'Twas a Townsville night before Christmas, when all through the house
The dog was stirring, those lurking around the house;
The alarm on, CCTV set with care,
In hopes that QPS patrols soon would be there.

The children were told to get into their beds,
While nightmares of last break-in still fresh in their heads;
The missus in PJs, and I in a cap,
Had just settled down, we now sleep with a bat.

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang to my feet to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

The moon on summer lawn no sight of snow
I yelled out, who goes out there to see what was the go,
When, what to my wondering eyes would appear,
But none other than the neighbour who had too much beer.

But then a little kid driver, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment he was driving a stick.
More rapid than eagles this theft was the same,
But youth justice had stopped me from using his name.

As dry palm fronds that before cyclone fly,
When they met with police, he gave them the bye.
So with no intervention, in stolen car flew.
With police hands tied, very little could do.

They dressed all in black, from head to thy foot,
My car was a wreck, trashed pumping out soot.
A bundle of tools flew out the back,
Narrowly missing a truckie, nearly hitting his Mack.

His eyes—how they twinkled! High as a kite!
 14 and behind the wheel, this can't be right!
 His droll little mouth was drawn like a bow.
 Was he off to his dealer to find him some snow?


The stump of a vape he held tight in his teeth.
 And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath.
 He had a young face and a little round belly.
 That shook when he laughed; he had stolen your telly.

He was laughing and Snapchatting, like a right jolly old elf,
 About to aim for a pedestrian, no respect for them or himself.
 A wink of his eye and a twist of his head
 Another family sighs, lucky a loved one not dead.

With lives left a mess, to his mates gave a whistle,
 He picked up the lads to treat my car like a missile.
 But I heard him exclaim as he drove out of sight,
 Merry Christmas to all, I have ruined your night!

Thank you for your indulgence. I am not the greatest poet, but I would love to deliver this Christmas message. It is a great pleasure to dedicate this Christmas message to the member for Mundingburra.

Hervey Bay, Coronavirus

 **Mr TANTARI** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (2.41 pm): I rise to give a shout-out to my community and region for facing up and staring down the great challenge that it has faced from a one-in-100-year pandemic. The Fraser Coast, and in particular the Hervey Bay community, has this year responded in droves to the call of the Chief Health Officer to remain vigilant by being vaccinated to keep our community safe. Some 92 per cent have received their first dose of the vaccine and 80 per cent are double vaccinated: that is very well done.

There is no greater example of collective community spirit than coming together to care for one another, to protect our most vulnerable and to work as one to shut out a virus that has, sadly, cost over five million people their lives worldwide. What the Palaszczuk Labor government has done to protect our community shows leadership. Leadership, with the sole focus on ensuring safety for all, is true leadership.

Sadly, last week the Fraser Coast Regional Council carried a motion to oppose the directive that was given by the Chief Health Officer to give our community a safe transitional path out of the pandemic. The motion that was carried showed the depth to which a few Labor government hating councillors will dive to bring disharmony and disruption to our safe community for their own personal gain. The councillors who drafted this motion have used the sick and the aged, the immunocompromised and our children under 12 as cannon fodder in pursuit of their own agenda when, especially at this time, they should have been showing leadership and backing in the health of our people, like other regional councils have done.


The motion passed by council has contributed to increasing the sickening level of abuse against those who are doing the right thing in supporting the health directive. Hardworking small businesses are copping it. Our frontline staff—the very people who are saving lives by simply doing their jobs to keep us safe and protect us from disease—are being abused. This is not acceptable.

For the information of councillors, your motion has further emboldened the extreme and incited abusive behaviour towards our health professionals and our small business owners, not to mention personal threats against MPs, their families and their staff. This is unacceptable behaviour. I say: stop inciting social and community unrest for your own political gain. The councillor who moved the motion was seen attending a rally in Hervey Bay—not in his division. It was put on Facebook that he was trying to remain anonymous; he was hiding in the shadows like a puppetmaster, creating unrest and hiding from public scrutiny for his harmful actions.

The Premier's and the Chief Health Officer's response to this challenge has been world class and they have kept us safe. That is why we are now able to enjoy mostly unrestricted activities and why our economy has bounced back stronger. To the vast majority of the people of the Hervey Bay electorate: your community thanks you for seeing the importance of being vaccinated and for keeping our community safe and strong. To the Fraser Coast Regional Council I say: show the leadership you are elected for and stop dividing our—

(Time expired)

Timber Industry

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (2.44 pm): A severe timber supply crisis is crippling the construction industry. This crisis has driven up the cost of raw timber supplies by over 100 per cent, created lengthy delays in the supply of timber and timber products, and sufficiently inflated the cost of construction and renovation projects. If the government's lack of action continues, we will be short 56,000 house frames by 2035. The government simplistically blames the crisis on a building boom. That is a shallow, sloppy and ignorant response. The major cause of the crisis is created by the government. The government will not discuss it. The crisis is underpinned by systemic failure of government policy over two decades.


Former premier Peter Beattie signed the South East Queensland Regional Forest Agreement in 1999. He promised a long-term transition to a timber industry based on plantation timber. Labor promised it would give confidence and supply for the next 50 to 100 years. Beattie's primary industries minister, Henry Palaszczuk, promised us 5,000 hectares and 10 million trees. Labor governments talk big but continually fail to deliver.

In 2010 the Bligh-Fraser government sold off Forestry Plantations Queensland for less than half its value. It was purported to be worth \$1.3 billion; they sold it off for \$600 million in an asset sale. It again showed Labor's lack of commitment to long-term forest resource sustainability. It is no different today. Two years ago the Premier promised a timber advisory panel. Today in question time the Premier could not point to even one recommendation her major advisory body has made. The Premier was clueless. I have been advised that it has met only twice in two years and has made no recommendations.

This crisis is directly attributable to a litany of systemic failures from Labor governments. If Labor had implemented commitments made 20 years ago, we would not be in today's situation. During estimates the agriculture minister was flippant about the policy failure because it started over 20 years ago. The minister obviously does not understand how long it takes to grow trees for harvest. The minister's ignorance at best and arrogance and smugness at worst shows that he does not understand planning for the future and setting the right policy agenda. Well-managed young-growth state forests are a reliable and sustainable source of timber which provide significantly enhanced ecological benefits.

It was clear at last night's successful Parliamentary Friends of Forestry event that there are major concerns about a lack of investment and a lack of confidence. The forest agreements have been an impediment to future investment and resource security. It is vital Queensland undertakes medium and longer term measures to boost supply. It is critical to develop policy initiatives to expand plantations and better manage state land to secure sovereign capability. We need action now to future-proof the viability of the timber industry and prepare for future timber needs.

Stretton Electorate, Bus Services

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (2.47 pm): I rise to share some fantastic news for the people of Stretton: the residents of the Stretton Gardens Retirement Estate are getting a dedicated bus stop right outside their village on Illaweena Street—so, too, are the students of Stretton State College, right between their junior and senior campuses on Gowan Road. This means that residents will not have to walk 800 metres, or an extra 15 minutes, uphill from the last stop on the 130 route to their homes and students will be able to get their bus right from school.

I want to recognise the hard work of the residents at the Stretton Gardens Retirement Estate and their residents committee who, alongside late member and our good friend Duncan Pegg, campaigned for this bus stop. I especially thank Stretton Gardens residents Neil Finlayson, Vic Borghero and the late Noel Vass, who sadly passed away earlier this year, who worked tirelessly fighting for this bus stop. I also thank Minister Mark Bailey, who took the time to come and visit the residents of Stretton Gardens


and listen to their concerns. I also thank Cameron McAlpine, the manager at Stretton Gardens, who always advocates for the needs of his residents. There has been massive support for this project and it is a huge win for the Stretton community.

By way of background, this bus stop would not be possible without the efforts of Duncan Pegg. He helped the mums and dads of Stretton State College remove the dangerous Brisbane City Council bus turnaround from their grounds. This unusual situation was dangerous to students, and removing buses from the school was a large factor in the project going ahead.

Furthermore, this bus stop was locally known as the ghost bus stop because the Brisbane City Council made the retirement village build the stop as part of its original DA. However, the stop was never serviced by the main route and residents had to walk a fair distance to the last stop on the route. I believe our senior citizens deserve to have public transport access within a reasonable walking distance of their front door, but Stretton Gardens residents have had to struggle through a long Brisbane City Council approval process to get the bus stop situation resolved.

Today I am pleased to announce that works to upgrade the bus stops at Stretton Gardens and across the road at Stretton State College have begun—a win for students and seniors alike. This \$4.8 million project will be delivered in two stages. The first stage will be the new bus stops which will be finished early next year and the second stage will be extending the existing 130 bus service and building a new bus turnaround facility along Gowan Road, and plans for this are being finalised. This will make it easier for the Stretton community to access public transport and the extensions will bring benefits for bus users in the southern part of Calamvale and Stretton along Gowan Road. All of this would not be possible without the Palaszczuk government's record investment in public transport. The works will also provide signalised pedestrian crossings on Illaweena Street, safety improvements to the line marking, improved cycling facilities and a new signalised left turn on to Gowan Road. All of these upgrades will improve connectivity in our community and make life easier for our fast growing Stretton State College community.

Renewable Energy

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (2.50 pm): Over the course of 2021 I have asked the Minister for Energy, Mick de Brenni, many times to provide some detail on how the government intends to reach its promised target of 50 per cent renewal energy by 2030. The minister has never been able to provide an answer to this question and this has not filled me or industry with confidence. Given that we are dependent upon having a constant, affordable and reliable supply of electricity for most everything we do in our day-to-day lives—for our business, for our work, for the education of our children, for households or personal requirements—we deserve an answer. The response from the minister simply is not acceptable.


This lack of detail has caught the attention of the Auditor-General, Brendan Worrall. Audit report No. 11 regarding the Queensland owned energy generators highlighted the serious challenges facing the generating sector with assets being written down to the value of \$1.1 billion. The report stated that the Audit Office would present a report to parliament on how the government is managing the transition to renewable energy. The report, titled *Managing Queensland's transition to renewable energy*, was tabled last week, and what a damning report it is.

On 10 August 2021 at the estimates hearing the minister stated that the current renewables energy status in Queensland was over 20 per cent, with a 22 per cent target. The Audit Office report states that it is 19 per cent. To reach the 50 per cent renewable target, all projects proposed will need to be delivered on time. The report estimates that Queensland will reach about 35 per cent in 2025 with the next 15 per cent by 2030 dependent upon the progress of future projects, predominantly in the early planning stages and without financial or development approval. Using project tracking data, nine per cent of potential renewable energy generation became operational between June 2017 and 2021. Projects representing 85 per cent of potential renewable energy had no significant change of status. If this trend continues, there will not be enough renewable energy generation by 2030 to reach the target.

The report states that many proposed projects do not have finance or developmental approval. The only conceivable way this target could be reached is if coal-fired power stations were shut down. Four of the six in Queensland are owned by the government. The minister was asked on the ABC last Friday, 26 November, which power stations he will be shutting down to achieve this target. His answer was, 'No,' a response that was repeated in this House. The report recommends that the department publish a detailed public statement of how Queensland's renewable energy target is defined and measured. I and the rest of Queensland look forward to reading that report.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Before I call the next speaker, in response to the member for Clayfield's point of order, I have sought advice from the Table Office and the report that was tabled earlier by the Attorney-General will be uploaded imminently on the tabled papers database.

Freeman, Mrs PT


 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (2.54 pm): Today I rise to remember an unforgettable lady, Pauline Terese Freeman. Pauline was a passionate true believer and known alongside her husband as one half of the eternal duo, Pauline and Paul, because they were always, always together. I welcome Paul and the couple's son Abel to the gallery today and acknowledge Paul's dedicated care for Pauline over many years.

The two pillars of Pauline's life were her family and the great Australian Labor Party. Pauline was a staunch ALP life member, joining the Maryborough branch in 1989. From the outset, Pauline was determined to contribute in any way she could, and so she did—running the Mungar Junction rail booth for that year's election all day and then scrutineering late into the night as her very first campaign. It was this kind of determined grassroots campaigning that saw Labor win Maryborough from the Nationals that year. Pauline quickly became the treasurer of her branch. She campaigned hard for families to be kept safe by mandatory smoke detectors and established the first Young Labor branch outside of Brisbane. Pauline knew everyone in our Labor family, from our Queensland senators to Bob Hawke, and photos of her with all of them had places of honour on the walls of her home at Bongaree. I was so honoured to have Pauline and Paul's heartfelt support in my election campaign. Despite her frail health, Pauline did high-vis, showed up at pre-poll with her walker and regularly took skin off LNP volunteers with her acerbic comments—always delivered very sweetly.

Pauline's parents migrated from Galway in Ireland and Pauline credited her fierce commitment to social justice to her proud Irish heritage. Personally, I think Pauline's passion for social justice ran deeper than blood and found its roots in her devastating life experiences and her own unique spark. Pauline always shared her story openly to help others. Her experience of sexual assault as a young teenager tragically led to a coerced adoption, as was so common in the 1960s and 1970s. Pauline felt that fate took a hand in reuniting her with her firstborn child, and it is testament to her character that Pauline went on to train as an adoption and family reunification counsellor to help other families through these tough experiences.

As important as politics was to Pauline, she was also a passionately dedicated mother, wife and community member. Pauline was at her happiest when she had her children living under her roof. She volunteered tirelessly on their P&Cs, managed their footy teams and sewed their callisthenics outfits. She also deeply and sincerely supported Paul as he worked through his traumatic experiences as a Timor-Leste veteran. Pauline leaves behind a proud legacy of six loving children and 16 grandchildren, a Bribie Island Labor family that will never forget her fiery, sparkling, mischievous character and her wicked twinkle. Vale, Pauline Freeman.

Queensland Building and Construction Commission

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (2.57 pm): Today there are many members in this House wishing people Merry Christmas. It will not be a Merry Christmas for many people in the fire protection industry, those small businesses that Minister de Brenni is putting out of business—people who for years have done the work effectively without incident until the minister decided, with the backing of the QBCC board, that we need to change the regulations to benefit large unionised companies. I wanted to confirm my suspicions that there had not been issues in the past, so I put a question on notice asking how many defects had been identified by the QBCC in the fire protection industry over the last six years. Guess how many defects were discovered?

Mr Hart: Zero?

Mr MANDER: Not zero, but one. There was one—one defect in the last six years and that has motivated this minister and the QBCC board, which means that hundreds of small businesses are facing Christmas with an uncertain future as they try to work out what they are going to do. It is an absolute disgrace and we will continue to fight for these small business people.


Just when you think things cannot get any worse at the QBCC, what do we find out this week? One of the most common queries the QBCC deals with is when builders ring to seek clarification about what licences are required for particular work, and for years that has been one of the major services of

the QBCC. What has happened in this last period is that an email has gone out to QBCC officers from a bureaucrat within the QBCC to say that that is to cease and they are no longer to do that. Now when builders and tradies ring they have to tell them, 'Read the legislation yourself and try to interpret it.'

This comes from a government that cannot read its own legislation. We found that out when it was discovered that identified defects for the last two years were in jeopardy because the government stuffed up the legislation. Those opposite cannot read the legislation. They expect hardworking tradies to, and if they get it wrong they will get prosecuted. What sort of customer-centric attitude is that from the QBCC? Is it any wonder that we have issues.

One final word on the QBCC: an inquiry has been announced, but to this date we still do not know how members of the public can make a submission to the inquiry. A couple of weeks ago the minister came into the House with some garble about it happening, without any reference to how members of the public can make submissions. This inquiry will be as farcical as the minister's performance.

Bundamba Electorate, Jobs

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (3.00 pm): Our safe and strong recovery continues with more jobs in more industries—the industries of now and of the future. Last week I was very happy to welcome the Treasurer to Bundamba where we took the opportunity to inspect the construction progress of the brand new \$11 million Neogen Australasia facility, which will be Australia's most advanced animal genomics facility. Neogen, a world leading food safety giant, is building a state-of-the-art genomic centre that will help local primary producers grow and breed the best produce and livestock. It is consolidating its Australian operations, bringing operations from Gatton and Victoria, into our local Bundamba community and that will deliver jobs in the industries of right now: a workforce of about 48, which is projected to grow to 75 over coming years—75 highly skilled, highly paid jobs right in our local community. That is happening with the support of our Advance Queensland Attraction Fund.

Neogen is the latest company to prove what we locals already know to be true: that our local community is a great place to live, work and invest. We are creating local jobs in the industries of the future, like renewable hydrogen. Australia's first hydrogen fuel cell manufacturing facility will be established in Ipswich. LAVO hydrogen technology will build the \$15 million facility in Springfield backed by our Invested in Queensland program. This is in addition to our \$1.5 million commitment for Swanbank E power station in Bundamba to investigate blending renewable hydrogen, building a solar farm, a renewable hydrogen production facility and even hydrogen refuelling facilities there. It has been another great announcement during what has been a huge year for clean, renewable Queensland hydrogen and it is with our local community right at the cutting edge.


I want to place on record my thanks to everybody who has come out to get vaccinated in our local community and right across Queensland. How wonderful it is that we will have a festive season surrounded by family and friends thanks to the great work of everybody who has come out and been vaccinated. We are continuing to look out for one another by getting vaccinated. I would like to take this opportunity to wish everybody in Bundamba a very safe and happy merry Christmas—indeed, everybody in this House. In the immortal words of Ferris Bueller, 'Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it.' Happy holidays, everybody.

TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

Resumed from 18 November (see p. 3722) on motion of Mr King—

That the House take note of the Transport and Resources Committee Report No. 12, 57th Parliament, *Inquiry into vehicle safety, standards and technology, including engine immobiliser technology*, tabled on 24 September 2021.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (3.03 pm): I would like to wish everybody a merry Christmas. I hope members spend some time with family and friends and have a good break. Have a merry Christmas.

I am thrilled to respond to the inquiry into vehicle safety, standards and technology, including engine immobiliser technology, report No. 12 for the 57th parliament. This was probably one of the longest committee reports that we have been involved in. It started in the early part of this year. It started because we had a spate of cars being stolen and driven erratically, one of which resulted in very sad and tragic circumstances earlier this year when a south-east couple were killed because of someone stealing a car. We have also seen the tragic death of a lady in Townsville because of the theft of a car

and people chasing after that car. What I am trying to say is that we spent eight months on this report, and basically we have not come up with much in the way of trying to fix this problem because I think we are refusing to get to the source of the problem. As this report says on page 74—

The committee was unable to identify any jurisdictions where remote vehicle engine immobilisation technology has been implemented. This finding was also noted by ANZPAA in its report. The ANZPAA report states:


There has been no successful implementation of a mandated REI solution across a whole vehicle fleet anywhere in the world.

We were looking to solve a problem without trying to address the source of the problem. The source of the problem is the youth who steal the cars. We have seen it in Brisbane and in Townsville, and it is happening in the Central Highlands where I come from. We have had a spate of young offenders stealing cars from Rockhampton, even stealing cars from Blackwater and Emerald, and driving along the Capricorn Highway. Unfortunately, a young offender who had been in front of the court several times was tragically killed along the Capricorn Highway. We are not getting to the source of the problem, which is making sure that breach of bail is an offence for a youth offender.

They are continuing to roll out of the Magistrates Court, straight down the road, back into a car and doing the same thing again. At page 101 of the committee report the Queensland Police Service believes that we have to look at the source of the problem and get tough on these youth offenders. We have to be tough on them so we can stop them from doing what they are doing. There are too many people being injured. There are too many people's lives being impacted by this. We have to make sure that the consequences of their actions are before the court. If they breach bail it is an offence. We have to stop them. The QPS says 'the best way we can address this issue is to look at the underlying problems'.

Police officers in my own area around the Central Highlands and the Central West are frustrated when they see the same person committing the same crime time after time and not being punished. We are taking resources away from the police and their important role of not only dealing with crime but also dealing with other issues they have to deal with. They are spending more and more time trying to deal with this. They do the hard work to get the offender before the magistrate and the door revolves and they are out on the street again. We have to look at the source of the problem and make breach of bail an offence for a youth offender. I think that is incredibly important.

This report took seven months and we did not come up with anything that is going to help the minister or the police minister. We spent a lot of time trying to find something that we know is not available anywhere in the world. No-one is using this technology. We have to be careful when looking at immobilisers. Once you enact that immobiliser the person in the car cannot steer it. Where does it go? Does it stop straight away? The technology is not there. We can fix this up today: make breach of bail an offence for an offender. It is easy. We can do it in this parliament with legislation. Let us do it and then we will fix the problem.

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (3.08 pm): Firstly, I thank the transport committee for taking their time and tabling a thorough report. It took seven months. The inquiry came about after the death of two constituents of mine, Matt Field, whom I knew as Fatty, and Kate Leadbetter. I also know the family of the owners of the stolen car, the Hatzifotises, who are a prominent business family from the Redlands region. We have to think about what they have gone through over the last year.


Even before the deaths, my mind turned straight to that family when I saw footage on social media of the out-of-control car because I knew their personalised plates. I knew straightaway who owned that car. I thank the committee for taking their time with this inquiry. I disagree with the member for Gregory a little. We have seen advances in anti-theft technology for cars, and statistics have shown that it has driven down the incidence of car theft. We now see that 70 per cent of car thefts are opportunistic. They happen when keys are left in the car or in an unlocked home. Stealing cars has become an opportunistic crime. In the early 2000s anti-theft technology did impact the incidence of car theft, and now we should look thoroughly at whether new technology can be utilised. Anti-theft technology did have an effect. It did drive down the rate of stolen cars.

I thank the committee for looking into this inquiry. After the incident I asked the Premier, the Minister for Transport and the Minister for Police for an inquiry because we needed to leave no stone unturned. We needed to look across the world to see if there is any technology that could help stop such a crime from happening again. The crime of theft is always going to occur, but we had to look for ways of ensuring that what happened does not happen again or if it starts to unfold that there is an ability to stop it. We needed to make sure that we investigated that and I thank the committee for its inquiry. Unfortunately, as the committee found out, the technology is not yet available to immobilise

cars in an effective way. There have been news stories and reports. The Police Union also made submissions about immobilisation technology. We needed to investigate it to see if it was a possibility and I thank the committee for doing that. Unfortunately, that has not come about in this report. I would not be doing my job as the local member, to honour the lives and memories of Matt Field and Kate Leadbetter as well as representing the Hatzifotis family, if I did not make sure that we looked at every option to try to prevent such a crime from happening again.

The member for Hinchinbrook came in here, read out poetry and made jokes about car theft and death. I do not know what was going through his head. Last year Australia Day was harrowing for my community when we learned what happened to that young family. We cannot forget their unborn child, Miles. Three people were taken way too early. I owed it to them to make sure that we brought in tougher laws, which we did. I also owed it to them to investigate whether there are technologies available that could prevent such a crime from happening again. That crime destroyed three young people's lives and devastated their families and friends. It was a tragic incident in my electorate. It will be coming up to the one-year anniversary this Australia Day. Australia Day will never again be the same in my local community. It will be a day of sadness and reflection. In this parliament we have to do whatever we can to look for solutions that may stop such a crime from happening again.

I thank the secretariat and the committee. They spent a lot of time on the inquiry and they tabled quite a lengthy report. They looked at all options and I thank them for that.

 **Mr BOYCE** (Callide—LNP) (3.13 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the inquiry into vehicle safety standards and technology, including engine immobiliser technology. I acknowledge my fellow committee members and thank Mrs Deb Jeffrey and her secretariat for preparing our papers, our meetings and our reports. As has already been said, this report is extensive. It made seven recommendations, including on remote engine immobiliser technology, repairable write-offs, written-off vehicles and the scrap metal industry. I will restrict my contribution to engine immobiliser technology.

The committee found that no technology exists in the world today to make engine immobilisers work effectively and practically in motor vehicles throughout an entire fleet in Queensland, Australia or the world, for that matter. The report states—

... stealing car keys has meant that most Queensland vehicle thefts are now a vehicle with an Australian-standard equivalent immobiliser. Engine immobilisers are 100 per cent ineffective if the thief has access to the car's keys.

Keys are now the primary means to steal a vehicle with an immobiliser with an estimated 70 per cent of late model thefts via keys.

The report further states that in the past five years we have seen a quantum shift in young offender behaviour, with residential burglaries being committed in order to access keys and steal cars. The Police Union said—

There has been no successful implementation of a mandated REI solution across a whole vehicle fleet anywhere in the world.


At this time, there is no single in-vehicle technology available, nor is there the required enabling environment to support the use of REI technology. However, with continued technological development REI may be feasible in the future.

The Queensland Police Service said—

... the best way we can address this issue is to look at the underlying problems, such as social issues, that cause generally young people to behave in the way they do. Whilst we are very keen to apprehend those offenders when they steal a vehicle, there is no doubt that there is a range of societal issues that put those young people in the driver's seat. Whilst we have a reactive duty to apprehend offenders, there is no doubt that government as a whole, not just the police, has an obligation to look at the underlying issues that are causing these young people to offend.

In other words, we need to be more proactive rather than reactive. By that I mean we need to address the social issues that drive young people to steal cars. That is the underlying message in this committee report. The committee also found that almost always those young people themselves are victims of abuse, family violence and other childhood trauma. Disengagement from school and homelessness are key factors in the way a young person's trajectory can lead to stealing cars.

Having said that, I take this opportunity to wish the parliament a very merry, happy and safe Christmas. I hope your car does not get stolen.

 **Mr WALKER** (Mundingburra—ALP) (3.17 pm): I rise to speak on the Transport and Resources Committee's report No. 12 on the inquiry into vehicle safety standards and technology, including engine immobiliser technology. The report was tabled in the parliament on 24 September 2021. I thank the committee secretariat and the stakeholders who made submissions to the inquiry and provided us with information and evidence. Given the substantial amount of evidence received, the committee requested an extension of time to finalise its report. That extension was granted and a final report has been tabled.

The issue of road safety is an extremely important one for our state. Hooning and dangerous driving has become a major problem on our roads, jeopardising people's lives. Just last month the member for Ipswich informed me that there was an horrific fatal crash on the Ipswich Motorway at Redbank that took the lives of three innocent people, including a two-year-old. The driver who caused the crash was an avid user and dealer of methamphetamine and was dangerously driving on the wrong side of the highway before the crash. Car theft is committed not only by juveniles; it is also committed by adults and organised groups.


Earlier this year in Alexandra Hills, a 17-year-old thief stole a car and recklessly took the lives of a young couple, Kate Leadbetter and Matt Field, and their unborn child. There are other car offences that are currently before the courts which I cannot comment on due to that fact—they are currently before the courts. Three years ago in Booval, Ipswich, two criminal car thieves weaponised their vehicle to run over Goodna police constable Peter McAulay while he was laying out spike strips to stop a stolen car. He suffered numerous injuries and had to undergo 10 operations and months of rehabilitation.

Too often we see with our own eyes drivers behaving recklessly on our roads and endangering other motorists' lives. The people who do this have no regard for life. They are just after the thrill of the moment. The submissions to the committee's inquiry raised a broad range of issues in relation to implementing various technology measures to improve road safety and to stop vehicle theft. A total of 32 submissions were received, including a submission from the Department of Transport and Main Roads.

The committee heard about the pros and cons of each of these technologies, including: engine immobilisers, remote engine immobilisers, ghost immobilisers, key security, tyre deflation devices and the management of written-off vehicles. The final report, report No. 12, tabled by the committee has taken into consideration many of the issues of those who made a submission to the inquiry.

Reducing dangerous driving on our roads is something that our government will always work hard on. I commend the work of the Transport and Resources Committee in looking into the important issue of vehicle safety, including considering engine immobiliser technology.

While I have the opportunity, I also thank the member for Ipswich for her assistance in covering for me on this very important committee. I also take this opportunity to wish everybody in this place a very merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous 2022. I look forward to catching up next year.

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (3.21 pm): I want to take this opportunity as well, given it is the final sitting day of the year, to thank the members of the Transport and Resources Committee. As we have heard from a couple of the previous speakers, they have spent seven months on this particular report. I do acknowledge the member for Capalaba, the genesis behind why this committee was asked to do this particular report. After seven months, unfortunately it appeared at the very end of things that not much had been achieved. Notwithstanding that, several recommendations did come out of the report. I will touch on some of them. Before I do, a big thanks to the secretariat as well. Being the shadow minister, I particularly thank the LNP members for keeping me abreast of what happens with this committee.

Firstly, the committee recommended that the Legislative Assembly note the report. The second recommendation: that the Minister for Transport and Main Roads consider methods of how the key security message can be effectively relayed to vehicle owners. The third recommendation: the committee recommended that the Minister for Transport and Main Roads reconsider the proposed changes to the written-off vehicle scheme. The fourth recommendation continued in relation to strengthening the inspection process for repairable write-offs. The fifth recommendation: that the Minister for Transport and Main Roads consider introducing mandatory requirements that sellers of written-off vehicles notify prospective buyers of the vehicle's written-off history. The sixth recommendation: the main roads minister consider investigating potential changes to the scrap metal industry with a view to improving conditions for reputable retailers and curtailing profit motivated theft for scrap. The final recommendation: that the Minister for Transport and Main Roads consider the suggestion that an agenda paper be prepared for the infrastructure and transport ministers meeting with the view of seeking commitment by the relevant Australian ministers to national harmonisation of vehicle modification standards.

When we cut to the chase here—it has been touched on by the member who spoke earlier—what really is the crux of the matter? It really comes down to trying to avoid crime spiralling out of control as it pertains to stolen vehicles. As a dad whose youngest son received his car licence only about 72 hours ago, I made it very clear to him that you can learn how to drive but you have to always be

aware of the other people around you. That is where the danger is. I have said to him—and I am sure that every parent says the same thing to every child of theirs who gets their licence—that it is the other drivers you have to be acutely aware of.

After seven months of very hard work by the committee, a lot of money and a lot of time spent, I believe that part of the genesis behind this really comes down to page 11 of the committee report that states—

... while the number of vehicle thefts across Australia has fallen by 5 per cent over the 5 years to 2020

...

Queensland has experienced a 48 per cent increase. This increase has largely occurred due to a significant and steady rise in short-term thefts (which rose from 7,103 incidents in 2015-16 to 11,171 in 2019-20.)


I used to be pretty proficient with my old 3K '72 Corolla changing the plugs and points, but I would dare not attempt to look under the bonnet—as the member for Miller is often fond of doing as he has a bit of car envy—of my beautiful cabriolet. It is more like a computer. It is almost impossible for a layperson—and I am certainly one of them—to hot-wire a car. It is virtually impossible with modern vehicles of any make and brand.

Why are people breaking into people's homes? They want to get the car keys. It is pretty obvious: that is what they are after. Page 30 of the committee report states—

Stakeholders also noted that there are some disadvantages associated with engine immobilisers including that an immobiliser will not guarantee a motor vehicle against theft. Some methods by which vehicles continue to be stolen include:

- In Australia, 70 per cent of cars are stolen with their own keys. In most cases, offenders sneak into homes to target car keys.

Let me cut to the chase: instead of dealing with the criminals, the perpetrators who are guilty of stealing these cars, the government wanted the committee to recommend making people install vehicle immobilisation. The real truth of the matter here is breach of bail. I implore the minister sitting at the cabinet table to consider that issue.

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (3.26 pm): I rise to speak on committee report No. 12 of the Transport and Resources Committee—Inquiry into Vehicle Safety, Standards and Technology, including Engine Immobiliser Technology. As a new member of the Transport and Resources Committee, I take this opportunity to thank the committee and in particular the committee chair, the member for Kurwongbah, for his wise guidance and advice. Unfortunately he is not here today; he is having surgery this week. It is great to be part of such a well-functioning committee which I am sure is largely due to the sensible approach taken by the member for Kurwongbah. I hope that the committee continues in this way.

A key issue that the committee looked at in this report goes back to the technological definitions about what different immobilisers are. An engine immobiliser is a security system designed to prevent the engine from running without the appropriate key or fob. Most engine immobiliser systems work with a transponder chip embedded in the key or fob that sends a code signal into the vehicle's computer when the key is turned on. Engine immobilisation technology, as mentioned by other members, is the primary measure that we all know well which addresses unauthorised vehicle use, including theft.

Immobiliser devices are electronic switches fitted to vehicles that require an electronic transponder or key to unlock the vehicle's ignition. Vehicles with engine immobiliser technology cannot be hot-wired, as we have heard, or have their engines started without having a key present.

As the MTAQ noted, immobilisers have been mandatory in all passenger and light commercial vehicles since 2001 and have contributed to a large reduction in motor vehicle theft. In fact, now 70 per cent of vehicles are stolen using their own keys. As the RACQ submitted to the committee, there was a need to consider what actions can be taken to address the issue of key security. This has the potential to provide significant and low cost improvements.


On this point, I acknowledge the hardworking police officers in my local area who work in the crime prevention unit. They hold a number of 'coffee with a cop' events. One of the main things they talk about at these events is key security, a focus on improving safety—which is everyone's responsibility—public awareness about where you leave your keys and also making sure that you leave your car locked.

Moving on from that, remote engine immobilisers are a recent extension of engine immobiliser technology. This technology is generally referred to as a remote controlled engine locking system or a remote engine locking device. These devices introduce the ability to control a vehicle's ignition from a

distance using digital or wireless technology. It is important to recognise that fixed immobilisation prevents a vehicle from starting whilst remote immobilisation can also operate on a moving vehicle. Ghost immobilisers are immobilisers that require a pin to start the vehicle and a ghost immobiliser is a device that is aimed at providing an additional layer of security which prevents vehicle theft even if the thief has access to the keys.

The report is interesting because the committee initially anticipated that remote engine immobilisers would form a large part of the inquiry. However, what became clear from speaking to all the stakeholders and submitters was that the technology itself, whilst appealing, is not sufficiently developed to be a viable solution to vehicle thefts. There were a wide range of disadvantages identified by the stakeholders in relation to remote engine immobilisers. These include that the technology was simply not mature enough for reliance on in the medium term at this point. It was the opinion of many stakeholders that it would quickly be overtaken by new vehicles anywhere, where we will be able to track and identify where a vehicle is without having to engage in any form of pursuit.

In addition, dynamic immobilisation has not been broadly adopted internationally due to the complexities and significant risks associated with it. The RACQ said that there were other safety concerns in relation to shutting down a moving vehicle. In conclusion, I thank the committee for all of their work. I wish everyone in this place a happy Christmas.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (3.31 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution on report No. 12, 57th Parliament, *Inquiry into vehicle safety, standards and technology, including engine immobiliser technology*. I concur with my colleagues on both sides of the House that we were all hoping that there would be a technological solution available that we could recommend. In engaging with the various stakeholders and experts in the field, there appears to be no such technology. The idea of remote immobilisation is certainly not safe based on the evidence we heard and is not practised anywhere in the world.

Current immobilisation technology where people need the keys is what is driving break and enter crime. The QPU advised—

We all have a responsibility when it comes to youth crime. We must act a lot earlier than we do now. By the time they enter the criminal justice system at 10, 11, 12 and 13, it is far too late. I think we have to get in earlier. It has been referred to as the kindergarten cops, which is probably disrespectful. We need to get into families where their kids are three and four and do what we can to try to divert them away from that type of life.

That is a pretty damning indictment on where we are at as a society. We know that the theft of cars is having a significant impact on our community and a significant impact on our road safety. It is incumbent on everybody in this House to look at all the possible solutions. If the police union is recommending that we need to have programs targeted at an earlier age then we should do that.

There are a couple of other parts of the report that I would like to talk about. There was a recommendation about key security. Key security is obviously very important. However, we now have the situation where people are violently invading houses and demanding the keys if they cannot find them. We have seen the escalation from hot-wiring. Immobilisers were then brought in. People now need the keys which means that they are now breaking into people's homes. It started off with sneak crimes. Now it is not just sneak crimes; they are going into homes and whilst armed demanding the keys. This is a terrible escalation.

We seriously need to look at (a) how we message key security and (b) whether we should be trying to intervene at a younger age. We have put forward the suggestion of breach of bail so that there are consequences. That should be considered by members of the government and the executive because it is a possible way to drive this down. If someone has breached their bail and they are not in the community, at the very least it will limit the number of offences they can commit prior to having their matter heard and judgement made. That should at least be considered.

The other area I wanted to talk about is tyre deflation devices. During the committee's inquiry the QPS advised that they had been working towards a trial of two remote activated devices. I encourage the minister to pursue this. We know the dangers that the Police Service face while putting these tyre deflation devices out. We have people who are out of control. They are relatively inexperienced in handling some of the cars that are stolen and this can lead to tragic circumstances not just for innocent bystanders but also for our police who have to put themselves in harm's way to try to stop these cars hurting anybody else in our community. The remote devices that will cause the deflation of tyres should be seriously looked at. In my opinion, every vehicle in the fleet should be equipped with such a device so that the police can safely get out of the way prior to deploying the device as they try to stop vehicle theft which is rampant in our community.

The other thing I would mention in the brief time I have left is recommendation 3. That is that the transport and main roads minister reconsider the proposed changes to the written-off vehicle scheme. Time will not allow me to go into all the details, but I would encourage the minister to have a good look at that. We do not want unintended consequences. In terms of recommendation 3, I would highly advise the minister and his department to have a look at some of the proposed changes and the evidence we gathered in that area.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note



Mr RUSSO (Toohey—ALP) (3.37 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee Report No. 17, 57th Parliament, *Oversight of the Office of the Queensland Ombudsman*, tabled on 9 November 2021.

The Legal Affairs and Safety Committee has oversight responsibilities for the office of the Queensland Ombudsman with the Ombudsman Act 2001 conferring functions on the committee including: to monitor and review performance; to report to the Legislative Assembly; and to examine each annual report of the office of the Queensland Ombudsman. The committee has reviewed the Queensland Ombudsman 2019-20 annual report, which was tabled on 24 September 2020. The annual report provided a detailed focus on the work done by the office over that period.

The office of the Queensland Ombudsman was established to investigate the administrative actions of Queensland government agencies, local councils and universities. The majority of investigations arise from complaints received, but the Ombudsman also conducts own-initiative investigations. The office received 11,074 contacts, of which 7,207 were treated as complaints, 2,677 matters were outside jurisdiction and 1,113 were fully investigated. The annual report noted that a further 16,443 people were directed from the online complaint form to their outside of jurisdiction webpage. Of the 7,207 complaints received, 4,987 were about state government agencies, 1,859 were about local councils and 352 were about public universities. The annual report noted that the spread of complaints across agency types was almost the same as the previous two years.

The average age of a complaint when closed at preliminary assessment was 2.2 days, exceeding the target of 10 days. Notably, 85 per cent of complaints were finalised within 10 days of receipt, 94 per cent were finalised within 30 days and 100 per cent of complaints were finalised within 12 months. Due to COVID, the number of contacts, complaints and investigations set out in the 2019-20 annual report were slightly lower than for the previous year, 2018-19.

Since March 2020, complaints about Queensland Health increased as a result of COVID related complaints and were largely about border closures and/or quarantine arrangements with people concerned that they were not allowed to travel across the border or concerned about the requirement to be in or the conditions in quarantine.


The annual report noted that the office continues 'to monitor child safety complaints as part of its continued oversight role'. The office received 440 complaints relating to child safety matters in 2019-20 compared with 513 complaints received in 2018-19.

In 2019-20, the office delivered a total of 151 training sessions, including 71 in regional areas, to 2,785 public sector officers with the annual report attributing the 38 per cent reduction to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Topics of training included principles of decision-making, complaints management, public sector ethics, managing unreasonable conduct, practical ethics for local government and PID management.

During 2019-20, the office published two major reports: *The Forensic Disability Service report: An investigation into the detention of people at the Forensic Disability Service*; and *Management of child safety complaints—second report: An investigation into the management of child safety complaints within the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women*.

The committee held a public hearing on 14 June 2021. As was acknowledged by the Ombudsman at the hearing, I too would like to acknowledge the 'great contribution to improving fairness in public administration' made by former ombudsman Phil Clarke, who retired as Queensland Ombudsman on 9 July 2020 after almost 10 years in the role.

The office published their *Casebook 2020*, which contains information about 24 of the office's investigation outcomes. The Ombudsman noted that the casebook is a useful resource.

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (3.42 pm): The office of the Queensland Ombudsman, as an independent authority, plays a vital role in ensuring that government departments are held to account for their decisions and to provide insights into ways that government agencies can do their business better. Importantly, it is one of the few ways that Queenslanders can have government decisions reviewed.


The process leading to report No. 17 on the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee's oversight of the office of the Queensland Ombudsman allowed the committee to review the annual report and to directly question the Queensland Ombudsman and departmental representatives in relation to their activities and how this has improved accountability across departments. This includes their ongoing commitment to providing training to public sector officers across Queensland which is important and should be encouraged and resourced appropriately.

With another four years before the next strategic review of the office, it is imperative that the oversight committee is able to 'fill in the gaps'. With 11 per cent of investigations not completed within the targeted time frames, it was pleasing to see that investigative recommendations have been fully accepted by the agencies referred to, which should lead to ongoing systemic improvements. The annual report noted that there were 150 requests for a review of a previous decision by the Ombudsman, which is an increase of 14 per cent over the previous year. It is this aspect which I speak about.

As noted in my statement of reservation, the process of general service complaints regarding the office of the Queensland Ombudsman has not yet been resolved, with the committee deciding to revisit this sometime in 2022. Due to the confidentiality associated with committee proceedings, the issue about lack of transparency and accountability is reinforced. This means confidence in 'independent of government' processes such as parliamentary committees and offices including the Ombudsman, the Information Commissioner and others can be eroded unnecessarily.

Invariably, private committee meetings outnumber public hearings and public scrutiny, and the inherent bias of government appointed chairs with casting votes can distort the process in favour of the incumbent government. I again request that these are issues which should be considered by the CLA, particularly noting the lack of transparency of decision-making and less than full disclosure of committee deliberations and decisions which could impact on both parliament and our independent public institutions, leading to unreported and unresolved issues. It is important that Queenslanders have confidence in the parliamentary oversight role of independent bodies that investigate government decisions on behalf of everyday Queenslanders.

I thank the Queensland Ombudsman and departmental representatives for their work and for providing comprehensive details of the working of the office and how it is striving hard to serve the people of Queensland with the high percentage of closed cases demonstrating many good outcomes. I extend my thanks to our chair, fellow committee members and the secretariat for their ongoing commitment to facilitate effective oversight of independent authorities and for the work that goes into this. I wish you all a very merry Christmas.

 **Mr HUNT** (Caloundra—ALP) (3.45 pm): I rise to comment on report No. 17 of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee titled *Oversight of the Office of the Queensland Ombudsman*. The Legal Affairs and Safety Committee has oversight responsibilities for the office of the Queensland Ombudsman conferring functions on the committee including to monitor and review performance, to report to the Legislative Assembly and to examine each annual report of the office of the Queensland Ombudsman.

The committee examined the Queensland Ombudsman's 2019-20 annual report, which was tabled on 24 September 2020. The annual report provided important information on the work done by the office over that period. It is no surprise to anyone here that the office of the Queensland Ombudsman was established to investigate the administrative actions of Queensland government agencies. The majority of investigations arise from complaints received.

The office received over 10,000 contacts, of which 7,207 were treated as complaints, over 2,600 matters were outside jurisdiction and over 1,100 were fully investigated. The annual report noted that well over 16,000 people were directed to the online complaint form. Eighty-five per cent of complaints were finalised within 10 days of receipt and 94 per cent were finalised within 30 days.

It is also worth noting that during 2019-20 the office published two major reports: *The Forensic Disability Service report: An investigation into the detention of people at the Forensic Disability Service*; and *Management of child safety complaints—second report: An investigation into the management of child safety complaints within the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women*.


Clearly COVID had an effect as there was a slight drop-off in the number of requests for services in 2019-20. Although the requests are starting to return to normal levels, they are nonetheless slightly sporadic it seems. However, since March 2020 complaints about Queensland Health have increased as a result of COVID related complaints principally around issues relating to quarantine.

COVID also had a particular impact on the management of prisons. Visits were suspended and so a program of virtual visits was implemented and was largely a successful initiative. As an aside, I would note that the importation of drugs into correctional centres was largely curtailed during this same period. This also is not surprising because drugs come into correctional centres largely through visits and are smuggled in in a dizzying variety of ways. During this period when visits were suspended and went completely online, the importation of drugs into the correctional centres severely dropped off which led to spikes in violence within the centres as the availability of drugs became less and less.

Sadly, COVID also impacted on the delivery of training services provided by the Ombudsman in early 2020 but, just as it did with contact with detention centres, the Ombudsman's office regrouped and developed a virtual training and webinar program which is now being adopted as standard practice in many agencies. PID training, required by changes to the public interest disclosure standards of 2019, was also redeveloped and again, not surprisingly, we find that the processes required were disrupted by COVID and led to yet another successful live and online training package being delivered.

It is important too that we recognise the stresses and strains the staff of the Ombudsman's office have been under during this reporting period. It is not uncommon for these staff to have to deliver bad news or redirect inquiries, and this will not always end well or be received well by clients. It is very credible that the client satisfaction survey currently sits at 64 per cent, given the role and function of the office and the fact that the office is required to tell clients that their complaint simply has no foundation or that the respondent has no case to answer. This can be a bitter pill to swallow for some people, and the Office of the Ombudsman can be rightly proud of the level of satisfaction they have recorded.

Like the chair, I would like to acknowledge the contribution of Ombudsman Phil Clarke, who retired as the Queensland Ombudsman on 9 July 2020 after almost a decade in the job. In 2019 the budget for the office was just under \$10 million; actual expenses were \$337,000 under budget. The unused appropriation is to be repaid in 2020-21. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (3.50 pm): As another member of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, I too rise to address report No. 17, 57th Parliament, *Oversight of the Office of the Queensland Ombudsman*. At the outset, I thank and acknowledge: Mr Anthony Reilly, the Queensland Ombudsman; Mrs Angela Pyke, the Deputy Ombudsman; Mrs Leanne Robertson, Director, Corporate Services Unit; and Ms Louise Rosemann, Principal Adviser, Public Interest Disclosures, for appearing before us in June in a public hearing where we were able to hear of the operations of the Queensland Ombudsman as well as ask them a range of questions.

As others on the committee have already mentioned, our committee's role in oversight of the Ombudsman is partly conferred by the Legislative Assembly through standing orders but also through the Ombudsman Act. As the preceding speaker mentioned, that has an element of monitoring, reviewing and reporting as well as examining annual reports and the like. What is not mentioned there, and I think what is important for the people of Queensland to understand, is that as a committee we do not have the ability to undertake our own investigations into matters brought before us which have been raised about the operations of the Ombudsman. Our role is more to look at systemic matters that may require addressing more broadly within the legislation under which the Ombudsman operates.

True to that form, a matter came up during the reporting period—as referenced on page 3 of this report—that there is no formally established procedure for dealing with service delivery complaints that are made to the Ombudsman's office about the Ombudsman and the Deputy Ombudsman directly. We sought advice as to the best practice procedure for handling such complaints by clients of the office who are dissatisfied with the handling of their matters. Having considered that advice, we wrote to the Ombudsman outlining our view as a committee as to the best practice model for addressing such complaints made against senior staff of the office. As the member for Noosa mentioned, we will revisit that in 2022 as part of that systemic oversight role I mentioned.

As other committee members have also pointed out, it is interesting to see the numbers of complaints or matters raised with the office over the term. In 2019-20 there were: 11,074 contacts received, 7,207 of which were complaints—interestingly, that is nearly a 10 per cent decrease on the previous year; 2,677 were matters outside of their jurisdiction, again, about a six per cent decrease on

the previous year; just over a thousand were general inquiries seeking information and/or assistance—that was up 20 per cent on the previous year; and 150 were requests for a review of a previous decision by the Ombudsman, and that too was up by 14 per cent.


Not surprising to Queenslanders would be where a lot of these issues arise. In terms of state agencies, Queensland Corrective Services made up 981 complaints. I think that is now 982, isn't it, member for Kawana, after your—

Mr Bleijie: About the Caloundra jail.

Mr POWELL: Thank you. The Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women made up 609 complaints; the Department of Housing and Public Works, 516 complaints; and the Department of Education, 512 complaints. On top of that—again this is not surprising, given what has been going on in this chamber this year—the Queensland Building and Construction Commission received 196 complaints; and the Public Trustee, 183. What is clear is that these are the agencies that have a lot of face-to-face contact with the broader population. They are also the ones where there is potentially the greatest conflict, and they are the ones that make up the bulk of what the Ombudsman is considering.

They also have a role in looking at local councils. I thought it was of interest that the vast majority of those related to development and building controls and environmental management, with fewer complaints around laws and enforcement, the conduct of the councils themselves, fewer again around rates and valuations and even fewer around roads. The Ombudsman also looks at universities. As others have mentioned, there was actually an improvement in the time the Ombudsman has been taking to address the matters being raised with them.

In conclusion, I do again reiterate that we take our role of oversight of the Ombudsman very seriously but stress that it is one of systemic change, not one of investigating outcomes where the complainant is not happy with the outcome.

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (3.55 pm): As a member for Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, I too would like to rise and make a contribution to report No. 17, *Oversight of the Office of the Queensland Ombudsman*. As others have already articulated, the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee has oversight responsibilities for the Queensland Ombudsman. The report provides information regarding the performance of the Ombudsman and its functions under the Ombudsman Act. The committee reviewed the annual report and conducted a public hearing with the Queensland Ombudsman, Mr Anthony Reilly, and his team on 14 June. As others have, I would like to thank them for their assistance and for taking us through their activities and performance in the reporting period.

We heard that the Queensland Ombudsman's office strives to cultivate fair and accountable public administration in Queensland and that they do that in a few different ways. Firstly, as we have touched on, they investigate administrative decisions, usually following a complaint, and often from members of the public. They help agencies improve practices by providing training, information and oversighting a system of public interest disclosures. During the reporting period the office continued to receive and investigate complaints about state government departments, statutory authorities, local councils and public universities. The Queensland Ombudsman's office received 11,074 contacts, of which 7,207 were treated as complaints and 1,113 were fully investigated.

The wide range of matters investigated were reflected in the Ombudsman's office's new *Casebook 2020*—which we heard about during the public hearings—which was published in February with the authorisation of the Speaker. I was particularly interested in *Casebook 2020*. It is a new publication for the Ombudsman's office and contains a sample of the outcomes that the Ombudsman achieved through its investigations. It is a resource that is intended to support Queensland public servants in their administrative decision-making, which further demonstrates the important contribution that the office makes to Queensland's good governance framework.

Due to COVID the number of contacts, complaints and investigations set out in the 2019-20 annual report were slightly lower. We heard that was mostly due to a drop in demand for services when COVID first hit. Their contacts in fact almost halved, going from an average of around 1,000 a month to about 555. In relation to the nature of the complaints, perhaps predictably given the operating environment that we are in, we heard about an increase in complaints in relation to Queensland Health. Those complaints were largely about issues regarding border closures and quarantine arrangements. During this period Queensland Health worked closely with the Ombudsman's office to set up processes to manage those particular complaints. The Queensland Ombudsman also worked quite closely with Queensland Health to review more broadly their complaints-handling process. I thought that was a really good demonstration of how departments can work together to be responsive and to follow and develop good practice.

COVID obviously had a particular impact on the management of prisons and youth detention centres. We know that the Queensland Ombudsman's office operates a visiting scheme. Following a pause in visits because of COVID they did resume physical visits to youth detention centres in late 2020, but they also moved to an online space to continue visits, particularly in the adult centres, which I think was indicated as something they might look at retaining.

As noted by the Ombudsman at the hearing and by others here in the House today, I also would like to acknowledge the great contribution to improving fairness in public administration made by the former ombudsman, Phil Clarke, who retired as the ombudsman on 9 July after almost 10 years in the role. I congratulate the current Ombudsman, Anthony Reilly, on his appointment and I wish him every luck and future success. I commend the report to the House.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.


Motion agreed to.

BRISBANE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES ARRANGEMENTS BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 3998, on motion of Ms Palaszczuk—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (4.00 pm), continuing: I rise to continue my contribution on the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021. Like a few of my colleagues, and I particularly mention the member for Mermaid Beach, I am also concerned that when we look through the list of representatives to be included on the board of the 2032 Brisbane Olympic committee, there is no guaranteed spot for someone from the Gold Coast. We have seen many reports in the media from Mayor Tom Tate and suggestions that perhaps the deputy mayor should be involved.

The Gold Coast has demonstrated capacity and experience in running events of this nature and this size. We only have to look back to the recent Commonwealth Games to see how proactive our city was in hosting and running that event. We also understand the importance of legacy and the great legacy to come out of the Commonwealth Games. The original plans presented by the original Labor government for those Commonwealth Games included temporary facilities at the Broadwater as opposed to permanent facilities in Coomera and Carrara, where we now have magnificent indoor sports facilities. Those facilities were designed and built to cater for the Commonwealth Games and to provide a legacy and facilities for a growing city. I want to particularly acknowledge the former deputy premier, Jeff Seeney, and the former treasurer, Tim Nicholls, who actually supported suggestions from our community for those facilities to be not temporary but rather permanent facilities moving forward with games planning.

The Gold Coast was also the first city to fully integrate the para-sports program at the 2018 Commonwealth Games. What a thrill it was to be at the Gold Coast Aquatic Centre for the swimming events and to see para-sports athletes competing alongside our non-para-sports athletes. It was a magnificent week of events not only at the Aquatic Centre but at Carrara stadium. Again, I say that the Gold Coast really does get it. It is certainly one of the most multicultural and inclusive cities in our nation.


We are also the sixth largest city in our nation. On that basis alone, there should be a seat on the board of the Olympic Games organising committee. The Gold Coast should be represented. I have heard people talk about the fact that there will be nine venues on the Gold Coast. Many of those venues are there now, and the Gold Coast council and the ratepayers of the city will be required to maintain those facilities in peak condition for many years to come in readiness for those games.

The Gold Coast can be incredibly proud of our sporting prowess. There would not be a person in the House who would not agree that we have produced more than our fair share of Olympic and Commonwealth Games champions over the last 20 or 30 years. We only have to run through the gold medal lists of the 2000 Olympics, the Tokyo Olympics and former Commonwealth Games around the world to see how many Gold Coast athletes have performed. I go right back to people like Andrew Baildon, the son of our former mayor who was a medallist in the Commonwealth Games in his younger days.

On the Gold Coast, we know how to run an event. We run a lot of them. We run the Australian Masters Games every year—although COVID has certainly been disruptive in the last couple of years—where some 50,000 athletes come from all around Australia to participate in a range of seniors events.

We have run the Surf Life Saving Championships. We have run Indy and the Supercars for more than 20 years on the Gold Coast. We have run some of the nation's most prestigious and well-known triathlons and marathons. We have run the Pan Pacs. We have run some of the most prestigious world surfing events. In fact, the world surf championships were born on the Gold Coast at Burleigh back in the early 1970s.

I simply put forward an appeal to the Premier and to those who are in a position of influence to determine the outcome. I advocate in the strongest possible terms for a representative from the Gold Coast—our mayor or deputy mayor—to be included on the Olympic Games organising committee because we have a lot to contribute as a city. We have the hands-on experience to ensure that we would play an active role in delivering a great Olympic Games in 2032.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (4.05 pm): I am delighted to speak in support of the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021. As we know, the bill seeks to establish an organising committee for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games and establish a board of directors with the function of the organising committee to facilitate the organisation, conduct, promotion, and commercial and financial management of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The games are set to deliver \$8.1 billion in economic and social benefits, 91,600 jobs and a \$4.6 billion uplift in tourism and trade for Queensland. Engaging local industry and generating jobs are key objectives. The games will completely transform Queensland.

As the small business minister, I am so excited about the huge opportunities for Queensland small businesses, including our Indigenous small businesses, to be part of this story. We have already had discussions about how we can support businesses to grow in the lead-up to the games. As all members know, the Palaszczuk government has already set procurement targets for government work in general for small business. Our target for this year has been 25 per cent, and within six months we smashed it to 28.6 per cent, which is equivalent to \$2.6 billion worth of government work going to small business. That same procurement focus will apply to the lead-up to and staging of the Olympics.

Our Buy Queensland policy will ensure that locals come first. Businesses are encouraged to register for Buy Queensland supply updates via the Brisbane 2032 webpage to be notified when more information is available about ways they can be involved in the games. To date, more than 2,000 businesses have applied to be suppliers for the Olympics.

We are also working closely with Indigenous businesses so they can be ready to capitalise on the economic opportunities in the lead-up to, during and post the games. Some fantastic conversations were had during Indigenous small business month in October this year about that through our Yarning 2032 process. The discussions have been overwhelmingly positive, with participants committed to collaborating early and passionately. There have been conversations focused on all aspects of procurement, with direct quotes such as—

With no exceptions, First Nations businesses can fill every niche.

and—

Now's the time to get our tier 1 suppliers with contracts to facilitate early and targeted workshops to identify First Nations business partners and opportunities.

and—

Government must be prepared to listen and work with the innovative value proposition presented by First Nations businesses.

and we are. Lastly—

The innate value of First Nations businesses and their unique way of doing business must be seen as innovation by Governments and not as risk.

That is absolutely right. We are committed to continuing the Yarning.

We are also preparing the workforce of the future by investing in training and skilling our local workforce to take advantage of an economic boom. We are partnering, for instance, with the Queensland Tourism Industry Council—and I thank the minister for the partnership there—to gain expert insight on the regional skills needed and training solutions, jobs growth and employment opportunities to help prepare industry ahead of the 2032 games. Key initiatives, such as the Workforce Summit we announced today, will help support industry with trained workers with the skills that are needed for the games.

On skills, I note the opposition had a statement of reservation on the games, even though everyone wants it. I notice they have a newfound support for skills and training, which was quite surprising and quite amazing they should take such high moral ground on one of these areas. They say we need to skill and train Queensland's workforce. That is a bit of a gold medal backflip because if training and skills was an Olympic sport—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Member for Nanango.

Ms FARMER:—they would not be anywhere near that podium, I can tell you right now. They have an absolutely woeful record on skills and training.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nanango, you are now warned under the standing orders.

Ms FARMER: I do not think we need to be taking their advice. They closed TAFE campuses, sold off five TAFE campuses, they sacked 2,100 TAFE staff, they cut \$171 million in funding—the list goes on. We do not need any advice from them.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. We are talking about the Olympics bill and I ask the minister to be brought back to the bill.

Ms FARMER: It was in their statement of reservation. The member obviously has not read it.

Mr POWER: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. As the chair of the committee, I believe that the member was speaking to the dissent report.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will get some advice from the Clerk.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.


Ms FARMER: You did not read your statement of reservation.

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, there will be no argument across the chamber, please. There has been broad latitude over the last couple of days, member for Nanango, and I will ask the member for Bulimba to continue.

Ms FARMER: I finish by saying what a great opportunity this is to showcase Queensland. It will bring enormous social and economic opportunity. It is a huge shining light for our young people to strive towards. I personally cannot wait to be a spectator. I know that that same joy will go to so many Queenslanders.

While I am on my feet—I hope you will allow me this, Madam Deputy Speaker—I want to congratulate Mayor Keri Tamwoy, as I am the ministerial champion. She has just been named 2021 NAIDOC Person of the Year. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (4.11 pm): Most Australians love sport and sporting contests, and I am no different, but I have grown up with a different appreciation of what it takes to be a champion. In my first speech in this House, I outlined a number of reasons why I am a proud Queenslander. Central to this pride is my parents' contribution to the Queensland, Australian and international sporting landscape.

My father, John McDonald, played Rugby League for the state and Australia and toured with the Kangaroos in 1967 and 1968. He was a professional world record holder for the 440 yards and won many races across Australia. My father, John, was also the first coach of the Queensland State of Origin team. I am a proud Queenslander. Dad went on to be a distinguished administrator in Rugby League, being the chairman of the Queensland Rugby League for 21 years. He was also chairman of the Australian Rugby League, bringing Super League and the ARL back together. Despite this summary of accolades, if you ask Dad what his greatest success was, he would say developing junior Rugby League across Queensland because he knows the success created from investing in development of sport and the successes that have continued for young Queenslanders through this Rugby League nursery.

Because of these roles, you can imagine my father had a wealth of knowledge to share, but none more important than the passion and drive it takes to be successful and the pride we felt in our own achievements and that of others. No matter what the sport, no matter what the sporting contest, we felt enormous pride in being Queenslanders and Australians cheering on our team or hero.

With that context, when I was a member of the Lockyer Valley Regional Council, and the then lord mayor Graham Quirk together with the now Chief Executive Officer of Council of Mayors, Scott Smith, visited our council and shared their vision and passion for making a pitch for the Olympic and Paralympic Games to come to Brisbane, I was immediately inspired and excited. I want to place on record in this House my sincere appreciation for the vision of the former lord mayor Graham Quirk who, with his team, including Chief Executive of the Council of Mayors, Scott Smith, brought together the Council of Mayors and focused their efforts on a bid to see Brisbane win the games. Thank you for giving us the idea and hope that the Olympics would come to Brisbane. Thank you for bringing local, state and federal governments together because that collaboration was key to the success of the bid.

When the success of the bid was announced, I was again inspired and excited. The Council of Mayors South East Queensland recognised for many reasons the value of the games coming to Brisbane and these included being a catalyst to deliver the critical transport South-East Queensland needs for growth, not just for the games, and to position the region as a global destination for tourism, trade and investment. The Brisbane 2032 games are set to deliver \$8.1 billion in benefits to Queensland, including a \$4.6 billion economic boost to tourism and trade. Collaboration, as I said before, was at the heart of the success of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games bid and it needs to be ongoing to ensure the success of the future games.

These games will provide a generational opportunity for all levels of government and industry to work together to transform our region. It is an opportunity to bring forward investment into the things South-East Queensland needs to become a thriving, attractive and livable region competing on a global stage with cities like London, Paris and Los Angeles. The games will shape what people across the world think of Brisbane and Queensland for decades to come. It should make us think now, 'Who are we? What do we want the world to remember?'

In Brisbane's successful bid, the International Olympic Committee formally recognised the South-East Queensland City Deal as a way to achieve this. It said—

A 2032 Games would serve as a catalyst to accelerate existing regional and national priority plans; the strategic alignment of the proposed Games with South-East Queensland's 20-year strategy to improve infrastructure ... and promote economic growth.

The city deal is an important part of our journey to 2032, and it is critical to ensure a tangible and lasting legacy is left for local communities. I once again ask the Deputy Premier to consider approving the first part of the Brisbane City Deal and let's get the money on the table from the federal government and deliver some great projects, including a water security project for Brisbane and irrigation in the region. The games will be a benefit to our infrastructure and we must see improvements to our highway and railway networks north, south and west which will include the Warrego Highway, Brisbane Valley Highway up to the great electorate of Nanango and high-speed passenger rail to Toowoomba.

There will be many venues for all the different sports during the games, but a great legacy will also come from many countries needing long-term training venues. The Lockyer is well placed for these. It has the same climate as Brisbane, is a one-hour drive away, and has world-class facilities already available for sports, including swimming, equestrian events and mountain biking. We have an Olympic pool, complete with timing equipment to the standards required. We have an equestrian centre and stables that already hold world championship events.

A collaborative comprising the Lockyer Valley Turf Club, Racing Queensland, Equestrian Queensland, University of Queensland, Lockyer Valley Regional Council and Regional Development Australia has been working hard and developed the Lockyer Valley Equine Precinct which will be able to hold a variety of national and international world-class events. We already have world champion series mountain bike events in our region and, with the Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley councils recently being successful with the \$6.6 million The Great Divide mountain bike destination, this will be even better.

Mayor Tanya Milligan from the Lockyer Valley Regional Council said that the Olympics are more than just sport and medals for the Lockyer Valley. It is about local farmers, local jobs and local legacies. It is an opportunity to showcase the Lockyer Valley to the world. There is no better place than the Lockyer Valley to live, work, invest and raise your family.

Visitors will be looking for an experience and the drive to the Lockyer Valley is picturesque and fulfilling. Passenger rail and the water project would be certainly meaningful legacies beyond the games and we look forward to the successes.

Mayor Graeme Lehmann from the Somerset region said that our proximity to Brisbane offering touring and training opportunities to visitors and athletes in the lead-up to the games will be wonderful. He went on to say—

Somerset region has an established network of trails for cycling, walking and horse riding, and three major dams well suited to sports of all kinds. The region is perfectly positioned to support teams looking for training grounds that are close to Olympic venues in Brisbane and along the coast, but without the crowds or need for a daily commute through congested urban traffic.

I welcome the vision of our leader, David Crisafulli, for the development of a 20-year tourism plan which can benefit the length and breadth of the entire state. It is critical that the state capitalises on the Olympic opportunity. Queensland should already be working to unlock and expand world-class tourism products for 2032 and beyond. The games will help us deliver world-class innovation, but we already have a great basis from which to start. The University of Queensland is ranked No. 2 in agricultural research in the world. We grow world-class fruit, veggies and protein and we want to feed the champions of the world. The University of Queensland is also ranked No. 2 in sport tech in the world, second only to a university in London which no doubt benefited from the London games. I reckon there will be world classes in all forms—not just Olympians—if we get this right.


One thing the Olympics will give us is self-belief. Kids do believe in themselves and especially disabled children when they see Paralympics and the inspirational stories and demonstrations of those competing. Who will be the next Cate Campbell, Logan Martin or Kurt Fearnley? The games will help 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 from chronic illness associated with sedentary lifestyles.

The Olympic Games is going to be wonderful for Queenslanders and Australians. It is going to leave an inspirational legacy if we get this right. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr McDonald, adjourned.

MOTION

Suspension of Standing Orders

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (4.21 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—


That standing orders 63 and 70 be suspended to immediately allow the Leader of the House to move a motion without notice.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

MENTAL HEALTH SELECT COMMITTEE

Order of Appointment

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (4.22 pm): I move—

1. A select committee, to be known as the Mental Health Select Committee, be established to undertake an inquiry and report on the opportunities to improve mental health outcomes for Queenslanders.

In undertaking the inquiry, the committee consider:

- (a) the economic and societal impact of mental illness in Queensland;
- (b) the current needs of and impacts on the mental health service system in Queensland;
- (c) opportunities to improve economic and social participation of people with mental illness through comprehensive, coordinated, and integrated mental health services (including alcohol and other drugs and suicide prevention):
 - a. across the care continuum from prevention, crisis response, harm reduction, treatment and recovery;
 - b. across sectors, including Commonwealth funded primary care and private specialist services, state funded specialist mental health services, non-government services and services funded by the NDIS;
- (d) the experiences and leadership of people with lived experience of mental illness, problematic substance use and suicidality and their families and carers;
- (e) the mental health needs of people at greater risk of poor mental health;
- (f) how investment by the Queensland government and other levels of government can enhance outcomes for Queenslanders requiring mental health treatment and support;
- (g) service safety and quality, workforce improvement and digital capability;
- (h) mental health funding models in Australia; and
- (i) relevant national and state policies, reports and recent inquiries including the Productivity Commission Mental Health Inquiry Report.

2. The committee have power to call for persons, documents and other items;
3. The committee report to the Legislative Assembly by 31 May 2022;
4. The committee consist of eight members of the Legislative Assembly: four members (including the Chairperson) appointed by the Leader of the House and four members appointed by the Leader of the Opposition;
5. That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing orders, the appointment of members to the committee shall be by the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition in writing to the Clerk with their appointments by 10 December 2021. The Clerk to table the letters of appointment.
6. If the Leader of the Opposition does not appoint all required members as outlined in 4. by the date in 5., the select committee is still a fully constituted committee with the members appointed by the Leader of the House.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Portfolio Committees, Reporting Dates



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (4.24 pm): I seek to advise the House of the determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved pursuant to standing order 136 that the State Development and Regional Industries Committee report on the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 11 February 2022. The committee has also resolved at the request of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee to extend the reporting date for the inquiry into the Working with Children (Indigenous Communities) Amendment Bill from 1 March 2022 to 31 October 2022.

The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 194B that Auditor-General's report 5: 2021-22—*Managing Queensland's transition to renewable energy* and Auditor-General's report 7: 2021-22—*Energy 2021* be referred to the Transport and Resources Committee, and Auditor-General's report 6: 2021-22—*Regulating animal welfare services* be referred to the State Development and Regional Industries Committee.

BRISBANE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPICS GAMES ARRANGEMENTS BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 4026, on motion of Ms Palaszczuk—

That the bill be now read a second time.



Hon. SJ STEWART (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (4.26 pm): I rise to speak in support of the bill before the House, the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill. We have heard a lot of people in the chamber over the last two days talk about the importance of what this will bring to their communities. As a Townsville resident and a lover of Townsville, we cannot miss out and we are not going to. We have seen that the recommendation to the Olympic committee is that we host some of the football games, and why not? It was the Palaszczuk government who built the Queensland Country Bank Stadium, and what a great stadium that is.

We saw how North Queensland and particularly Townsville embraced that State of Origin. It was absolutely brilliant. The whole idea of locating the stadium there was about activating the CBD, and that is exactly what we saw happen for that State of Origin. They closed down streets; it was an absolute party atmosphere. It was like Caxton Street on steroids right throughout Townsville. This is what will happen when we have the Olympics coming into Townsville for those two weeks. These will be the things that our kids, grandkids and those who miss out will talk about for our entire lifetime. This is what it is about.

There is one thing that I remember from when I was teaching phys. ed, and honourable members can tell I am a former phys. ed. teacher by my sleek greyhound physique! In the lead-up to the Sydney Olympics we were charged with talent identification. On one day every kid in our school went through a series of physical tests to identify whether they would be suitable athletes in the future. This was where we saw those kids who may not have thought that rowing was their thing or that cycling was their thing or that running 200 metres was their thing. However, through this talent identification we saw the development of our future world-class athletes. It paid off because the Sydney Olympics had the best outcome: the best medal tally ever. That was because there was the investment in infrastructure and in our future athletes and the legacy has followed on from there. This is about what it can bring to our

towns and to our cities before the Olympics happen. We may not host the USA team or the Great Britain team, but we will host those second-tier countries to come to Townsville prior to the games to prepare and train—and why wouldn't they?

Townsville has the Queensland Country Bank Stadium. We have the sports reserve that has the tartan track. We have now invested approximately \$30 million in a brand new facility, housing three indoor basketball courts and indoor hockey—with all of those great facilities at that same reserve.

We have spent \$2.2 million in the member for Mundingburra's electorate on a new velodrome. Sitting right beside the Queensland Country Bank Stadium is the Cowboys Community Training and High Performance Centre facility. These facilities are going to bring these countries to our town, to our cities. If you are not excited by that then take your pulse, because you must be dead! This is going to be bigger than Texas.

We have an opportunity to encourage teams to come to our city. This will create flow-on benefits when their families come and stay in our accommodation places and when international guests come to our regions. We heard the member for Lockyer speak about what is in his electorate. The same dynamic exists in each and every one of our electorates. We have some of the most outstanding assets in the world. This is our greatest opportunity to showcase that, and that is what we are going to do.

Not only will we have the greatest games ever; we will also showcase our region and state. We will have people returning to visit our regions, because we will put on the party of the millennium. It is going to be bigger than Texas.

The Palaszczuk government saw the vision and grabbed it. Now, we are taking the initial steps to put this together to make sure—

An opposition member interjected.

Mr STEWART: Success has many fathers—I take the interjection by those opposite. Those opposite would like to claim everything. I am sure that those opposite would even claim that they were the first man on the moon! Success has many fathers.

Mr Perrett interjected.

Mr STEWART: I say to the member for Gympie that now is the time for everyone in Queensland to celebrate these Olympics. These will be our Olympics, because we will make it work. We will make sure we host the best Olympics. This is the start of investing in our future, investing in the legacy and making sure we attract international investors that keep coming back to the greatest state, not only in Australia but in the world.



Mr MICKELBERG (Buderim—LNP) (4.31 pm): I rise to address the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021, a bill which seeks to provide the administrative foundation that will deliver a successful Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2032.

Successfully bidding to host the games in 2032 is a significant milestone in Queensland's history. I would like to congratulate all of those involved in delivering this opportunity for Brisbane and for Queensland. I acknowledge that Brisbane's bid had the support of all three levels of government. Indeed, the bid had the support of both the state Labor Party and the state LNP. This rare display of bipartisanship across all levels of government is testament to the opportunity that the Olympics represents.

It is an opportunity to put Brisbane and Queensland on the world stage; an opportunity to deliver transformational infrastructure that would otherwise take many years to shuffle up the list of priorities; an opportunity for Queensland tourism and for trade; and an opportunity for young Australians to showcase their sporting talents to the world in front of a parochial home crowd.

Among the contributions of many, I would particularly like to acknowledge the contribution of former lord mayor Graham Quirk, whose vision was instrumental in sowing the seeds for a successful Brisbane Olympic Games bid and whose leadership was central in developing the necessary momentum.

I pay special tribute to my Sunshine Coast LNP colleague Ted O'Brien for his contribution to the successful bid. In his role as the Prime Minister's representative on the 2032 Olympic bid, Ted worked tirelessly to bring all levels of government together and to navigate the complex relationships and issues that sometimes come from the state government and threatened to derail the Olympic bid before it ever got off the ground. Ted's enthusiasm for the Olympics and the opportunity it represents has been on display for all.

For me, Ted's greatest legacy will be his relentless focus on using the Brisbane Olympics to deliver the infrastructure that South-East Queensland so desperately needs, such as reliable rail from the Sunshine Coast to Brisbane—rail that Labor promised would already be operating from Caloundra by 2015 and from Maroochydore by 2020 but that they have failed to deliver. The Sunshine Coast needs this rail infrastructure to support our rapidly growing population. Contained within the Brisbane 2032 pitch was a plan for heavy rail up the CAMCOS corridor from Beerwah to Maroochydore.

Mr Bailey: Why didn't you guys do it?

Mr MICKELBERG: I will take the interjection from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, who said, 'Why didn't you guys do it?' I note that the minister is part of a government who have been in power for seven years. It has been seven years, and they still have not duplicated the train line to Landsborough, let alone built a train line to Maroochydore—a promise that Labor made in 2009 that they would build a train line to Caloundra by 2015.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): The member for Miller will cease his interjections.

Mr MICKELBERG: It was before I was even in parliament! Incidentally, they promised that they would build it to Maroochydore by 2020, which was last year. We still do not have any proposal, let alone a shovel in the ground. Better public transport is needed to help deliver a successful Olympic Games, but, even more so, it is needed to support the massive increase in population that the Sunshine Coast has and is expected to experience by 2032. Labor have ignored the Sunshine Coast for far too long, and it is my hope that the 2032 Olympics will deliver the infrastructure that Labor should have already built.

As the Minister for Training and Skills Development said, the games represents an opportunity to skill and train Queensland's workforce. Every Queensland employer knows how difficult it is to recruit skilled staff in areas such as construction and hospitality at the moment. Both of these industries will be essential to delivering a successful Olympic Games. Success in 2032 will require an investment in upskilling Queensland's workforce to ensure the current workforce challenges are not repeated. I acknowledge that the current challenges are in large part a consequence of unexpected responses to COVID-19, but a failure to plan for workforce needs and a failure to invest will mean that insufficient trained workers are available to fill the many roles that will be required to construct infrastructure in advance of the games and to deliver the games in 2032.

The time to invest is now so that Queensland has the workforce necessary to deliver a successful games. The games could be a tremendous opportunity to expose young Queenslanders to unique experiences and opportunities. It is a chance for Queensland to reimagine employment opportunities for every Queensland school student, and I look forward to the government delivering on that reality.


The last area I would like to address is that of small business procurement as it relates to the Olympic Games. We have heard much from those opposite in relation to the opportunity the games will provide for small business. Whether the reality matches the spin will be important. For small and family business to compete for Olympics related tenders, the state government need to make considerable changes to their current tendering processes. Small and family businesses need a simplified state government tender process, and tenders need to be broken down into smaller parcels so that Queensland's small and family businesses can compete. It is simpler and easier for the state government to deal with large companies as primes, but that approach frequently disadvantages Queensland's small and family businesses, and they deserve better.

The last of the issues around small business procurement that I would like to touch on today is the need for the state government to provide clear details about how small and family businesses can access Olympic procurement opportunities. As the CCIQ recently stated—

Now is the time for the Queensland government to share their plan for business so that they are able to prepare to effectively compete for procurement opportunities.

I call on the state government to provide that clarity for Queensland's small and family businesses as soon as possible.

In summary, the Olympics are a tremendous opportunity for all Queenslanders and they are a tremendous opportunity for Sunshine Coast residents. Brisbane 2032 will be an unparalleled opportunity to showcase our state to the world and it will be, more importantly for me, an opportunity to deliver the infrastructure that our growing south-east corner so desperately needs. It is for that reason that I will be supporting the bill.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (4.38 pm): If there was a medal for talking up your electorate, I like to think I would be in the running for gold. 'Pugh32': you can have your T-shirts printed now. I do not know if they will make it a medal event! It will surprise no-one that my contribution will focus on the regional benefits to my fast-growing community.


As members can tell, I am beyond excited about the upcoming Olympics. It might be 11 years away, but as the parent of a 12-year-old I know that the time will go just like that. That is why it is so very important that we prepare now for the infrastructure needs that the Olympics and Brisbane 2032 will require, and for my community that begins with the Centenary Motorway upgrade.

Members will be aware that the Centenary upgrade in Jindalee is due to start early next year. If they are not aware, they have been sleeping under a rock; I talk about it all of the time. The design has proposed a new three-lane northbound bridge and rehabilitation of the existing bridges to three lanes southbound plus fantastic improved active transport and a beautiful cycleway. In a nutshell, it means less time in traffic for my westside locals. It is no secret that I have been a huge advocate for this project along with my colleagues the members for Bundamba, Ipswich, Ipswich West and Jordan, to name just a few. Their support for the project has been instrumental in getting funding from the state government for the first stage—thank you very much, Treasurer—along with our good friend the federal member for Oxley, Milton Dick, who secured the funds from the federal government for the other half of the project. Together we have put forward a strong case for the project, and this is just the first stage because, as the TMR documentation identifies, eventually we will need to do the entire corridor.

Right next to the bridge is the famous Jindalee Skate Park. It is a fantastically well loved piece of community infrastructure. I thank the Transport and Main Roads team for listening to the community feedback and ensuring that it was able to design the bridge to make sure we did not have to resume the skate park when we upgrade the bridge. It is absolutely fantastic news. There are a lot of young people in my community and beyond who use that skate park. Whether those young people go on to become Olympic champions or not, the point is thanks to these Olympics they have that opportunity, because who knows? The next soccer superstar could be playing at St Cats or the Centenary Stormers or even Oxley United. Our future decathlon champions could be training this Friday night at Centenary Little As. Our basketballers could be hard at work right now at the westside Falcons. With over 50 teams, there is plenty of talent to choose from. Perhaps we will see the hockey players from South West United storm home with the gold.

Finally, I want to reflect on the words of our housing minister at a recent event for Indigenous small business hosted at Parliament House about the opportunities for storytelling at the Olympics. We all recall the importance of the story that was created at the opening and closing ceremonies of the Sydney Olympics. It is an opportunity for the host nation to showcase its culture. Thematically speaking, I am very excited for the opportunity to have our First Nations people placed front and centre as we tell the story of Brisbane and Queensland—all 60,000 years of it. We have spoken before about how the Olympics will put us as a city on the world stage, and the Minister for Housing noted that we have the opportunity to showcase our amazing First Nations culture when we have that global platform. This is so important as we seek in Queensland to advance the Path to Treaty.

At the last Olympics members will recall that we made Nikki Webster famous. I have heard some people call to bring Nikki back at these Olympics. No disrespect to the wonderful Ms Webster—my sister Genevieve and I are proud owners of the *Strawberry Kisses* single, and it is a total banger; I especially love the seven-minute remix because it is fantastic, so give it a listen—but instead of looking exclusively to the past I think we need to ask ourselves what First Nations artist could we give a platform to at this Olympics. I will leave members with that thought and I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (4.43 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill. When I started to write down some notes on this bill, it brought my mind to a great community member and Paralympian of my electorate, Darren Thrupp. Darren was born in Queensland in the town of Kilcoy, which is in the member for Nanango's electorate. He acquired a brain injury in a car accident on a dusty Queensland road in February 1985 on the way home from a cricket match against Surat. The accident affected the right side of his body and before the accident he was involved in running, cricket and playing A-grade Rugby League for the Wallumbilla Herefords. The people of Roma encouraged him to take up athletics.

In 1987 he attended the Sporting Wheelies Come and Try Day and his times qualified him for the 1988 Seoul games. Darren then went on to win a gold medal at the 1992 Barcelona games, and he attributes his success to the support of the Wallumbilla and Roma communities who helped him attend

many international competitions. I regularly see Darren in the community and I hope that his tenacity, his story and his achievement is an inspiration to many others who aspire to Olympic and Paralympic competition.

Hosting the 2032 games can be a catalyst for generational benefits which all Queenslanders can enjoy. To this end, it is imperative that Queensland capitalise on this once-in-a-generation opportunity. To do so, our state has to build the infrastructure required to deliver the games which can leave a lasting legacy for all Queenslanders. It is critical that Queensland's investment leaves a lasting and meaningful infrastructure footprint right across this state. That infrastructure should not just be in the south-east corner; there are regional communities that are absolutely champing at the bit and keen to get involved with the Brisbane games. I say to the Labor government: they are willing to be part of the Brisbane games, but that planning to involve them and engage them needs to start now. They are keen to have their infrastructure in regional Queensland Brisbane-games ready. Regional communities across the state are keen to be involved. They, too, can capitalise on this great opportunity.

There will also be an 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. Not only will the Brisbane games need a workforce; the Brisbane games will need volunteers, and lots of them. Volunteers are an important part of any games, and we saw that in Sydney. There were some 43,000 volunteers who helped out at the Olympics in Sydney, and the Brisbane games are a great opportunity to embrace volunteers and volunteering.

It is also important to embrace the tourism attractions that so many visitors who come for the games will be able to enjoy. We do need to see that 20-year tourism plan which can benefit the width and breadth of our entire state. There are plenty of attractions in the south-west in my electorate of Warrego. Visitors can enjoy signature tourism attractions like the Big Rig in Roma, the Eromanga Natural History Museum, the Charleville Cosmos Centre, the GrainCorp silos, the Nindigully boomerangs, the secret World War II base and the bilbies in Charleville, or they can go all the way to the historic Noccundra Hotel, the Eulo Queen or the opal fields at Yowah. That is just a sample of some of the outstanding tourism attractions across the south-west and in my electorate. There is plenty on offer and Queensland should be working at unlocking and expanding these world-class tourism products so they are ready before, during and after 2032.

I do wish to thank someone who is often not mentioned when it comes to the Brisbane games, and that is former lord mayor Graham Quirk.

Government members interjected.

Ms LEAHY: He often does not rate a mention.

Mr Mickelberg: Father of the games.

Ms LEAHY: I take that interjection from the member for Buderim: he is the father of the games. Former lord mayor Graham Quirk was a tireless supporter. He started the ball rolling in 2015. He convinced the SEQ Council of Mayors and commissioned the original feasibility study. I also wish to thank the SEQ Council of Mayors who joined with him to support him in this bid. It shows their foresight for the region and for the future in doing so.

The Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games have also sparked the interest of regional Queensland, and I refer to my colleague the member for Gregory who raised the issue of new sports in the games, and members will like this one. He is looking for rodeo and bull riding to be incorporated as a sport. I have been approached to have sheep shearing included as an Olympic sport. Will Roberts from Victoria Downs has asked how this could occur and he is pursuing that through, and that would be a great boost to the sheep and wool industry. The competition could be held in the regions in places like Charleville and Cunnamulla. That would give great exposure to a wonderful industry in Queensland. I am sure that the Mayor of the Blackall-Tambo shire, Andrew Martin, would like to see the profile of the sheep and wool industry raised in the Brisbane games and showcased as it will complement the proposed end-to-end wool processing plant in Blackall.

This next suggestion will interest members opposite, and it is made with a little bit of Christmas cheer: perhaps the Labor government would even give consideration to having some of those shearing finals out in Barcaldine. That would really showcase the industry, and I am sure those opposite would be interested in that going back to the Shearers' Strike in Barcaldine. I ask members opposite in the government to please give that some consideration.



Hon. MAJ SCANLON (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (4.49 pm): I rise to support the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021. In my first term as a member in this place, my community on the Gold Coast played host to the 2018 Commonwealth Games and my electorate of Gaven hosted a number of those events, including the opening and closing ceremony at Metricon Stadium—a fantastic asset built by a former Labor government; the athletics at Carrara Stadium; mountain biking in Nerang National Park; as well as building and hosting athletes at the Gold Coast Sports and Leisure Centre, which I recently visited with the Minister for Tourism where we now have an incredible exhibition that holds the memories of all of the incredible moments during 2018.

The Commonwealth Games demonstrated what can be achieved in terms of infrastructure delivery when all levels of government work together. Projects like the Gold Coast Light Rail stage 2, the Coomera to Helensvale rail duplication and a number of road upgrades were delivered on time and on budget and have provided a lasting legacy for the Gold Coast. I think the success of the Commonwealth Games really does provide a blueprint for the opportunities that can be leveraged for Brisbane and for the rest of Queensland through the 2032 Olympic games. It was interesting to hear some of the comments of those opposite who are patting themselves on the back about the Commonwealth Games. It was a Labor government that bid for the Commonwealth Games. We delivered it. Those opposite sought legal advice to scrap the games altogether and to move it away from the Gold Coast.

As Queensland's environment minister, I am very proud of our commitment to deliver a climate positive games. Our unique and pristine natural environment, including our magnificent coastline, the Great Barrier Reef and the virtually unmatched biodiversity, brings hundreds and thousands of tourists to Queensland every year. A commitment to protect our environment will be central to the 2032 games. For the very first time this Olympic Games will be delivered as a climate positive event. That means that emissions reductions greater than the emissions from the games need to occur. In the same way that we saw a collective goal and time line drive the delivery of infrastructure on the Gold Coast, the Olympics will have the same impact on progress towards emissions reduction and increased renewable energy.

To achieve climate positive carbon management strategies we will be guided by four key principles: minimising the games footprint as much as possible before compensating more than 100 per cent of residual emissions; continuously improving emissions forecasting and measurements to support evidence based decision-making; ensuring consistency and transparency across the event lifecycle to promote accountability; and influencing to create change and deliver verifiable climate positive outcomes for Queensland and Australia, including by promoting shared responsibility. As part of this approach Brisbane 2032 is now working in partnership with the IOC to develop and refine carbon budgets and climate positive strategies for the games that will guide all of our decision-making.

Additionally, reducing waste and growing recycling will be central to our planning for the games. We are looking at a range of options, including reducing emissions by maximising the use of pre-planned or temporary infrastructure; all new infrastructure projects or significant upgrades to existing venues will require six-star (world leadership) green star for buildings ratings from the Green Building Council of Australia; all existing venues will be audited for energy efficiency and on-site renewable energy retrofit; capital programs will target zero net waste and 100 per cent renewable energy electricity and fuel use; games infrastructure will incorporate technologies that support low carbon operations, for example electric vehicle charging infrastructure; and reducing upfront resource consumption and maximising re-use. We will also be targeting 90 per cent public and active transport to venues during the games.


These principles will also drive opportunities for Queensland businesses. There will be millions of dollars worth of contracts across all facets of our economy. I know our government is committed to seeing as many as those contracts go to Queensland businesses as possible. We are keen to work with local businesses to improve their environmental and social governance and sustainability credentials to get them procurement ready for the games. I had a great conversation with the CCIQ yesterday around how we can continue to grow our ecoBiz program.

It was interesting listening to the member for Bonney reiterate his tired talking points on the environment. I acknowledge that as a member of the LNP the member for Bonney has very little opportunity to talk about the environment. In fact, he cannot talk about climate change because those opposite get freaked out about the word. The member likes to sledge us on our targets, but at least we actually have the fortitude to set them.

The LNP went to the last election refusing to commit to an emissions reduction target and said they were going to scrap our renewable energy target. In stark contrast, we have seen more than 40 large-scale renewable energy projects constructed under our government compared to zero for three years under those opposite. I look forward to hearing an update from the member for Bonney, if he is ever successful at getting his own party room to even believe in climate change, never mind actually take action. Then we heard some interesting comments about waste.

Let us not forget that those opposite made Queensland the dumping ground of Australia. They crippled our recycling and resource recovery industry. Not only did they fail to increase recycling, they actually went backwards. Commercial and industrial recovery rates fell. Construction and demolition recovery rates fell by six per cent. It is only through this government's measures that we have seen recycling grow enormously in both C&I and C&D. In fact, we are actually very close to achieving the Newman government's own 2024 waste targets, which I am sure they will be pleased to hear. I am not sure how they were going to reach them.

We are very passionate about reducing the amount of waste that goes to landfill and increasing the amount of resource recovery we have in this state. We have a number of programs that I do not have time to go through. We are also carrying out a review of the waste levy right now. The member for Bonney talked about the CommSec report. The CommSec report was actually funded by this government. To use that as some proof point about our government's inaction is ridiculous when one considers the fact that we are very open about the fact that more needs to be done and will be. Given the member's new-found passion for protected areas, I look forward to his full-throated defence of our tree clearing laws, but I suspect I will be waiting for a while. The bill sets the foundation for the next decade to drive our state towards the biggest event in history. We have a unique opportunity to ensure that the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games delivers for jobs, infrastructure and our environment. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (4.56 pm): The 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games being awarded to Brisbane and South-East Queensland is a major achievement. It lifts Brisbane to another level on the world stage to rival the Olympic cities of Sydney and Melbourne. Hosting the Olympics in 2032 brings more than the well-deserved status to Brisbane and Queensland; it brings prosperity, opportunity, big-ticket infrastructure items and increased global connectivity for our people and businesses. It is a natural thing for the LNP opposition to support this bill as so many conservatives at all three levels of government have been highly involved from the beginning of the successful bid.

It is also important for me as a Redlands Coast member of parliament to support the Olympic and Paralympic legislation because Redlanders have a proud history in major sport; Redlanders want to participate in Olympic events locally and elsewhere; Redlanders will travel on public transport and roads and people will travel to and from the Redlands; and Redlands Coast small and family businesses and tourism operators will benefit from increased visitor numbers. Big ticket infrastructure items like the Eastern Busway, the Cleveland line duplication, state road duplications and other items that benefit the Redlands and that have been previously promised by successive state governments will need to be delivered and will be a lasting legacy of the Olympics for our region and our population of 150,000 for generations to come.

In terms of the primary objectives of the bill, I note that other speakers have covered in great detail the establishment of the board. I take a moment to congratulate Councillor Karen Williams, the mayor of Redland City, for her appointment as Lord Mayor Adrian Schinner's nomination. She is an experienced South-East Queensland mayor who has earned her place, being involved in the drive for the Brisbane Olympics from early on and by successfully arguing for sporting venues for council areas outside Brisbane City Council like the Redlands Coast. I have no doubt that her experience as the mayor of Redland City, a city of Greater Brisbane, will assist with the efficient running of the games and help to ensure that the benefits of the games are shared across many Queensland regions. I take a moment to invite the Labor members who have been quite political and critical about the mayor to get on board with the Olympics in a bipartisan way and support the mayor and myself as we work to ensure that the Redlands Coast gets the maximum possible benefit from the greater Brisbane Olympics.

The Brisbane 2032 Olympics story began in earnest in 2015 with Lord Mayor Graham Quirk and the Queensland Council of Mayors. The BCC unanimously resolved to investigate a regional Olympic and Paralympic Games with Brisbane at the centre of the bid. Former mayor of Brisbane Graham Quirk, the current mayor, Adrian Schinner, and the Council of Mayors are to be congratulated for initiating and driving the Brisbane Olympic bid, for going beyond a dream and for actioning the vision to ultimately deliver a successful 2032 Brisbane Olympic Games bid.

I also congratulate the LNP federal government, led by Prime Minister Scott Morrison, for their involvement and the substantial funding they are providing to the games big-ticket infrastructure among other items. It would be remiss of me not to also acknowledge the role of the state government and their involvement. They too have come to the party, even after the early reluctance of people such as former deputy premier Jackie Trad. It is good to see that the state government's early hesitancy has changed so that now all three levels of government are cooperating, which will be needed for a successful games.

I am concerned about the risk the current government poses to the delivery of big-ticket transport infrastructure on time and on budget, as has been pointed out by others, and to the smooth running of events. The Cross River Rail project has suffered from Labor's budget blowouts and time delays. Queenslanders were told that Cross River Rail would be operational by 2024; now it will be 2025. The government said it would cost \$5 billion plus; now it is \$7 billion and rising. Labor members of parliament made an election promise that by 2024 Cross River Rail would save 14 minutes on a journey from the Redlands to the city. I table a photograph of a trailer promising that from one of the Labor members.

Tabled paper: Photograph depicting billboard advertising Cross River Rail [\[2062\]](#).

However, without the Cleveland line duplication that Labor originally promised to deliver by 2025-26, those time savings are not possible. When that dilemma is put to the government, we hear nothing but crickets. At the time that Labor promised the Cleveland line duplication some years ago, the estimated cost was in the order of \$170 million; now it will probably cost upwards of \$300 million, but still there is no plan. The government needs to confirm if it will honour its promise on the duplication of the Cleveland line.

I have raised the issue of the Eastern Busway many times in the House, but the government refuses to give us a clear answer on costs and time lines. In the past I have said much more on that, but I will not reiterate it today because of time constraints. Sadly, in terms of the Eastern Busway or transitway, the government's record is quite poor. In the last three-year term it promised five intersection upgrades along the transitway but actually delivered none. It started with one. That record causes some concern.

There are many other comments that I could make today but there are time constraints. It is important that the big-ticket transport items are clearly planned and delivered. Venues in the Redlands coast area include the whitewater centre to be built for canoe and slalom events. The already-existing Sleeman Sports Complex at Chandler has venues that are to be used. All of that means that the transport infrastructure is absolutely critical.

In closing I make the point that it is important that work is fast tracked on the hospital because more people will be visiting the Redlands. We will need both emergency services and the hospital upgraded. We need an ICU as soon as possible. We do not have a single ICU bed in the Redlands, which has a population of 150,000. They have had seven years to do it. We need faster progress on that. The car park is just starting to be built. I join Henry Pike and the 1,000 people who have already signed a petition calling on the government to make that car park free and not to cut the current free park.

I support the bill. I look forward to hearing more about the plans and how the government will help deliver on those big-ticket infrastructure items.

Mr WATTS: Madam Deputy Speaker—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): I call the minister.

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement) (5.03 pm), in reply: Thank you—

Mr Watts: Typical! Guillotine the debate. Disgraceful.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Toowoomba North, I consider that to be dissenting from my ruling. I ask you to withdraw your comments.

Mr WATTS: I withdraw, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I thank all members for their contributions to the debate over the past few days. As the Premier said on Tuesday, the passage of this bill will be an important first step in delivering the government's commitments under the Olympic host contract and laying the foundations to deliver a successful Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. I take this opportunity to address some of the matters raised in the second reading debate, and a comprehensive one it has been.

Several non-government members raised concerns relating to the right-to-information provisions contained in clauses 65 and 66 of the bill. I reiterate that this exclusion is limited to documents received or created by the corporation that comprise information communicated in confidence by or for the Australian Olympic Committee or the International Olympic Committee, such as private information. That is consistent with the existing treatment of commercial-in-confidence information under the Right to Information Act. All other requests for information in relation to the corporation's activities will be subject to the usual right-to-information process under the Right to Information Act and it is the Queensland government's expectation that other information held by the corporation is proactively released where it is in the public interest to do so and in accordance with the Olympic host contract. Importantly, these provisions provided Brisbane 2032 partners, particularly the IOC, with certainty that the corporation can protect the confidentiality of certain sensitive commercial, financial and operational information under its control.

As the Premier advised the House on Tuesday in response to the Economics and Governance Committee's report on the bill, the Director-General of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet wrote to the IOC and the AOC reinforcing the Queensland government's expectation that the information held by the corporation is proactively released where it is in the public interest to do so and in accordance with the Olympic host contract. The letter highlighted that the corporation and its board will be subject to Queensland's right-to-information framework under the Right to Information Act 2009. The Right to Information Act is designed to make more information available to the members of the community and reflects the Queensland government's commitment to releasing information administratively as a matter of course, unless there is good reason not to, with applications under the Right to Information Act being necessary only as a last resort.

The Queensland government understands that the proactive release of public information improves public administration and the quality of government decision-making and will similarly improve the administration of the corporation. The proactive release of information by the corporation will also reflect and reinforce further the IOC's long-term commitment to transparency and reform, and align with recommendation 14 of the Olympic Agenda 2020+5 to strengthen the Olympic movement through good governance.

I further recognise that both government members and non-government members raised concerns with clause 8(2). Clause 8(2) provides an exemption from the Crime and Corruption Act for directors who are members of the Commonwealth parliament. I note that the member for Mermaid Beach, the deputy chair of the Economics and Governance Committee, said that it is questionable why Commonwealth parliamentarians are being exempt from the Crime and Corruption Act. Further to that, the member for Macalister rightly pointed out that the opposition statement of reservation, while talking of accountability and transparency for 2032, did not mention that the Commonwealth government were the ones who requested the exemption.

All board directors were initially subject to the Crime and Corruption Act in our draft version of the bill. The Commonwealth government were the only party that requested that the Crime and Corruption Act not apply to any Commonwealth parliamentarians. To be clear, the exemption does not apply to any other member of the board, including state parliamentarians, but only to Commonwealth members of parliament and senators as per the Commonwealth's request. In accordance with the committee's sixth recommendation, I wrote to the Commonwealth government to seek further grounds and clarification on why it was requested that the Crime and Corruption Act not apply to Commonwealth parliamentarians. In line with the second part of the recommendation, which is to advise the House of any further advice received from the Commonwealth government on this matter, I table the response received from Senator Colbeck yesterday morning.

Tabled paper: Letter, undated, from Senator the Hon. Richard Colbeck to the Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement, Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe, regarding the retention of Clause 8(2) of the bill [\[2063\]](#).

In his response, Senator Colbeck states that the Australian government continues to support the inclusion of clause 8(2) in the bill on the basis that it is not appropriate for Commonwealth parliamentarians to be subject to state and territory public sector governance laws and that it is not appropriate for the bill to directly or indirectly impose duties, obligations or other requirements on Commonwealth parliamentarians who hold office as directors of the board on the nomination of the Prime Minister.

Senator Colbeck's response also outlines that the conduct of senators and members of the House of Representatives is a matter for the Commonwealth parliament and that, in addition to the requirements of the parliament, ministers in the Commonwealth government are also subject to the statement of ministerial standards issued by the Prime Minister.

In relation to our amendment to the bill to have the exemption only apply in relation to a Commonwealth parliamentarian's involvement with the corporation, Senator Colbeck was supportive of this as it is consistent with our original policy intent. Senator Colbeck also confirmed that the Commonwealth government will work with the Queensland government to monitor the operation of clause 8(2).

In terms of local representation on the board, I note that the members for Mermaid Beach, South Brisbane and Southport expressed disappointment at a lack of local representation for their areas on the board. I assure all members that the Queensland government recognises the values and critical role the City of the Gold Coast will play in delivering the successful Brisbane 2032 games. The city's experience in hosting the Commonwealth Games and its world-class sporting facilities are undoubtedly key catalysts in Brisbane's successful candidature.

The Olympic host contract requires that host signatories, which includes Brisbane City Council and the Queensland government, have at least one representative on the board. During drafting of the bill, the Commonwealth and Queensland governments agreed that local governments should have an additional representative than is already required under the host contract. It was considered appropriate that the Lord Mayor make this nomination on behalf of local governments, due to Brisbane City Council being the local government host signatory and the Lord Mayor being the chair of the Council of Mayors South East Queensland.

It is also important to note that the absence of direct ex officio representation on the board does not preclude any local representation on the board—be it on the Gold Coast, South Brisbane or regional Queensland—or taking part in the organisation and planning of Brisbane 2032. The bill provides for the appointment of up to five independent directors, including the board president, who could be drawn from any of these communities.

In accordance with clause 18 of the bill, independent directors will be selected via a joint process between the Queensland Premier and the Prime Minister. These positions are likely to be advertised publicly over the coming months, with applications being sought from members of the public through an expression-of-interest process. Appropriately qualified individuals are strongly encouraged to apply for these positions once advertised.

Furthermore, the bill allows for the establishment of commissions of the board which can be made up of board directors as well as other appropriately qualified persons and members of the community. Commissions of the board provide an opportunity for a range of stakeholders such as local governments across Queensland to have input into the planning and organisation of Brisbane 2032. This could include matters such as the preparation and operation of competition venues, recruiting and organising volunteers or the legacy program. I have no doubt that local community and business representatives will actively participate in these forums and have their voices heard on games related issues.

As addressed by the Premier in her second reading speech, the Premier intends to write to and engage with the corporation, once formed, to encourage consultation and engagement by the corporation with those affected by games organising and planning. This will help ensure that the development associated with 2032 is achieved in a community focused, forward-thinking manner and will support the present and future needs of local families, businesses and the wider community.

Lastly, I would like to address one of the amendments proposed to be moved by the member for South Brisbane, to cap the total expenditure of the corporation to \$5.5 billion. The member's other proposed amendments in relation to other matters have already been dealt with. It is important to note that the Queensland government agreed to support Brisbane 2032 candidature on the proviso that the corporation would fulfil all of its duties at no net cost to the state or the taxpayer. The current budget of the corporation provided to the IOC in the future host questionnaire and available on the International Olympic Committee's website includes a total budget of \$4.9 billion in 2021 Australian dollars. The explanatory notes to the amendment proposed by the member for South Brisbane incorrectly state that the budget is \$5 billion. The member's proposed amendment sought to limit the expenditure to \$5.5 billion with the intention of expenditure not exceeding 10 per cent of the current budget.

There are two sources of revenue for the corporation: the IOC contribution including international sponsorships of \$1.4 billion; and domestic sponsorship, ticket sales and additional revenue such as merchandising, licensing and donations of \$3.5 billion. That budgeting allows a contingency of 16 per cent. The IOC considered this contingency and thought it was sound. The 2032 task force also reviewed

the budget and believed that that contingency is sound. For these reasons, the government does not support the member's proposed amendment. It would actually upturn all of those budget arrangements and make it potentially even more expensive.

I am happy to conclude now, noting that the clear bipartisan support for the bill is testament to the opportunities it represents not only for Brisbane but also for the whole of Queensland over the next 20 years. I thank the 2032 task force for their assistance in the preparation of the bill, in particular Kerry Petersen, Michael Murray and Clinton de Bruyn. They are very good officers who have contributed great work to this matter over a long period of time.

This has been a wonderfully wideranging debate in which members have brought matters that have not necessarily related directly to the matters contained within the clauses of the bill but do relate to the ambition and opportunity represented by the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games being hosted in our city of Brisbane. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr SPEAKER: Under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House, the time allocated for consideration of the bill has now expired.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

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

Mr HINCHLIFFE (5.16 pm): I table the explanatory notes to my amendments and a statement of compatibility with human rights.

Tabled paper: Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021, explanatory notes to Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe's amendment [\[2064\]](#).

Tabled paper: Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe's amendment [\[2065\]](#).

Question put—That the minister's amendment No. 1, as circulated, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment as circulated—

1 **Clause 8 (Application of other Acts)**

Page 7, line 26, 'Commonwealth.'—

omit, insert—

Commonwealth to the extent a matter under that Act—

- (a) involves conduct of, or in relation to, that director, or another director, in their capacity as a director of the corporation; or
- (b) otherwise relates to the corporation or the board.

Question put—That clauses 1 to 66 and schedule 1, as amended, stand part of the bill.

Motion agreed to.

Clauses 1 to 66, as amended, agreed to.

Schedule 1 agreed to.

Third Reading

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

Motion agreed to.


Bill read a third time.

Long Title

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


Motion agreed to.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (5.17 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 22 February 2022.

VALEDICTORY

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (5.17 pm): The end of the year is a gift that can bring relief from the things that have tested us and a new opportunity for the things we enjoy. Each of us can be proud of our part in navigating another year as safely as possible through COVID while achieving many wonderful milestones. Our economy grew, unemployment fell, social equity progressed, infrastructure advanced and our renewable energy plans accelerated. And 2021 was the year we secured the Olympics.

Remember masks? It was less than a month ago, but already it feels like a distant memory—a symbol of the care we all took to stay safe followed by the freedom earned by getting vaccinated. This second year of coping with COVID is again a story of teamwork—a concerted effort by government and by health officials, with a great public and private response by families and businesses. Never forget: in two years of COVID, Queensland has the lowest rate of any state. Two things now have become key: check-ins and vaccinations. As we look forward to 2022, we must stay vigilant. The interstate case numbers, the capacity of the virus to change, the check-in app and our vaccination rates remind us of two things: the battle is not over but also the response of Queenslanders gives us hope. Let's keep it up.

Every year has something for the history books. 2021 was the year that IOC President Thomas Bach told the world: 'The Games of the 35th Olympiad are awarded to Brisbane, Australia.' The 2032 Brisbane, Queensland Olympic and Paralympic Games will transform our state. Again, I thank all three levels of government, the task force, my department and agencies, the AOC, Paralympics Australia and the IOC. Merry Christmas to my quarantine buddies, the Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner and Kerry Petersen. 2032 is a decade away, but time flies. Before we know it, we will be looking back at the year the starter's gun was fired, including the important legislation just passed in this House. It is an historic day.

2021 was another significant year for special people in our lives. We lost our dear friend Duncan Pegg. His life was a gift to us. His passing reminded us to focus on what truly matters. We also farewelled Sir Llew Edwards. His state funeral celebrated his contribution to Queensland, and of course his contribution to Expo 88. Senior Constable David Masters lost his life protecting the lives of others.

More recently we expressed heartfelt gratitude to Dr Jeannette Young for her long career, especially in these last two years of COVID, as she moved from one form of service to another—from Chief Health Officer to Governor. We thanked Paul de Jersey and Kaye for an outstanding seven-year term. Chief Justice Catherine Holmes announced her retirement after an exceptional legal career.

We honoured this year's Queensland Greats: Aunty Ivy Trevallion; Professor Ajay Rane; Dr Cathryn and the late Dr Margaret Mittelheuser; Pixie Annat; Karyn Walsh; the late Sister Mary Dunne; and the QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute. At the Australia Day Awards next month we will be represented by: Queensland Australians of the Year, Sue and Lloyd Clarke; Queensland Senior Australian of the Year, Dr Colin Dillon; Queensland Young Australian of the Year, Dr Tahnee Bridson; and Queensland Local Hero, Saba Abraham.

Personally, it was a highlight of my year to meet not only these outstanding people, but many other wonderful Queenslanders throughout the state. Places I visited this year included Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, Gladstone, Longreach, Barcaldine, Bundaberg, Maryborough, Hervey Bay, Cherbourg, Murgon, Toowoomba, the Sunshine Coast and the Gold Coast, just to name a few. Regional cabinet meetings were held in Longreach and Hervey Bay and regional community forums were attended by ministers right across the length and breadth of our state.

Here in parliament, our strong legislative achievements this year included: tougher parole laws; consent laws to keep more women safe and hold perpetrators to account; youth justice reforms targeting hard core offenders; rental reform; and we banned polystyrene containers and single-use plastic. We all know the great story of Queensland's economy this year. So, let's hear it again! We have

the strongest growth of any mainland state. We have lower unemployment and almost 90,000 more jobs than before the start of the pandemic. There is our \$3.34 billion Queensland Jobs Fund and more progress as a renewable hydrogen superpower and in the area of new economy minerals. We announced \$7.1 billion of train manufacturing.

Government members: Hear, hear!

Ms PALASZCZUK: I know the member for Maryborough is pretty excited about that. Cross River Rail tunnelling breakthroughs—Minister Bailey and the Deputy Premier are very happy about that—made it a landmark year for that massive project. We opened five new schools, Minister Grace. We opened the new STARS health precinct at Herston, Minister D’Ath. Our new \$175 million theatre is taking shape, Minister Enoch. There are too many road projects to mention, but let us give the Smithfield Bypass another shout-out.

I am proud of our focus this year on issues of social justice and equality, including: equity and diversity; women in the justice system; sexual harassment protections in industrial relations laws; anti-discrimination laws; vilification and hate crime laws; and animal welfare laws.

For First Nations Queenslanders, there is the \$300 million Path to Treaty Fund and we launched our Closing the Gap Implementation Plan. For seniors this year we have had a series of get-togethers to talk about services and cost-of-living assistance. For housing, we have our action plan 2021-25 backed by \$2.9 billion in funding. For veterans, there is free TAFE training and apprenticeships. War Widows Day will be every year on 19 October.

I thank our primary producers—farmers, graziers, aquaculture—who every day withstand the challenges of drought or mice or floods to put the highest quality products on our tables and on tables around the world.

I also pay tribute to our tourism and small business operators. We were able to provide record assistance this year, but they shouldered a big load during COVID. I know the Minister for Tourism knows very well about that. I thank our tourism sector and our small business owners sincerely, and I wish them great success during the holiday season and the new year.

I have mentioned this week the major sports events this year in Queensland—the home of big sport. I will quickly recap some results. In cricket, Queensland are the current Sheffield Shield champions. In Rugby League, the Queensland women defended their State of Origin title. The men were not able to match that this year, but there was a silver lining. That was that Townsville and the Gold Coast hosted State of Origin for the first time. We are also proud of Ash Barty who won Wimbledon. We are proud of our Olympians and Paralympians for their exceptional results in Tokyo.

It has been an outstanding year for the arts, including: the European Masterpieces exhibit; APT 10, which starts tomorrow night; the Cairns Indigenous Arts Fair; and a record year for screen. Even George Clooney and Julia Roberts are here in Queensland.

Government members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: And in the parliament, member for Logan.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Please leave Ted Cruz alone.

Ms PALASZCZUK: You never know what other new milestones might come along. We welcomed Norfolk Island to the fold, agreeing to provide their essential services. Queensland is officially the site of Australia’s biggest dinosaur—no, not him; an actual dinosaur. I cannot even say it—Australotitan cooperensis, or the southern titan; there you go. Dinosaur tourism is creating jobs and revenue.

So many wonderful people working for our state deserve our deep gratitude. Public servants live up to that job description every day—our police, fire and emergency services, nurses, doctors, paramedics, teachers, child protection staff, disability workers, youth workers and administration staff. Every single part of our Public Service I give enormous thanks and gratitude to. Thank you for the great job you have done. I thank the Queensland Public Service and wish them a very merry Christmas.

I am very proud to serve with my cabinet and caucus colleagues. These are outstanding, dedicated and enormously capable women and men. I thank my Deputy Premier, Steven Miles, who always has a good smile and a bit of a laugh but works so hard and has stood by and next to me during the COVID pandemic. To Treasurer Cameron Dick, who has kept the economy going and has always remained optimistic and focused: thank you so much. The Minister for Health and Leader of the House for the way in which she has managed things, especially with whom she has to deal with on the other side, needs enormous thanks and gratitude.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We are not listening. On this side, I do not have to listen to you anymore. I am going to be nice at the end. I am getting there. I thank every single one of my cabinet colleagues. It is like a big family. It is a great team. Everyone works so hard. Everyone acknowledges the enormous responsibility when they walk into that cabinet room and the decisions that we have to make and the decisions we have to take on behalf of this state which has elected us three times. It is a big job. Everybody in the ministry goes above and beyond. When I asked every minister to go out and talk about vaccination, they did that. They went across the state. They should be very proud of their achievements.

I thank every single one of my caucus colleagues. It is an even bigger family.

Government members: Massive.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Massive. It is growing. You represent such beautiful communities. It is always delightful to come to visit you in your electorates and see you and the way in which you interact with people. It gives me great joy. You should be very proud of your achievements and what you have done. In the most challenging of times you have been dealing with people who have gone through enormous upheavals in their lives. It is a time in our lives that we never thought we would have to face as a team and as a government.

My sincere thanks also go to the director-general of my department, Rachel Hunter, and to all heads of departments—but especially Rachel Hunter being the first female director-general of our great Public Service who displays great intelligence and great leadership in dealing with difficult matters but also in setting an example and leading very well. I also thank all of the departmental staff and the directors-general who assist her.

I thank my office led by Jim Murphy, Jon Persley, Shane Doherty, Tam and Denise Spinks, who we said goodbye to this year. She will miss us and will probably want to come back. I thank all of my team and also the people who work here at parliament. They work very hard and they do a great job. They usually get things right. I give a big shout-out to Geraldine. We wish her all the best for a speedy recovery. We hope to see her back here smiling and walking around parliament next year.

In my Inala office, I am grateful for Michele, Jackson and April. They do a great job for my wonderful community. I wish them all a very merry Christmas. I look forward to attending some school events next week before school finishes.

Mr Speaker, like a tennis umpire with John McEnroe, parliamentary debate can be stormy, but the process is calm thanks to you, as Speaker, and to your office, the Deputy Speaker and the panel of temporary Speakers. Thank you for the great job that you have done in this parliament and continue to do.

To our wonderful Clerk, Neil Laurie: I think he has to put up with everybody, so a big thank you and a shout-out to Neil. We were quite delighted that today was the last question time of the year, although I really love it, so you can keep asking me questions. It does not bother me, but the ministers might like some every now and again! I also thank the Deputy Clerk, Michael Ries, and the Acting First Clerk Assistant, Bernice Watson, and all the other clerks-at-the-table.

This place relies on so many wonderful staff: Corporate Services Director Craig Atkinson; former Property Services director Stewart Johnson; the gardeners, cleaning and maintenance staff; Tony Keyes and the Parliamentary Counsel office; Janet Prowse and the Parliamentary Library staff; Jo Mathers and the Parliamentary Reporting and Broadcasting Service staff; Sergeant-at-Arms Michael Watkin and the parliamentary attendants and security officers; the Catering Services team, led by Amy McElhenny; and Chamber and Education Services, Human Resources, IT, the Committee Office and Financial Services—Lynne Armstrong, Ryan Cherry, Karl Holden, Robyn Moore, Peter Morris, Mark Richardson, James Robertson, Peta Sweeney, Shaun Thomas and James Rasmussen.

There are so many people who do so much to make this parliament operate. Once again, in a difficult year, we thank them for their hard work and we wish them a very merry Christmas. I also congratulate Stephen Wickson, Ross Wyer, Helena Simpson and Jennifer Martin who are retiring after more than 20 years. I am also told that Ian Jackson, electorate officer in Southern Downs, will be retiring after 40 years and working with three different members.

Mr Speaker, Robert Louis Stevenson said we should not speak badly about our opponents because, 'Our words will do them no harm and do ourselves no good.' He obviously did not write much for question time—but he was quite right of course. Our opponents may be in error—sometimes—but we share a commitment to Queensland and a desire for good—most of the time. So again I wish David and David, all opposition and crossbench members, and all of your families a very happy Christmas.

We are all elected to this place to serve our communities. Even though we come from different sides, it is nice to see that this year I think there has been some more friendship across the aisles away from this chamber. I think there needs to be more of that. It is like the old parliaments of the past. I hope that, as the Leader of the Opposition, you can continue to help facilitate that as well. I think it makes the place a brighter and happier workplace for everyone to be involved in.

My best wishes go to the Parliamentary Media Gallery. Maybe they have gone home.

Ms Grace: No, no.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Oh, they are there. That is right; there are drinks coming, so they have stayed!

Ms Grace: And dancing.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Lydia, dancing is allowed. No doubt inspired by women in leadership, the gallery this year elected Jessica Marszalek president and Clare Barnes vice-president. Merry Christmas to all reporters who cover state politics fairly and to those who do not cover politics!

Mr Speaker, we say it often but perhaps not often enough: our families are our strength. They understand our working life. They support our every endeavour. They are proud of our successes and they are there for us when things do not go the way we plan. I am very grateful to my entire family, to my mum and dad, to Reza and to all of our family and friends for their steadfast love and support. This is a tough job and they make it a whole lot better.

This is the second year that parliament goes to the break following a year grappling with COVID. As a state, we can be proud of the health and economic response. To borrow a phrase: 'We were hard pressed, but not crushed; we were challenged, but never in despair.' Mr Speaker, optimists and pessimists both stay up on New Year's Eve. Optimists want to see the New Year in; pessimists want to make sure the old year goes! Well, I think there was plenty of good to remember fondly—and plenty of potential for 2022.

Yes, governing is indeed complex, but essentially our task is this: to keep our state healthy, prosperous and fair—and I want to keep people alive. Yes, challenges remain including the new phase of living with COVID when the borders open, but do not let naysayers diminish this year. It has been a year of extraordinary accomplishments on all three fronts: health, economy and community.

I wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and a great New Year. Thank you to all the members of the public for their lovely letters, their emails and cards, the pictures, the picture frames, the tea towels, the shirts, the strawberries and the mangoes, which were very delicious!

A big thank you to all my Facebook followers, Twitter followers, Instagram followers and TikTok followers as well.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Don't start me, member for Kawana.

Mr Bleijie: I said you blocked me!

Mr Dick: She's got some standards.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Premier, don't feed the trolls!

Ms PALASZCZUK: My mum's cat gets more likes. I rest my case. Wait till I put Mum's Christmas cat up.

Mr Speaker, there are many wise and profound words about the blessings of Christmas including a cinematic masterpiece *Love Actually* and Billy Mack's song—

It's written in the wind,

It's everywhere I go,

Christmas is all around us,

And so the feeling grows.


With those immortal lyrics—and I am not going to sing them—Minister Furner, you are banned from singing in this parliament ever again! That was absolutely dreadful.

Mr Furner: I promise not to give up my day job.

Ms PALASZCZUK: With those immortal lyrics—

An honourable member: Sing it!

Ms PALASZCZUK: No, no, no—I wish everyone a very merry Christmas. I wish the people of our great state a beautiful time with their family and friends in what has been a truly difficult year for everybody.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (5.38 pm): May I join the Premier and all others in this House in wishing everybody a merry Christmas. To every Queenslander, I wish you all the best for what is a beautiful time of year for you and your families. To those who are serving us in whatever capacity—whether they are serving us behind the console at a service station or protecting us—thank you for your service at Christmas. For those who get a break, enjoy it. It is a beautiful time of year.

To the people the Premier acknowledged—those great Queenslanders who have passed, those who have retired and those who have achieved a great deal—we are a better state because of your service.

Mr Speaker, may I start with you. I wish you and your family all the best for Christmas. Thank you for your friendship. Thank you for the way you conduct yourself in this place. You are always firm but you are always fair. On the days you have a sore back you are more firm than fair, but we love your stewardship.

To the Clerk of the Parliament, who is an institution in this building, and his staff: thank you for what you do.

I also want to talk about those staff whom we do not see in this chamber at all but who make the running of this place so very important. I particularly speak for those regional members who have to spend a lot of time in this building. It is those little touches that make all the difference.

I want to acknowledge some of the staff who are experiencing milestones this year. The Premier was very gracious in mentioning Ian Jackson in the Southern Downs office. That is a Herculean effort, 40 years, and what a way to finish, with what is going on in that community at the moment.

I would also like to acknowledge a couple of others. We all know Sandy Musch in the Clerk's office. Sandy reaches 30 years service this year. I spoke with Sandy a little time ago and asked her what drives her. She says it has been a great honour for her 'to play a small part in what is a great institution.' She said it is a privilege to work in this beautiful building. I asked her what her low point was. She would not go into too much detail, but she did mention that the Clerk dropped his kids off at school the other day, it was very wet, and when he came back his socks needed to be dried in the office. I am told that was not the highlight of her day.

Our Sergeant-at-Arms, Michael Watkin, also reaches 30 years service this year—that is amazing service—with seven years in his current role. He says he has enjoyed his time immensely. He says his highlights include the swearing in of new governors—he loves those ceremonies—and he said the G20 was also particularly special for him. He said he would not reveal any confidences by mentioning any low points.

The final person I spoke with today was Tony Wood—we all know Tony in security—30 years for Tony also. He says he has enjoyed it immensely and also said that the G20 was an amazing experience. He said that to stand beside world leaders made him feel like he was part of something bigger, and we thank all of our security guards for their service. He mentioned that in 1991, two weeks before he started the job, he came here and on the day he was interviewed there was quite a robust confrontation and the gates were damaged. He spoke about that being one hell of an initiation. Despite that, he took the job and he has enjoyed it immensely, so we thank all of our staff in that regard.

To the Public Service, those people in whatever capacity who roll up their sleeves and do great things for Queenslanders. Without it, the decisions we make in this place would never be enacted. We must pause and reflect on all that they do.

To the media—the good and bad—we would not have a thriving democracy without you and we thank you for what you do.

I want to acknowledge the challenge of COVID for everyone in this House, but especially for all of those Queenslanders we aim to serve. We could obviously spend a lot of time talking about business impacts, but it is the social ones that move us the most. Now is not the time to debate social policy or COVID policy: it is a time for us to reflect on how brave and tough Queenslanders have been this year.

For those who get the chance to wrap their arms around a loved one, and in some cases grandparents who will get to see a grandchild for the first time, that is pretty special. We thank them for the way Queenslanders have been.


This is the place where I get to stand and critique the Premier and her ministers—now I have a chance to do mine. To the deputy leader, David Janetzki: David, you are a wonderful human being. Thank you for your assistance with numbers. They are often cricket numbers in the back of an office, but I thank you for your friendship.

To the Manager of Opposition Business, thank you for your laser-like focus on the Treasurer's Twitter account. Thank you for the picture of you dressed as Elvis, which secured more likes than the Premier's mum's cat.

I want to thank everyone for what they do, for the role they play. I want to thank the member for Coomera, who has helped with our workload. On 11 May this sitting he did not table a petition. That was a Wednesday. The member for Southern Downs on 15 September was not ejected and was not even warned. To the member for Surfers Paradise, who today whilst watching YouTube while I was speaking was only on volume 8, that was very much appreciated, thank you.

We come into this place with different values, different beliefs and different styles—I am looking at you, member for Maryborough! Talk about things that should be illegal—but we come to this place because we are driven by a cause. We mightn't always agree, but when we get the chance to come in here and have a go for our communities, our families, our parties, our constituents—for Queenslanders—we are better for it.

To every single person, stay safe over Christmas. Enjoy the break and enjoy living in the best part of the world.

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (5.45 pm): It is again a deep honour for me to rise to represent the crossbench in our great diversity, to collate and reflect on the year past, to highlight our commonalities and our differences. Who would have thought that when we stood here last year amongst the chaos of COVID that we would still be battling this bug this Christmas?

Our incredible front liners, including our police, who are already overwhelmed fighting domestic violence, crime and irresponsible drivers, for two years now have to include patrolling our borders and hotel quarantine. Businesses have had to pivot until dizzy. They were abused when the Queensland app was introduced, paid their rent when they were not allowed to operate, and now mandates have delivered some untenable situations for our small businesses and sole operators. Who would have thought it was easier to travel overseas than to a neighbouring state? We have said it before and we keep saying it: we are one country and we need consistency between states.

Along the back here we have argued over inconsistencies in determinations, mandates, directives and announcements. We have thanked the incredible efforts of Queenslanders who have rolled up their sleeves, whether to tackle the hard parts and yards or to get vaccinated. Our communities have rallied. When they thought they had nothing left to give they have innovated, motivated and facilitated in ways they would never have previously. They came together again and again to help one another, and I express our gratitude to all Queenslanders.

These experiences, though similar, are also different for the electorates that are represented by the crossbench. Those of us on the coast, reliant on visitors for our economies, shared extremes: the trauma of businesses on the brink and workers becoming homeless through lost hours. Instability heightened mental health issues, with our electorate staff dealing with sorrow day after day. Aging populations have insufficient services, and the situation for the organisations tasked with their care has not been alleviated; nor has there been any progress with the housing crisis we spoke about 12 months ago.

Those Brisbane metro areas that are not reliant on tourism had a much different experience, with salaried staff able to work from home, providing surety and a roof over their heads. However, there was trauma for international students left without supports, residents caught interstate and internationally, and separations impacting all.

In the remote areas of Katter country and One Nation rural economies, infrastructure or keeping a job predominated as well as crime, with ongoing pleas for initiatives developed by the bush, for the bush. Logistics, water storage and the price of materials presented increased costs to living in regional

Queensland, with residents leaving when they could no longer afford it. This impacts service levels at schools and medical services. Given the situation in South-East Queensland with the volume of people moving into our area, we often wonder how we can encourage them to consider the many opportunities in the regions.

The calls for the creation of a North Queensland state, amongst issues of crocodiles and feral pigs, ensured that media headlines were always colourful. As well, we have population increases with the birth of baby Katter No. 2 any day. When you look at the crossbench, it is not just seven MPs or 17 per cent of the opposition. It is three political parties plus an Independent with a geographic, economic and social diversity that is breathtaking in its expanse. Our ongoing efforts to see improvements to the parliament will not abate. In our COVID dominated world, the cry for transparency and collaboration has never been more relevant.

There were several private members' bills put forward. Where we did not support a fellow crossbencher, we respectfully articulated why. What grieves all of us is that we never got to debate a crossbench bill, with the only survivors so far being the Katter bills on blue cards and seafood. I did mention diversity! Out of all the bills we faced, it was the VAD debate that saw a clear delineation on the crossbench, with demographics and the culture of the bush in direct contrast to those who represent communities in the south-east corner. Opposition to segregation by vaccination status was another which saw differences between crossbench members. On this one, the community of Noosa had commonality with rural Queensland, which was actually surprising for all of us.

There was so much more. There was united support from the crossbench on a number of issues brought forward by the opposition. It does not happen often; however, when it came to extra time for specific bills and the need for reform of the committee and estimates system, the unity sent a clear, credible message on the change needed.

There were many achievements within our electorates which we are all grateful for, with the list too long to accommodate here—I know everyone is dying to get out to the Christmas tree. There are also so many to thank as we traversed the year. Where would we be now without our fabulous front-liners, including nurses—or, as I heard them lovingly called at an event, COVID warriors. Dr Jeannette Young, you never wavered, and we wish you many happy years as our Governor. To our new CHO, Dr John Gerrard, welcome to a very rambunctious family.


From our teachers to our retail assistants, police and emergency services, hospitality staff to QPWS rangers: regardless of where you worked, or for whom, you all formed a formidable army in this now two-year battle, and we are in deep gratitude. To the Premier, ministers, parliamentary staff and departments: yes, there were, and are, moments in the frustration as well as the fatigue where the love of our communities and our desire to do the best by them meant we may have harped on without reprieve. COVID has meant aspects essential to our community have either been delayed or waylaid, and this has been very hard. However, we appreciate all of your efforts.

Neil, there is never a year where we have not been in your debt for your sound advice as Clerk. This year saw you mount the battle against our crumbling annexe without so much as turning a hair, as well as the carpet moth invasion. This demonstrated how you can fight off any adversaries.

Mr Speaker, we all must have been much better behaved this year as there seemed to be fewer expulsions from the chamber, or have we worn you out? I think it is the other way around, as we did start comparing questions without notice word counts to determine what is the right amount to avoid reprimands on lengthy preambles. Thank you for the year, and we all agree that your fab mo should make a comeback.

From IT to catering, library services to security, Hansard, committees, corporate and housekeeping: regardless of what chaos is occurring, you make our parliamentary world a much better place and we hold all of you in the highest of esteems. And, yes, we loved those Halloween decorations, especially the more, shall I say, interesting ones.

To our many phenomenal not-for-profits, community organisations and volunteers, you are the backbone of our communities and there are never enough ways to express our gratitude. From all of us 'up the back', merry Christmas and blessings to all MPs, your electorate staff, families and communities. We want to thank you all for the many friendships. We wish you a wonderful and well-deserved break. I know how hard everyone has worked this year. We would like that break to preferably be without any outbreaks, lockdowns, floods or fires—what an amazing gift that would be. We very much look forward to seeing you all rested and raring to go in 2022.

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, a long parliamentary year has now come to an end. Friends, the relief is palpable! This year, the first full calendar year of the 57th Parliament, we all learnt a bit more about each other. The members for McConnel and Southern Downs have a shared love of cannoli. The Leader of the Opposition has not missed out on his own foodie experience, launching his own cooking show on social media. The members for Maryborough and Thuringowa may not have offended the standing orders but they continue to offend the fashion gods.

I want to commend Minister Furner for when he adopts a new aerodynamic haircut for a good cause tomorrow. Just do not let anyone tell you that we have the same barber because I am not cutting your hair. I congratulate the member for Bancroft for a terrific 1970s mo—and also the member for Redlands for shaving it off and doing that without Norman Gunston results. In a surprise today from the Treasurer, self-deprecation looks pretty good on you. The Premier continues to find people at times to be very rude. The member for Mermaid Beach told us that a great party was how he wanted to live his last days—not necessarily different to his current days.

Then there was the debate on the QUT bill last sitting week where we learnt about the undergraduate experiences of quite a few members. My office said that there would not be that many government speakers. I said, 'You watch. They all went to QUT!' The member for Surfers Paradise was a junior film critic, which I found very interesting. The member for Chatsworth had a memorable night at a Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds concert. I hope tonight's event will be just as memorable for all members.

Before we rise tonight, I wish to make a few modest comments as the sittings of the House draws to a close for this year. I wish to record my gratitude to the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition and their respective leadership teams for their constructive approach to the parliamentary process. I want to particularly highlight what I saw was a terrific period this year when we debated the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill. I saw fewer politicians than I saw parliamentarians, and I thought it was terrific to see people expressing themselves with deep meaning and purpose. You were able to do that in a respectful way, and I want to congratulate you all for the way that you conducted yourselves as members of this House.

I certainly want to congratulate Her Excellency the Governor on being sworn in. I echo the sentiments of the Leader of the Opposition regarding those who serve us, particularly those in the public service. Our men and women—whether they be front line, support, policy or whatever it may be—are dedicated and they do such a terrific job. Like everyone who has had an enormous year, they must be absolutely worn out and will be having a well-deserved break, I am sure, at the right time.

My special thanks go to the marshals of parliamentary procedure for the government and opposition respectively, namely, the Leader of the House and the Manager of Opposition Business—the best of frenemies. They have both made a great contribution and always keep things light, shall we say. I do want to say thank you to the member for Kawana for his sparkling addition to the live Christmas tree in the annexe foyer—the Elvis jumpsuit with the colourful gem stones. I just have to say that you cannot unsee that.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Bedazzling! I want to thank the Committee of the Legislative Assembly for its counsel and support of the operation of the chamber and the management of the precinct. Personal thanks go to the Leader of the House, the Manager of Opposition Business, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the member for Lytton, the member for Capalaba, the member for Mermaid Beach and the member for Hill. I also thank the member for Noosa, who has at times subbed in, as well as other members who have made themselves available.

Keeping the House in order is a team effort over the course of a sitting week, so I want to extend significant thanks to the Deputy Speaker, the member for Greenslopes, and to all members of the Panel of Temporary Speakers. They do a terrific job. What has been terrific is that I have seen all of them in some way grow further into the role. It has been really pleasing to see that they have taken command of the chair of parliament, presiding over the parliament, and I thank them for the work they have done.

At times committees have considerable workloads and commitments for inquiries that shape our future, whether that be the work that was done before we debated the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill or even looking at the CCC Logan City Council report tabled by the PCCC chair. These large inquiries are the most significant, and I want to thank the committee members for their work.

I turn my attention to the centre table of this House. The Clerk, Neil Laurie, is pivotal to the operation of this place. His work is guided by nearly three decades working for the Parliamentary Service, 18 years of those as Clerk. With 18 years of service, Neil is jointly the longest serving Clerk of any parliament in Australia. He shares this title with a good friend of ours, Tom Duncan of the ACT Legislative Assembly. Neil's counsel to all members is greatly sought, and I thank him for all that he does in this place. It is very difficult being Switzerland!

I thank the Deputy Clerk, Michael Ries, for his hard work and support. I also thank the clerks-at-the table who are always providing advice for sittings. Also vital to the work of the chamber is our Table Office, led by Bernice Watson, and our Hansard staff, led by Jo Mathers. I thank them for their work. I also thank our parliamentary attendants, led by Angie Jones and Cliff Ku.

We have already had some of these significant anniversaries noted—that is the peril of being the last speaker—but I certainly want to acknowledge the 40 years of service by Ian Jackson of the Southern Downs electorate office. Forty years is longer than Sir Joh was an MP, so that really is saying something! Ian will be retiring early next year and we wish him well.

The following staff members have served for 30 years: the friendliest person at the parliament, Sandy Musch—she started here when she was about five; our esteemed Sergeant-at-Arms, Michael Watkin; and perhaps the most familiar face at the front line, Tony Wood of Security. The following staff members have served for 20 years: Tamara Vitale of Committees; Mitchell Kunde of the PCC Commissioner's office; Greg Connolly of Property Services; and Virginia Marsden of the Southern Downs electorate office.

I want to thank our catering and functions team, specifically Head Executive Chef, Andrew McCrea; the Manager of Catering Services, who has joined us this year, Amy McElhenny; and function coordinators Kylie Scobie and Kelly Baker. I make a special mention of Andrew Roberts at the cafe for always remembering my coffee order and the orders of everybody at the parliament.

I wish to thank Janet Prowse, Director of Information Services, and the team at the Parliamentary Library for their important work supporting members and preparing cultural and historical displays. I extend many thanks to our committee secretaries and committee office staff members, led by Karl Holden.

I also place on record my appreciation for the recently departed Director of Property and Precinct Services, Stewart Johnson. If there was one person who embodies the problem-solving ethos in parliament, it was Stewart. He has moved onto other challenges, but those who missed saying goodbye to Stewart will have a second chance tonight as he will be at the Speaker's drinks.

I also wish to place on record my appreciation of the Precinct Services team, who work hard to ensure that facilities for members and staff are maintained as we move towards the Annexe refurbishment next year. I take this opportunity to again thank the government for the funding to ensure that very vital work can occur. I also thank both the government and the opposition for the bipartisan manner in which this is being undertaken and agreed to.

On behalf of all members, I wish to record our gratitude for the work of all the gardeners, cleaners and maintenance staff on the precinct. At times they can be invisible but their work is not, and it is clear that they make such an enormous difference to our quality of life here at the parliament, whether we are staying or simply here in our work capacity.

I turn now briefly to one of my favourite parts of being Speaker—that is, I want to say thank you to our education team. One of the great highlights of this role for me is going to schools and talking to young people, conducting youth parliaments and speaking with young people about their aspirations and hopes, and seeing the next generation of our leaders coming through. In that vein, I thank Rebecca Quinnell and her team for their efforts. Of course, as we know, what goes on tour stays on tour, but the regional parliaments are always a terrific opportunity to get to know people away from work, and they are a terrific group.

I thank our First Nations Liaison Officer, Marjorie Elworthy, for the great engagement she has been conducting with our First Nations communities. I thank our communications team of Lyneta Darlington and Jessica Downes.

In terms of electorate officers and support to MPs, I thank Craig Atkinson, Director of Corporate Services and Electorate Office Liaison; Peter Morris, Manager of HR Services and the HR team; and James Robertson, Manager of Financial and Admin Services and the FAS team. I also thank the records unit, led by Peta Sweeney.

I have already acknowledged Michael Watkin's service in terms of longevity, but I do want to thank him for the great job that he does, particularly at times such as this when parliamentary security and the security of staff and MPs has never been more critical. I thank him and his team for the great work they do.

Jessica Marszalek has been elected as the new president of the media gallery. To her and her deputy, Clare Barnes, I say well done and good luck. I am sure you will be bringing a much needed breath of fresh air following the departure of Mr Wardill. I also thank the media gallery for their renewed focus on social functions, led by their newly appointed social coordinator Lydia Lynch. I also congratulate Lydia on her recent engagement.

Finally, I have a few personal thanks. I thank my Mulgrave electorate officers, Bec and Ana, for their service. As are all people who work in our electorate offices, they are the members when we are not there. They do a terrific job in representing us, often dealing with some of the most challenging circumstances. I thank Bec and Ana. Particularly, I want to thank all electorate staff for the great jobs they do.

I want to thank my Speaker's office staff, George Hasanakos and Coral-Leah Kemp. Coral has worked with me for more than a decade, so either she is very accommodating or I am okay to work with! It is great that she has been able to come to Brisbane to be in the role here. We are really pleased that she has been able to take up that opportunity. To George: well, happy Festivus, George! I look forward to the Feats of Strength.

I want to thank my wife, Kerry, for her support in my role as both a local member and Speaker. I acknowledge the work that she has to do in our household to keep our family moving forward during the times that I am away and, of course, the most important thing: our three children—Tristan, Layla and Kobi.

This year has been a year of highs and lows. We have seen an extraordinary high in terms of obtaining the rights to host the 2032 Olympic Games. We have seen some lows in terms of remembering our friends and loved ones we have lost. On that particular line, I say a personal thanks to my parents, Warren and Linda, for their terrific support—it is unwavering—but particularly to my father, who has had a health battle this year. The great news is that he is on the mend and on the way back.

This sitting year is now at an end. We are now turning to the end-of-year festivities. There is an old saying: you don't want to stand between 100 public servants and cocktail hour. They have never seen what it is like with 93 MPs! We are going to move outside to the lighting of the Christmas tree on the President's Verandah. Following that, we will have the longstanding tradition of the Speaker's drinks. This year we thought it would be quite appropriate to host it on the Speaker's Green. Thankfully, the weather seems to have cleared in order for us to enjoy that.

I want to encourage all members to join us, take part and offer some fellowship to other MPs. It is the time of year when we can all be colleagues rather than opposites. Make sure to take that chance to enjoy each other's company.

Please take some time, though, members. It has been a big year. Take some time over the holiday season to pause and reflect, particularly about our friends and our loved ones and how special they are. I want to see all of you back here next year. Please stay safe on our roads. Please stay safe on your holiday adventures. It is now time to ensure we get the short-list happening for those people who are going to be behind the bar.

It is convention in this place to not reflect on the absence of a member from the chamber. The member for Mirani, unfortunately, is not here this week. It will probably be to your loss. He is very famous for triple shots. Someone may have to step up and do some more bar work in his absence.

Mr Mander: Please drink responsibly.

Mr SPEAKER: Please drink responsibly. Members, it has been an absolute privilege and honour to serve you as the Speaker of this House. I thank you for bringing this place ever so much higher in terms of standards and levels. It will be my mission to ensure that one day we can all say that this place is truly full of parliamentarians. I thank you very much. I wish you a merry Christmas and I look forward to seeing you at the lighting of the Christmas tree.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 6.10 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Bailey, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyce, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Camm, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, 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, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Smith, Stevens, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Watts, Weir, Whiting