



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

### Tuesday, 22 February 2022

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## TUESDAY, 22 FEBRUARY 2022

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The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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

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

### SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

#### Acknowledgement of Country Ceremony



**Mr SPEAKER:** I also wish to acknowledge that this morning we had an acknowledgement of country ceremony on the Speaker's Green. I thank those members who attended. You would have been, like me, in amazement at the wonderful song woman Maroochy Barambah and her daughter in a combination of a dance explaining culture as well as a poem, which you can get a copy of. It was a really moving welcome and start to the year.

### ASSENT TO BILLS



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

The Honourable C.W. Pitt MP

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Parliament House

George Street

BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Speaker

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

Date of Assent: 3 December 2021

A Bill for An Act to amend the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004, the Corrective Services Act 2006, the Corrective Services and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2020, the Corrective Services (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Regulation 2020, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Regulation 2012, the Police Service Administration Act 1990, the Terrorism (Preventative Detention) Act 2005 and the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 for particular purposes

These Bills are hereby transmitted to the Legislative Assembly, to be numbered and forwarded to the proper Officer for enrolment, in the manner required by law.

Yours sincerely

Governor

3 December 2021

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 3 December 2021, from Her Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to a certain bill on 3 December 2021 [\[143\]](#).

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The Honourable C.W. Pitt MP

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Parliament House

George Street

BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Speaker

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

Date of Assent: 15 December 2021

A bill for an Act to establish an organising committee for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games and for related purposes, and to amend this Act and the Right to Information Act 2009 for particular purposes

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

Governor

15 December 2021

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 15 December 2021, from Her Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to a certain bill on 15 December 2021 [\[144\]](#).

## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

### Reply from Governor



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to report that on Thursday, 9 December 2021, accompanied by honourable members, I presented to Her Excellency the Governor the address of the Legislative Assembly adopted by this House on Thursday, 18 November 2021 in reply to His Excellency's opening speech, and that Her Excellency has been pleased to make a reply which has been circulated. I seek leave of the House to incorporate Her Excellency's reply.

Leave granted.

Reply by Her Excellency to the address of the Legislative Assembly adopted on Thursday, 18 November 2021

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands of Queensland and pay my respect to Elders, past, present and emerging.

As the representative of Her Majesty the Queen, I am honoured to extend to you, Mr Speaker, and to the Members of the Parliament of Queensland, my sincere gratitude for the formal Address-in-Reply to the Governor's Speech delivered by His Excellency the 26th Governor at the opening of the First Session of the 57th Parliament of Queensland on the 25th of November 2020.

It will be my pleasant duty to convey to Her Majesty this expression of loyalty and warm regard from the Members of the Queensland Parliament.

The Queen remains a strong and unifying figure throughout Queensland, Australia and the nations of the Commonwealth, a stalwart supporter of our shared beliefs in freedom and democracy.

Here in Queensland, I encourage all Members of the Legislative Assembly in their endeavours to promote the well-being and prosperity of our State.

Speaking for the people of Queensland, I trust that your dedicated efforts will be rewarded with much success.

I table Her Excellency's reply for the information of all members.

*Tabled paper:* Speech by Her Excellency the Governor, dated 9 December 2021, titled 'Presentation of the Address-in-Reply for the first session of the 57th Parliament of Queensland' [\[145\]](#).

## SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS


### International Mother Language Day



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I draw to your attention that yesterday was the United Nations International Mother Language Day. The day originated as a commemoration of fatalities during protests in Bangladesh on 21 February 1952. The protestors were rallying to have the Bangla language recognised as their mother language. The Bangladesh community and the Mother Languages Conservation Movement International observe this day with pride.


International Mother Language Day was adopted by UNESCO in 1999. This morning the Queensland members of the Mother Language Conservation Movement held a pop-up stall on level 3 of the Annexe to raise awareness of International Mother Language Day. It also signifies the importance of all mother languages across the globe, including the preservation of Indigenous languages. The theme of the 2022 International Mother Language Day is 'Using Technology for Multilingual Learning: Challenges and Opportunities'. I commend this day to the House.

### **Absence of Minister and Member**


 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have received advice from both the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and the member for Mount Ommaney that they will be absent from the sittings of the House from 22 to 24 February 2022. The members' notifications comply with standing order 263A.

## **PRIVILEGE**

### **Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House**

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 15 December 2021 I tabled a ruling relating to a complaint by the member for Mudgeeraba alleging that the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing deliberately misled the House during question time on 26 October 2021. I ruled that the matter did not warrant the further attention of the House via the Ethics Committee. I now refer to the matter so that if any member wishes to exercise their rights in respect of this matter under the standing orders they should do so immediately.

### **Speaker's Ruling, Provision of Documents in Chamber**

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 2 December 2021 the member for Clayfield rose on a matter of privilege regarding standing order 24 relating to the tabling of a report during private members' statements by the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. The member for Clayfield asserted that 25 copies of the report should have been supplied pursuant to standing order 24 and that almost half an hour after the report was tabled no copies were available to members in the House.

On 3 December 2021 the member for Clayfield wrote to me with more particulars about the matter of privilege and requested that I make a statement to the House on the issue rather than refer it to the Ethics Committee. I seek leave to incorporate a full statement about this matter circulated in my name.

Leave granted.

#### **SPEAKER'S STATEMENT—HARD AND ELECTRONIC COPIES OF DOCUMENTS**

On 2 December 2021 the Member for Clayfield rose on a matter of privilege regarding Standing Order 24 relating to the tabling of a report during private members' statements by the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. The Member for Clayfield asserted that 25 copies of the report should have been supplied pursuant to Standing Order 24 and that almost half an hour after the report was tabled no copies were available to Members in the House.

On 3 December 2021 the Member for Clayfield wrote to me with more particulars about the matter of privilege and requested that I make a statement to the House on the issue rather than refer it to the Ethics Committee.

In his letter the Member for Clayfield states that during private members' statements on 2 December 2021 the Attorney-General tabled three volumes of the first report of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce at 2.04 pm. The Member for Clayfield requested a copy of the report from parliamentary attendants after the Attorney-General concluded her statement and was informed that no copies of the report were available.

The Member for Clayfield understands that a link to the report appeared on the department's website at approximately 2.25 pm. After raising a matter of privilege at 2.25 pm, the Member for Clayfield notes that a small number of copies were provided to attendants just prior to 3 pm.

The Member for Clayfield asserts that what occurred is a growing incidence of insufficient copies of papers being available to meet Members' needs.

Standing Order 24 provides that the Committee of the Legislative Assembly shall determine and publish the number of hard copies of documents tabled by the Speaker, Ministers and Members which are to be supplied to the Clerk. The CLA's determination is based on the likely demand from Members for hard copies of different types of tabled papers. For reports of a Commission of Inquiry or similar, it has determined that 25 additional paper copies are required. The Member for Clayfield asserts that 25 copies of the report should have been supplied as the taskforce is akin to a Commission of Inquiry.

The Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce is an independent taskforce established by the Queensland government to examine the experience of women across the criminal justice system and to examine coercive control and review the need for a specific offence of domestic violence. It was an inquiry of considerable public interest. The taskforce made recommendations to the Attorney-General who recognised its importance by tabling the document in the House and making a statement accordingly. In my view, it is reasonable to conclude that the taskforce would attract a similar level of public interest as would a Commission of Inquiry and therefore an additional 25 copies of the report should have been provided.

Where a report or document is likely to attract the significant interest of Members, it is prudent that a higher number of additional copies than specified for that type of document are supplied. This has occurred previously in practice, for example, when parliamentary committees have tabled reports on the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill, the Termination of Pregnancy Bill, the inquiry into aged care, end-of-life and palliative care and the inquiry into social isolation and loneliness in Queensland.


I take this opportunity to remind Members of the importance of providing the requisite number of hard copies of documents for tabling and to familiarise themselves of the current determination of the CLA in accordance with Standing Order 24.

I table the correspondence of the Member for Clayfield.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 3 December 2021 from the member for Clayfield, Mr Tim Nicholls MP, to the Speaker, Hon. Curtis Pitt, regarding the tabling of documents under Standing Order 24 [\[163\]](#).

## SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

### Provision of Documents in Chamber

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Members—oh, the irony—given the current community transmission of COVID, tabled papers and procedural documents that we would normally physically circulate in the chamber will, for this week's sitting, be circulated electronically. Members will still be provided with copies if they request them from the attendants.

## PETITIONS

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

### Local and Memorial Swimming Pools

**Mr Andrew**, from 1,364 petitioners, requesting the House to provide for local and memorial swimming pools to remain viable, stop downgrading local 50 metre swimming pools to 25 metre pools; and to recognise the benefits of 50 metre swimming pools in local communities [\[146\]](#).

### Youth Justice

**Mr Stevens**, from 1,478 petitioners, requesting the House to consider breach of bail an offence in the youth justice system and to implement mandatory rehabilitation measures for repeat offenders [\[147\]](#).

### Cooloola Great Walk

**Mr Berkman**, from 4,842 petitioners, requesting the House to oppose and disallow all plans for the proposed development of the Cooloola Great Walk within the Cooloola Recreation Area of the Great Sandy National Park [\[148\]](#).

### Buddina, Public Housing Unit Complex

**Mr Bleijie**, from 169 petitioners, requesting the House to transfer the management of the public housing unit complex located in Boorook Street Buddina to a community housing provider that will ensure community safety matters are dealt with swiftly, tenants are held responsible for their behaviour and wrap around services are provided to tenants if necessary and to install an onsite manager [\[149\]](#).

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

### Members of Parliament and State Government, Social Media

829 petitioners, requesting the House to make a public registrar of all social media sites, excluding private personal sites, operated by elected officials and government staff, including a full list of "closed group" sites which are being run from electorate offices, by members of parliament and by the state government [\[150\]](#).

### Dogs, Breeding

2,305 petitioners, requesting the House to critically review and strengthen by a range of measures current legislation to stop puppy farms [\[151\]](#).

### Private Property, Concealed Water Leaks

466 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure that residents who discover a concealed leak on their properties can seek reimbursement from the state towards the cost of bulk water lost through the leak [\[152\]](#).

### Chalumbin Wind Farm

991 petitioners, requesting the House to oppose the Chalumbin Wind Farm development proposal 15km south west of Ravenshoe [\[153\]](#).



### Coronavirus, Vaccinations and Lockdowns

3,545 petitioners, requesting the House to explore a new plan that allows Queensland to move past vaccinations as the only plan and to explore options of personal responsibility and moving away from lockdowns [\[154\]](#).

### Inglewood, Flood Mitigation

277 petitioners, requesting the House to investigate options for flood mitigation of Inglewood and to table their report to the House for the information of our community [\[155\]](#).

### Biggera Waters, Labrador and Southport West, Proposed Rezoning

655 petitioners, requesting the House to reject the Gold Coast City Council's proposed high density rezoning of Biggera Waters, Labrador and Southport West [\[156\]](#).

### East Coast Trawl Fishery

458 petitioners, requesting the House to instruct Queensland Fisheries to place a 2-year moratorium on any changes to the Queensland East Coast Trawl Fishery central and northern region harvest strategy assessments [\[157\]](#).

### Local Government, Developers' Contributions

154 petitioners, requesting the House to legislate that developers' contribution paid to local government for downstream catchment improvements be spent in that catchment and that all prior local developer's contribution since 1992 be redirected back to the catchment of Hemmant Creek, Lindum Creek and Bulimba Creek and those drainage works paid for by developers be undertaken without further delay [\[158\]](#).

### Coronavirus, Vaccinations and Lockdowns

5,344 petitioners, requesting the House to investigate other ways to treat COVID-19 other than vaccinations, segregation and lockdowns [\[159\]](#).

### Cassowary Coast Regional Council, Financial Controller

772 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the appointment of a financial controller to the Cassowary Coast Regional Council pursuant to section 118(2) of the *Local Government Act Queensland 2009* [\[160\]](#).

### Coronavirus, Vaccinations

5,153 petitioners, requesting the House to cease all vaccinations in Queensland and to publicly thank those who have not been vaccinated for their effort to stop the mutation of the virus [\[161\]](#).

### Coronavirus, Vaccinations

13,168 petitioners, requesting the House to remove all COVID mandates [\[162\]](#).

Petitions received.

## TABLED PAPERS

### PAPERS TABLED DURING THE RECESS (SO 31)

The Clerk informed the House that the following papers, received during the recess, were tabled on the dates indicated—

3 December 2021—

- [2066](#) Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) and the National Boards—Annual Report 2020-21
- [2067](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 16, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 16 June 2021 and 31 August 2021: Erratum
- [2068](#) Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts Pty Ltd—Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2020

6 December 2021—

- [2069](#) Auditor-General Report 8: 2021-22—Improving access to specialist outpatient services
- [2070](#) Community Support and Services Committee: Report No. 14, 57th Parliament—Inquiry into social isolation and loneliness in Queensland
- [2071](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Professional Standards (The Institute of Public Accountants Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2021, No. 168
- [2072](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Professional Standards (The Institute of Public Accountants Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2021, No. 168, explanatory notes
- [2073](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Professional Standards (The Institute of Public Accountants Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2021, No. 168, human rights certificate
- [2074](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: The Institute of Public Accountants Professional Standards Scheme

8 December 2021—

- [2075](#) Auditor-General Report 9: 2021-22—Regulating dam safety
- [2076](#) Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: Report No. 20, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 1 September 2021 and 15 October 2021

10 December 2021—

- [2077](#) Auditor-General Report 10: 2021-22—Transport 2021
- [2078](#) Mental Health Select Committee—Appointment of government members
- [2079](#) Board of Professional Engineers of Queensland—Code of practice for registered professional engineers
- [2080](#) Mental Health Select Committee—Appointment of non-government members

13 December 2021—

- [2081](#) Auditor-General Report 11: 2021-22—Establishing the Queensland Future Fund
- [2082](#) Transport and Resources Committee: Report No. 12, 57th Parliament—Inquiry into Vehicle Safety, Standards and Technology, including Engine Immobiliser Technology, interim government response
- [2083](#) Health and Wellbeing Queensland—Annual Report 2020-2021
- [2084](#) Office of the Health Ombudsman—Annual Report 2020-21
- [2085](#) QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute—Annual Report 2020-2021
- [2086](#) Queensland Mental Health Commission—Annual Report 2020-2021
- [2087](#) Bundaberg Health Services Foundation—Annual Report 2020-2021
- [2088](#) Central Queensland Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2020-21
- [2089](#) Children's Hospital Foundation Queensland—Annual Report 2020-2021
- [2090](#) Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2020-2021
- [2091](#) Gold Coast Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2020-2021
- [2092](#) Ipswich Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2020-2021
- [2093](#) Mackay Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2020-2021
- [2094](#) PA Research Foundation—Annual Report 2020-2021
- [2095](#) Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2020-2021
- [2096](#) Sunshine Coast Health Foundation (Wishlist)—Annual Report 2020-2021
- [2097](#) The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2020-2021
- [2098](#) Townsville Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2020-2021
- [2099](#) Toowoomba Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2020-2021
- [2100](#) Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2020-2021
- [2101](#) Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2020-2021
- [2102](#) Central West Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2020-2021
- [2103](#) Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2020-2021
- [2104](#) Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2020-2021
- [2105](#) Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2020-2021
- [2106](#) Mackay Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2020-2021
- [2107](#) Metro North Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2020-2021
- [2108](#) Metro South Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2020-2021
- [2109](#) North West Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2020-2021
- [2110](#) South West Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2020-2021
- [2111](#) Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2020-2021
- [2112](#) Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2020-2021
- [2113](#) Townsville Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2020-2021
- [2114](#) West Moreton Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2020-2021
- [2115](#) Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2020-2021
- [2116](#) Childrens Court of Queensland—Annual Report 2020-21

14 December 2021—

- [2117](#) Response from the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure (Hon. Dr Miles), to an ePetition (3572-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 357 petitioners, requesting the House to call for a full parliamentary enquiry in relation to the Chief Executive of the Department of State Development Manufacturing Infrastructure and Planning supporting private waste companies against local councils

15 December 2021—

- [2118](#) QSuper—Annual Report 2020-2021
- [2119](#) Ruling by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt—Alleged contempt of Parliament by the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing

16 December 2021—

- [2120](#) Auditor-General Report 12: 2021-22—Health 2021
- [2121](#) Response from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities (Hon. Furner), to an ePetition (3599-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 2,042 petitioners, requesting the House to rapidly end the use of shark nets in Queensland and roll out non-lethal drone technology and aerial shark surveillance
- [2122](#) Annual report on the administration of the Nature Conservation Act 1992—1 July 2020-30 June 2021
- [2123](#) Annual report on the administration of the Marine Parks Act 2004—1 July 2020-30 June 2021
- [2124](#) Annual report on the administration of the Environmental Protection Act 1994—1 July 2020-30 June 2021
- [2125](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. D'Ath), to an ePetition (3606-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 1,376 petitioners, requesting the House to stop all incentives relating to getting vaccinated
- [2126](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. D'Ath), to an ePetition (3607-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 1,913 petitioners, requesting the House to stop all school aged vaccinations and make age of consent 18 years of age
- [2127](#) Response from the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing (Hon. Grace), to an ePetition (3527-21) sponsored by the member for Mundingburra, Mr Walker, from 842 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the construction of a school hall for William Ross State High School
- [2128](#) Response from the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing (Hon. Grace), to an ePetition (3621-21) sponsored by the member for Hill, Mr Knuth, and a paper petition (3651-21) presented by the member for Hill, Mr Knuth, from 781 and 465 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to reinstate Senior Secondary Years 11 and 12 at Herberton State School Secondary Campus
- [2129](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. D'Ath), to an ePetition (3539-21) sponsored by the member for Gympie, Mr Perrett, from 321 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake an independent investigation into the administrative culture and procedures of the Office of the Health Ombudsman
- [2130](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. D'Ath), to two ePetitions (3608-21 and 3609-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 2,715 and 1,263 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to stop at once the requirement of vaccinations to enter the state and an ePetition (3634-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 43,232 petitioners, requesting the House to not violate the right of any Queenslanders by coercion to be vaccinated
- [2131](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. D'Ath), to an ePetition (3610-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 281 petitioners, requesting the House to re-open the border bubble without restrictions in remote locations
- [2132](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. D'Ath), to an ePetition (3619-21) sponsored by the member for Coomera, Mr Crandon, from 1,115 petitioners, requesting the House to allow a designated person attend to the additional care and needs of a resident in Aged Care, to maintain their mental health and general well-being, during times of aged care facility lockdowns
- [2133](#) Response from the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services (Hon. Ryan), to an ePetition (3611-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 1,285 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the government stops using police and military to enforce COVID restrictions in the state and at the borders
- [2134](#) Response from the Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts (Hon. Enoch), to an ePetition (3616-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 1,696 petitioners, requesting the House to identify vacant and underutilised properties of all types and list them in a public domain for not for profit organisations to provide short term and crisis accommodation and other facilities to help the homeless
- [2135](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3603-21) sponsored by the member for Theodore, Mr Boothman, from 812 petitioners, requesting the House to implement measures to protect drivers on our public transport networks from assaults
- [2136](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3618-21) sponsored by the member for Coomera, Mr Crandon, and a paper petition (3652-21) presented by the member for Coomera, Mr Crandon, from 912 and 39 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to re-commence the community consultation process for the Exit 41 upgrade with a view to considering a slip lane from the northbound Exit 41 to the Norfolk Village residential area
- [2137](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to a paper petition (3650-21) presented by the member for Buderim, Mr Mickelberg, and an ePetition (3628-21) sponsored by the member for Buderim, Mr Mickelberg, from 19 and 268 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to reduce the speed limit on Gloucester Road, between Mill Road and Main Street, Buderim from 60 km/h to 50 km/h

17 December 2021—

- [2138](#) Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (Hon. Fentiman), to an ePetition (3613-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 18,507 petitioners, requesting the House to consider introducing daylight saving into Queensland, or at the very least in the south-east of the state
- [2139](#) Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (Hon. Fentiman), to an ePetition (3617-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 7,750 petitioners, requesting the House to not introduce daylight savings time in Queensland

- [2140](#) Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee: Report No. 106, 57th Parliament—Review of the Crime and Corruption Commission's activities, government response
- [2141](#) Electoral Commissioner of Queensland: Election report—2021 Stretton State by-election
- [2142](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3620-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 704 petitioners, requesting the House to legislate to remove electric vehicles from Queensland roads until manufacturers can demonstrate resource neutral construction and disposal of the batteries

4 January 2022—

- [1](#) Queensland Local Government Grants Commission—Annual Report 2019
- [2](#) Queensland Local Government Grants Commission—Annual Report 2020
- [3](#) State Development and Regional Industries Committee: Report No. 10, 57th Parliament—Examination of Auditor-General Report 14: 2019-20—Evaluating major infrastructure projects, government response
- [4](#) Response from the Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing (Hon. Grace), to an ePetition (3581-21) sponsored by the member for Bonney, Mr O'Connor, from 5,709 petitioners, requesting the House to introduce a publicly available system that tracks greyhounds for their entire life including breeding, naming, raising, training, racing, retirement, rehoming and death
- [5](#) Response from the Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement (Hon. Hinchliffe), to an ePetition (3639-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 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
- [6](#) Response from the Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing (Hon. Grace), to an ePetition (3656-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 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
- [7](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. D'Ath), to an ePetition (3630-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 845 petitioners, requesting the House to hold the Premier and the Chief Health Officer accountable for their policies which have led to a mental health crisis in Queensland
- [8](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. D'Ath), to an ePetition (3655-21) sponsored by the member for Mirani, Mr Andrew, from 9,154 petitioners, requesting the House to withdraw directives that justify a decision to deny parents/carers/guardians attendance at a children's hospital, children's hospital accommodation or any child's medical appointment
- [9](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. D'Ath), to an ePetition (3627-21) sponsored by the member for Hill, 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
- [10](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. D'Ath), to an ePetition (3647-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 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
- [11](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3574-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 543 petitioners, requesting the House to legalise the use of golf carts on the public roads of Coochiemudlo Island
- [12](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to a paper petition (3660-21) presented by the member for Scenic Rim, Mr Krause, and an ePetition (3632-21) sponsored by the member for Scenic Rim, Mr Krause, from 683 and 442 petitioners respectively, 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
- [13](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3644-21) sponsored by the member for Clayfield, 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
- [14](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3648-21) sponsored by the member for Hinchinbrook, Mr Dametto, and a paper petition (3659-21) presented by the member for Hinchinbrook, Mr Dametto, from 334 and 308 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to widen Abergowrie Road and address dips, blind spots and other safety hazards to road users from Trebonne through to St. Teresa's College, Abergowrie
- [15](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to a paper petition (3653—21) presented by the member for Warrego, Ms Leahy, from 441 petitioners, requesting the House to raise the bridge over the Paroo River at Eulo by 1.3 metres
- [16](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to a paper petition (3661-21) presented by the member for Kawana, Mr Bleijie, and two ePetitions (3605-21 and 3537-21) sponsored by the member for Kawana, Mr Bleijie, from 404, 769 and 629 petitioners respectively, 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

7 January 2022—

- [17](#) National Education and Care Services Freedom of Information Commissioner, Privacy Commissioner and Ombudsman—Annual Report 2020-2021

13 January 2022—

- [18](#) Independent review of the performance of the Queensland Family and Child Commission of its functions: Final report

14 January 2022—

- [19](#) Takeaway liquor authority notice number 28 issued in accordance with section 235D and 235F of the Liquor Act 1992 by the Acting Commissioner for Liquor and Gaming

19 January 2022—

- [20](#) Queensland Government: The Queensland Plan Annual Progress Report 2020-21

21 January 2022—

- [21](#) Community Support and Services Committee: Report No. 15, 57th Parliament—Public Trustee (Advisory and Monitoring Board) Amendment Bill 2021

- [22](#) Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: Report No. 21, 57th Parliament—Inspector of Detention Services Bill 2021

31 January 2022—

- [23](#) Health and Environment Committee: Report No. 16, 57th Parliament—Subordinate Legislation tabled between 1 September 2021 and 12 October 2021

- [24](#) 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, government response

- [25](#) Education, Employment and Training Committee: Report No. 15, 57th Parliament—Inquiry into the operation of the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990

- [26](#) Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: Report No. 22, 57th Parliament—Inquiry into serious vilification and hate crimes

1 February 2022—

- [27](#) Takeaway liquor authority notice number 29 issued in accordance with section 235D and 235F of the Liquor Act 1992 by the Acting Commissioner for Liquor and Gaming

- [28](#) Family Responsibilities Commission—Annual Report 2020-2021

8 February 2022—

- [29](#) Takeaway liquor authority notice number 30 issued in accordance with section 235D and 235F of the Liquor Act 1992 by the Acting Commissioner for Liquor and Gaming

- [30](#) Takeaway liquor authority notice number 31 issued in accordance with section 235D and 235F of the Liquor Act 1992 by the Acting Commissioner for Liquor and Gaming

10 February 2022—

- [31](#) Community Support and Services Committee: Report No. 12, 57th Parliament—Child Protection Reform and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021, government response

11 February 2022—

- [32](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 21, 57th Parliament—Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021

- [33](#) State Development and Regional Industries Committee: Report No. 17, 57th Parliament—Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021

- [34](#) Queensland State Archives—Annual Report 2020-2021

- [35](#) Queensland State Archivist report to Jamie Merrick, Director General, Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation (DSITI), dated 24 October 2017, titled 'Statutory investigation into allegations of unauthorised disposal of public records by Honourable Mark Bailey MP, Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Bio Fuels and Water Supply'

- [36](#) Document, dated 11 February 2022, by the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy, titled 'Implementation progress update of recommendations of: State Archivist report to Jamie Merrick, Director-General, Department of Science Information Technology and Innovation (DSITI): Statutory investigation into allegations of unauthorised disposal of public records by Honourable Mark Bailey MP, Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Bio Fuels and Water Supply, dated 24 October 2017'

- [37](#) Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: Report No. 23, 57th Parliament—Evidence and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021

17 February 2022—

- [38](#) Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal—Annual Report 2020-21

- [39](#) Child Death Review Board—Annual Report 2020-21

- [40](#) Child Death Review Board—Annual Report 2020-21, government response

- [41](#) Queensland Family & Child Commission—Annual Report 2020-21: Deaths of children and young people Queensland

18 February 2022—

- [42](#) Education, Employment and Training Committee: Report No. 16, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 1 September 2021 and 12 October 2021



21 February 2022—

[43](#) Transport and Resources Committee: Report No. 15, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 1 September 2021 and 16 November 2021

[44](#) Director of Forensic Disability—Annual Report 2020-2021

#### TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

#### STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Public Health Act 2005:

[45](#) Public Health (Further Extension of Declared Public Health Emergency—COVID-19) Regulation (No. 4) 2021, No. 169

[46](#) Public Health (Further Extension of Declared Public Health Emergency—COVID-19) Regulation (No. 4) 2021, No. 169, explanatory notes

[47](#) Public Health (Further Extension of Declared Public Health Emergency—COVID-19) Regulation (No. 4) 2021, No. 169, human rights certificate

Agents Financial Administration Act 2014:

[48](#) Agents Financial Administration Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 170

[49](#) Agents Financial Administration Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 170, explanatory notes

[50](#) Agents Financial Administration Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 170, human rights certificate

COVID-19 Emergency Response and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2020:

[51](#) COVID-19 Emergency Response and Other Legislation Amendment (Postponement) Regulation 2021, No. 171

[52](#) COVID-19 Emergency Response and Other Legislation Amendment (Postponement) Regulation 2021, No. 171, explanatory notes

[53](#) COVID-19 Emergency Response and Other Legislation Amendment (Postponement) Regulation 2021, No. 171, human rights certificate

Gaming Machine Act 1991:

[54](#) Gaming Machine Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 172

[55](#) Gaming Machine Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 172, explanatory notes

[56](#) Gaming Machine Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 172, human rights certificate

Animal Care and Protection Act 2001:

[57](#) Animal Care and Protection (Code of Practice about Rodeos) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 173

[58](#) Animal Care and Protection (Code of Practice about Rodeos) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 173, explanatory notes

[59](#) Animal Care and Protection (Code of Practice about Rodeos) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 173, human rights certificate

Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008, Biosecurity Act 2014, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999:

[60](#) Biosecurity and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 174

[61](#) Biosecurity and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 174, explanatory notes

[62](#) Biosecurity and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 174, human rights certificate

Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994:

[63](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Variation of Work in Paradise Incentive Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 175

[64](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Variation of Work in Paradise Incentive Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 175, explanatory notes

[65](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Variation of Work in Paradise Incentive Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 175, human rights certificate

Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999, Explosives Act 1999, Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999, Petroleum Act 1923, Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004:

[66](#) Resources Legislation (Safety and Health Fees) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 176

[67](#) Resources Legislation (Safety and Health Fees) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 176, explanatory notes

[68](#) Resources Legislation (Safety and Health Fees) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 176, human rights certificate

Local Government Act 2009:

[69](#) Local Government Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 177

[70](#) Local Government Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 177, explanatory notes

[71](#) Local Government Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 177, human rights certificate Planning Act 2016:

[72](#) Planning (Development in Priority Port's Master Planned Area) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 178

[73](#) Planning (Development in Priority Port's Master Planned Area) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 178, explanatory notes

[74](#) Planning (Development in Priority Port's Master Planned Area) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 178, human rights certificate

## Superannuation (State Public Sector) Act 1990:

- [75](#) Superannuation (State Public Sector) Amendment of Deed Regulation 2021, No. 179
- [76](#) Superannuation (State Public Sector) Amendment of Deed Regulation 2021, No. 179, explanatory notes
- [77](#) Superannuation (State Public Sector) Amendment of Deed Regulation 2021, No. 179, human rights certificate

## Transport Infrastructure Act 1994, Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994, Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995:

- [78](#) Transport Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2021, No. 180
- [79](#) Transport Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2021, No. 180, explanatory notes
- [80](#) Transport Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2021, No. 180, human rights certificate

## Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Act 2017:

- [81](#) Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) (Retention Trust Training) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 181
- [82](#) Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) (Retention Trust Training) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 181, explanatory notes
- [83](#) Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) (Retention Trust Training) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 181, human rights certificate

## Energy and Water Ombudsman Act 2006:

- [84](#) Energy and Water Ombudsman (Prescribed Energy Entities) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 182
- [85](#) Energy and Water Ombudsman (Prescribed Energy Entities) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 182, explanatory notes
- [86](#) Energy and Water Ombudsman (Prescribed Energy Entities) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 182, human rights certificate
- [87](#) Energy and Water Ombudsman (Prescribed Energy Entities) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 182, dispute resolution for residential embedded network customers, Regulatory impact statement, September 2021

## Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991:

- [88](#) Queensland Building and Construction Commission (Fire Protection Licensing) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 183
- [89](#) Queensland Building and Construction Commission (Fire Protection Licensing) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 183, explanatory notes
- [90](#) Queensland Building and Construction Commission (Fire Protection Licensing) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 183, human rights certificate

## Supreme Court of Queensland Act 1991:

- [91](#) Uniform Civil Procedure (Preliminary Disclosure) Amendment Rule 2021, No. 184
- [92](#) Uniform Civil Procedure (Preliminary Disclosure) Amendment Rule 2021, No. 184, explanatory notes
- [93](#) Uniform Civil Procedure (Preliminary Disclosure) Amendment Rule 2021, No. 184, human rights certificate

## Disaster Management Act 2003:

- [94](#) Disaster Management (Further Extension of Disaster Situation—COVID-19) Regulation (No. 4) 2021, No. 185
- [95](#) Disaster Management (Further Extension of Disaster Situation—COVID-19) Regulation (No. 4) 2021, No. 185, explanatory notes
- [96](#) Disaster Management (Further Extension of Disaster Situation—COVID-19) Regulation (No. 4) 2021, No. 185, human rights certificate

## Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999:

- [97](#) Coal Mining Safety and Health (Explosion Barriers) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 186
- [98](#) Coal Mining Safety and Health (Explosion Barriers) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 186, explanatory notes
- [99](#) Coal Mining Safety and Health (Explosion Barriers) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 186, human rights certificate

## Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004:

- [100](#) Petroleum and Gas (Safety) (Gas Devices) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 187
- [101](#) Petroleum and Gas (Safety) (Gas Devices) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 187, explanatory notes
- [102](#) Petroleum and Gas (Safety) (Gas Devices) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 187, human rights certificate

## Forestry Act 1959, Nature Conservation Act 1992:

- [103](#) Forestry and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2021, No. 188
- [104](#) Forestry and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2021, No. 188, explanatory notes
- [105](#) Forestry and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2021, No. 188, human rights certificate

## Nature Conservation Act 1992:

- [106](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) (Communications and Electrical Distribution Facilities) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 189
- [107](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) (Communications and Electrical Distribution Facilities) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 189, explanatory notes
- [108](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) (Communications and Electrical Distribution Facilities) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 189, human rights certificate

## Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2021:

- [109](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 190
- [110](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 190, explanatory notes

## Public Service Act 2008:

- [111](#) Public Service (Public Service Offices and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 191
- [112](#) Public Service (Public Service Offices and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 191, explanatory notes
- [113](#) Public Service (Public Service Offices and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 191, human rights certificate

## Professional Standards Act 2004:

- [114](#) Professional Standards (The Queensland Law Society Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2021, No. 192
- [115](#) Professional Standards (The Queensland Law Society Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2021, No. 192, explanatory notes
- [116](#) Professional Standards (The Queensland Law Society Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2021, No. 192, human rights certificate

## Professional Standards Act 2004:

- [117](#) Professional Standards (Law Society of South Australia Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2022, No. 1
- [118](#) Professional Standards (Law Society of South Australia Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2022, No. 1, explanatory notes
- [119](#) Professional Standards (Law Society of South Australia Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2022, No. 1, human rights certificate

## Casino Control Act 1982, Charitable and Non-Profit Gaming Act 1999, Gaming Machine Act 1991, Interactive Gambling (Player Protection) Act 1998, Keno Act 1996, Lotteries Act 1997, Wagering Act 1998:

- [120](#) Gaming Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 2
- [121](#) Gaming Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 2, explanatory notes
- [122](#) Gaming Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 2, human rights certificate

## Heavy Vehicle National Law Act 2012, Photo Identification Card Act 2008, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, Tow Truck Act 1973, Transport Infrastructure Act 1994, Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994, Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994, Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995, Transport Planning and Coordination Act 1994:

- [123](#) Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 3
- [124](#) Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 3, explanatory notes
- [125](#) Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 3, human rights certificate

## Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2021:

- [126](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 4
- [127](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 4, explanatory notes
- [128](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 4, human rights certificate

## Fair Trading Act 1989, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999:

- [129](#) Fair Trading (Funeral Pricing) Regulation 2022, No. 5
- [130](#) Fair Trading (Funeral Pricing) Regulation 2022, No. 5, explanatory notes
- [131](#) Fair Trading (Funeral Pricing) Regulation 2022, No. 5, human rights certificate

## Drugs Misuse Act 1986:

- [132](#) Drugs Misuse (Fees for Commercial Production of Industrial Cannabis) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 6
- [133](#) Drugs Misuse (Fees for Commercial Production of Industrial Cannabis) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 6, explanatory notes
- [134](#) Drugs Misuse (Fees for Commercial Production of Industrial Cannabis) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 6, human rights certificate

## Water Act 2000:

- [135](#) Water (Desired Level of Service Objectives for SEQ Region) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 7
- [136](#) Water (Desired Level of Service Objectives for SEQ Region) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 7, explanatory notes
- [137](#) Water (Desired Level of Service Objectives for SEQ Region) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 7, human rights certificate



Planning Act 2016:

[138](#) Planning (State Development Assessment Provisions) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 9

[139](#) Planning (State Development Assessment Provisions) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 9, explanatory notes

[140](#) Planning (State Development Assessment Provisions) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 9, human rights certificate

#### MINISTERIAL PAPERS

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (Hon. Fentiman)—

[141](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: The Queensland Law Society Professional Standards Scheme [Refer subordinate legislation No. 192]

[142](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Law Society of South Australia Professional Standards Scheme [Refer subordinate legislation No. 1]

## SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

### Twosday



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, it may seem like an obvious statement, but today is Twosday. It is 22/2/22. It is also known as Ritchie Benaud Day. I hope members enjoy this in the appropriate way. I thank the minister for wearing the appropriate attire today. Members were offered the opportunity to wear the cream, the white, the off-white, the ivory or the beige. Thank you, Minister Fentiman.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Coronavirus, Update; Coronavirus, Restrictions



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.40 am): I advise that we have 5,583 new cases of COVID-19 and 4,039 positive RAT results. Tragically there have been five deaths, one in aged care, and I know that all members of this House pass on our condolences to the families of the deceased. We have 380 people in hospital and 30 in ICU. Eleven are currently ventilated. As we know, these numbers are coming down as we come off the wave.

In relation to our vaccine coverage, 92.54 per cent of Queenslanders have had their first dose and 90.61 per cent have had their second dose, which is great news. In terms of boosters, 63.11 per cent of the eligible population have received their boosters. In relation to our five- to 11-year-olds, 42.11 per cent have had their first dose.

When the story of this pandemic is written it will show that no-one completely escaped the impacts of COVID, but it will also show some places fared better than most and one of these places is right here in Queensland. The reason is clear: the vast majority of our state was vaccinated before COVID arrived. The credit for this belongs to every single Queenslanders, but I am proud that our government did everything possible to ensure our people were protected. We travelled the length and breadth of this state. We put vaccine hubs in schools, Bunnings and caravan shows. Our health workers went door-to-door in places where vaccine numbers were too low.


When New South Wales confronted its outbreak, only four per cent of its population was vaccinated. That ended in months of lockdowns and billions of dollars worth of lost business. When COVID came to Queensland, 80 per cent of Queenslanders were fully vaccinated. The data shows our decision to delay the start of school was absolutely the right one. The number of children infected is currently lower than the peak in mid-January. The number of teaching, health and emergency services staff infected is falling too.

We are cautiously optimistic that the number of hospitalisations and infections has peaked, which is why today I can make this announcement: from 6 pm on Friday, 4 March masks will no longer be required in most settings. You will not need them at work or in school or at the shops. Staff and patrons will not be required to wear them at cafes, pubs or restaurants. Smiles are back! We can put our masks away. They will still be needed on public transport, at airports, in hospitals, disability care, prisons and aged-care facilities. If you feel vulnerable you should wear one. If you want to wear one you can.

We are scrapping density limits that apply to weddings and funerals and the number of people you can have in your own home. There will be no density limits in food courts, hairdressers, gyms, private venue hire spaces and universities. In addition, bans on excursions, assemblies and visitors to schools will go as of 4 March. As these restrictions ease, parents who are yet to have their children vaccinated might want to consider bringing those vaccinations forward.

This is all about getting our lives back to a new normal. Normal does not include a televised daily COVID update. We will still publish COVID numbers every day, but from the first week of March we will see our Chief Health Officer only if needed. The story of this pandemic is not yet over, but we hope a brighter chapter awaits. Thank you, Queensland.

### Rail Infrastructure

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.44 am): Investing in public transport is a hallmark of good Labor governments. Today I can announce we will invest \$1.12 billion to deliver faster rail services between Brisbane, Logan and the Gold Coast. Through this great project we will remove five level crossings, upgrade nine stations, lay more tracks—effectively doubling the track between Kuraby and Beenleigh—and increase the frequency of services throughout SEQ, complementing the great work we are doing on Cross River Rail, Queensland's largest ever infrastructure project.


This means more express services will run more often between Brisbane, Logan and the Gold Coast. We believe this project will ease congestion and could shave up to four minutes off the average train trip between Brisbane and the Gold Coast. It was great to hear Robert Dow on ABC Radio this morning describe today's announcement as a very timely and worthwhile project.

Getting Queenslanders home quicker is important, but this project is also about planning for the future. This is our first investment in transport infrastructure in preparation for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Preparing for an Olympic games is a marathon, not a sprint. It is important that we get out of the blocks strongly; faster rail will help us do that.

More people than ever before are realising what we have known for a long time: that Queensland is the place to be. In the 12 months to June 2021 more than 30,000 people moved to Queensland from the southern states—you cannot blame them, can you—the vast majority of these people settling in the south-east, but a lot of people are going into regional parts of our state as well. We expect this to continue, with an extra 1.2 million people living in the region by 2036. Faster rail will create around 900 jobs and will ensure Queensland remains on track to deliver the best Olympic Games of all time. We are committed to delivering faster rail for the people of Queensland.

I want the Prime Minister on board as well. I have always said we work best when we work together. That is why today I am also calling on the federal government to match our \$1.12 billion commitment for faster rail services. Thanks to our strong health response, our economic recovery is going full steam ahead. Since the beginning of this pandemic we have created 124,300 jobs, the strongest jobs growth in the nation, and our overseas exports have rebounded by 26.3 per cent, totalling \$79.2 billion in 2021. On this side of the House we understand that to keep pace with strong population growth we must invest now. Our government will always invest in new infrastructure to create jobs and get people home faster. I will always fight for Queensland's fair share.


### Coronavirus, International Border

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.47 am): After almost two years, Australia's welcome mat is once again rolled out to the world. Our international borders have now reopened to vaccinated tourists and travellers. Watching the images of our airports humming with people again brings so much hope and optimism that we are finally coming out the other side of this pandemic. Yesterday, Brisbane International Airport saw 1,500 guests alone come through the terminal. This is incredible news for our tourism industry which has been one of the hardest hit industries throughout the past two years. I am advised that we are already seeing increases in booking activity for airlines and hotels, which is great news.

Since the onset of COVID-19 our government has stood shoulder to shoulder with the tourism industry. I have seen firsthand how COVID affected our tourism businesses, which has been incredibly hard for some, in particular those reliant on the international market, especially in the Far North, the Whitsundays and the Gold Coast. That is why we committed \$1.1 billion in economic recovery support for the tourism, events and hospitality sectors across the state with a key focus on those regions. That support is continuing.

Recently I was on the Gold Coast to announce that our government will be partnering with the state's four largest airports in a nation-leading deal that will see a joint \$200 million investment to secure more direct international flights to Queensland. This deal is predicted to deliver more than 5.3 million airline seats per year and generate almost \$4 billion. In addition, whilst in Bundaberg visiting the region's iconic tourism experience at Mon Repos Turtle Centre with the tourism minister and the member for Bundaberg, I announced a series of new campaigns worth \$5.2 million, targeting national and international tourists. That includes the second phase of the Great Queensland Getaway campaign which features once-in-a-lifetime prizes, holiday deals and cut-price airfares. I know we will see visitor numbers to this great state continue to increase as a result. Our tourism industry is the lifeblood of this state and we will continue to be there for them as we recover.


### **Olympic and Paralympic Games, Athletes**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.49 am): Our investment in infrastructure is only part of our Olympic preparation; we are also investing in our people. Perhaps our biggest motivation for securing the games is to bring within reach the dream of competing in them. Starting in April we will launch the biggest talent search Australia has ever seen. Coaches will travel the length and breadth of Queensland, searching for 50,000 young athletes.

Today's 10-year-old is 2032's Olympian or Paralympian. Coaches and talent scouts will work with them to see who has the physical and mental strength to 'go for gold'. Eventually, they will join the Queensland Academy of Sport, the funding for which has been doubled to \$29.3 million. That includes a \$9.8 million state-of-the-art sports science centre that I am proud to say accommodates both Olympians and Paralympians. Our You for 2032 program aims to make the best even better. Our secret weapon is Ms Chelsea Warr, the architect of Great Britain's transformation that turned its athletes into world-beaters.

As I say as often as possible, if Queensland were a country we would have finished seventh in the medal count in Tokyo. In Beijing, Jakara Anthony, from tropical Cairns, won gold in the women's moguls competition, having perfected her moves at the Geoff Henke Olympic Winter Training Centre at Chandler. Jaclyn Narracot won silver in the skeleton, which is Australia's first-ever medal in an event of its type. If that is what we can do without snow, imagine what we will achieve in 2032.

### **Integrity in Government, Review**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.51 am): Last week I announced a wideranging review into the culture and accountability of the state's public sector. It covers six key areas including: the culture of the Public Service, ensuring ethical decision-making and impartial advice; the nature of interactions between integrity bodies, the Public Service and the executive; legislation underpinning the existing ethics and integrity framework; the adequacy of systems; ethics training; and the timeliness of processes to resolve ethical and integrity complaints.

The inquiry will be conducted by Professor Peter Coaldrake AO. For 14 years Professor Coaldrake was vice-chancellor of the Queensland University of Technology. Currently he is the Chief Commissioner of the federal government appointed Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency. Previously he had been appointed by the then LNP government to conduct the 2013 Open Government Policy Forum and the strategic review of the functions of the Office of the Integrity Commissioner. Professor Coaldrake is a fitting person to conduct the review that I announced on Friday. I believe such a review is healthy and timely. Professor Coaldrake has very wide terms of reference and the ability to make whatever recommendation he sees fit. I will receive an interim report in two months and a final report in four months. Both will be made public and all recommendations will be adopted in full.

There are other issues that have been raised in relation to the Integrity Commissioner and the former state archivist. There are limits on what I can say about those matters. In this state we follow the rules: we do not comment on court cases before they are finalised. Likewise, I am not free to comment on matters currently under investigation by the proper authorities. Since the Fitzgerald inquiry, Queensland has had robust institutions to guard against corruption. One is the CCC. It is a standing royal commission in this state. The other is our parliamentary committees.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am sorry, Premier. Members, I would like to hear the ministerial statement.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** These committees are bipartisan and they do good work, most notably recently to do with voluntary assisted dying and an investigation into serious allegations surrounding the Logan council. They are constantly privy to confidential information. It is simply not fair to discuss publicly matters before a committee before they are fully considered.

It is incumbent on us, as members of parliament, to defend those institutions. Undermining and destroying them does not lead to greater transparency and accountability; it leads to less.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members are reminded that comments will be directed through the chair.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Let me quote—

There were errors in policy and political judgement ... such as changes to government committees  
the institutions of state must be respected  
and—

corruption and lack of accountability will not be tolerated

Those words ought to be familiar to members opposite. They are from the Borbidge-Sheldon review into how the LNP lost the 2015 election. Interfering with the CCC, the Supreme Court, truncating estimates hearings from two weeks to two days and sacking the Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee in the dead of night: voters noticed and they cared. Those are not allegations; it is what the LNP does in government and many of those who did that are still here.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am sorry, Premier. Members to my left, I want to be clear: standing orders have not changed over the break. I want to make sure that that statement is made clear to all members of the House. Premier, do you have anything further to add?


**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I do, Mr Speaker. I will conclude with another quote—

The demand for my service during my tenure has primarily been due to the government's preparedness to adopt a higher standard of ethics and integrity.

It is a credit to you as Premier that the standard which applies to ministers and assistant ministers are of the highest calibre in terms of ethics and integrity.

That letter was written to me a month ago and it was signed 'Nikola Stepanov, Queensland Integrity Commissioner'.

### Job Creation

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (9.55 am): Whilst some in this place spent the summer recess digging dirt and throwing mud, the Palaszczuk government spent it creating jobs for Queenslanders. While some members thought only about keeping their own job and the job that they covet, Palaszczuk government members were focussed on the job—


**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Mr Speaker, you were correct in your advice before: standing orders have not changed and I suspect the conventions have not changed in terms of ministerial statements not being political but being an opportunity for ministers to update the people of Queensland on matters of public importance.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Kawana. You are correct that standing orders have not changed and I am glad that you raise that again. I will say, though, that conventions are conventions and they rely on all members of the House doing the appropriate thing.

**Dr MILES:** While all that was happening, Palaszczuk government members were focused on the job that matters: creating jobs for Queenslanders. While Scott Morrison spent the summer trying to learn new jobs instead of doing his own, we spent it creating new jobs: 17,400 new jobs in the past month alone, including jobs for actual hairdressers and actual welders. Queenslanders want their government to create jobs for Queenslanders. They want a government that puts them and their interests first. Our COVID-19 economic recovery plan is working, with more Queenslanders in jobs now than ever before.

As you say, Mr Speaker, today might be Twosday but my favourite number right now is four: 4.4 per cent is the unemployment rate in Queensland thanks to our economic recovery plan. In the last round of labour force data, Australia as a whole created a net of 12,900 new jobs, but in Queensland we created 17,400 last month. That means that without Queensland Australia would have gone backwards. Perhaps for his next pretend job the Prime Minister could pretend to be a newsagent. He could choose a nice 'thank you' card to send to the Premier.


### **Rail Infrastructure; Port of Brisbane, Infrastructure**

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (9.59 am): We have just heard from the Premier about a \$1.1 billion plan to deliver faster rail between Brisbane and the Gold Coast as we track towards the Brisbane 2032 Olympics. Fast rail, along with the pipeline of projects we are delivering as we head towards the Olympics, will help change the face of Queensland and deliver hundreds of jobs and flow-on effects to supply chains across Queensland. Our government is building infrastructure that unlocks development, generates construction activity and creates long-term employment throughout the state. We are making sure in the process that people spend less time commuting and more time at home with their families.

The Palaszczuk government is also investing \$15 million from the Building Acceleration Fund for works at the Port of Brisbane and the Lytton fuel terminal. Just recently, I was pleased to be there with the member for Lytton to make that announcement. The funding will go to IOR Petroleum which is commissioning approximately \$48 million of works to construct new importing facilities and storage tanks.

The project will create up to 264 construction jobs and eight operational jobs. Construction kicked off at the start of this month and will see new importing and storage facilities built to hold significant quantities of domestic fuel. This joint investment will not only create jobs but also help ensure the Port of Brisbane can continue to effectively service the fuel needs of our state. This is one of eight major projects which will accelerate the delivery of essential infrastructure. To date, the fund has created more than 650 jobs for Queenslanders, unlocking \$189.7 million in infrastructure investment across Queensland, and there is more to come. We will not let the antics of Scott Morrison or those opposite distract us from our No. 1 job—jobs for Queenslanders.

### **Coronavirus, Economy; Job Creation**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (10.01 am): Under the Palaszczuk Labor government, Queensland has started 2022 as we finished 2021—leading the nation when it comes to jobs. January's labour force data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics once again demonstrates that our government's economic recovery plan is working. While the crest of the Omicron wave saw jobs lost in southern states, Queenslanders again stood strong in the face of adversity.

In January, Queensland created another 17,400 jobs, the most of any state or territory. Nationally, employment rose by 12,900. That means, without Queensland, Australia would have gone backwards. As always, Queensland punches above its weight. We are 18 per cent of the national economy, but we created 48 per cent of all new jobs across the nation in January. This ongoing strength in our labour market is thanks to our world-leading economic response and health response to COVID-19. That health response allowed our economy to stay open when many others were in lockdown. It also gave us time to give Queenslanders access to the vaccines that have protected us once Omicron arrived.


Since the Palaszczuk Labor government was first elected, we have created 376,800 new jobs in Queensland; that is, more than 1,000 new jobs every week—1,000 jobs every week of every month of every year for seven years in a row.

As with any recovery, we know the improvements in our economy are not consistent across the state, nor from one business to the next. As a whole, we are in the best possible position as we emerge from the pandemic. Only in recent days have New South Wales and Victoria removed restrictions that bring them to the same level of freedom that Queenslanders enjoy. Yesterday we saw the full opening of international borders for vaccinated travellers. While major markets like New Zealand and China do not currently enjoy the travel freedoms that Queenslanders do, this will see international tourists start retuning to places like Cairns and the Gold Coast. It will give sectors like hospitality access to the labour source that they have been desperately missing in recent months.

Major supermarket chains are seeing a reduction in staff absenteeism due to COVID. Mobility data from platforms like Facebook, Google and Apple shows general activity across the state has continued to increase week on week since school resumed. Queensland Treasury has analysed phone locations, map searches and restaurant bookings to gauge social and economic mobility. For the week ending last Friday, 17 February, the index for Queensland was 0.7 per cent higher than the previous week, 3.7 per cent higher than a month earlier and 2.8 per cent higher than a year ago. What does this

mean? It means our government's economic recovery plan continues to deliver a dividend for Queenslanders and will ensure Queensland is in the best possible economic position for the rest of 2022 and beyond.

### Coronavirus, Schools

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (10.04 am): The Palaszczuk government's strong COVID health response has paved the way for Queensland's economic recovery and resurgence. It has also meant our schools have remained open throughout virtually the entire pandemic in stark contrast to other parts of the country and indeed the world. For large parts of last year, Queensland was the only jurisdiction on the eastern seaboard with our schools fully open. We are delighted now to have our students back again face-to-face for the 2022 school year—more than 870,000 young Queenslanders, including around 580,000 students in Queensland's 1,258 state schools. We welcome four new school communities, with new schools at Greenbank, Nirimba and Coomera, and we are delighted to now have Norfolk Island Central School on board.


With widespread circulation of COVID in the community, there will inevitably also be COVID cases in schools. We are fully prepared for this with our comprehensive back-to-school plan. First, we had the commonsense two-week delay to ensure that we got past the peak of the Omicron wave and provided more time for students to get vaccinated. Of course, our school staff are already vaccinated at a rate of more than 98 per cent. We have supplied rapid antigen tests to every school in the state—a massive logistical exercise with deliveries by road, air and water—across the length and breadth of Queensland.

A special shout-out to Tommo, the local pub landlord in Urandangi, who did a 370-kilometre round trip to pick up the delivery of RATs from our Centre for Learning and Well Being in Mount Isa and drove his truck along unsealed roads to get the delivery to the eight students at Urandangi State School. Thank you very much!

If students get symptoms at school, they are sent home with a RAT. All school students and staff also have priority access to testing at Queensland Health clinics. Schools are notifying their school communities if there is a positive case at school and relaying all the necessary advice, including the key message—if you are unwell, please stay home.

Among other measures, we are limiting visitors onsite for the first four weeks. We have masks available for anyone who needs and requires them. We have adopted all the best practice on ventilation, with schools having access to CO<sub>2</sub> monitors and air purifiers where necessary. The plan is working. Our attendance rates have been over 90 per cent, and staff absences at around 3.5 per cent—both of which are similar to previous years. Thanks to the hard work of our teachers, principals, staff and school communities, there have been no class or school closures to date. Thank you also to our regional and central office staff who have worked tirelessly to ensure our children can safely return to school and have those wonderful childhood experiences that last a lifetime. I wish—and I know everyone on this side of the House and indeed the entire House wishes—all our schools the very best for 2022.

### Coronavirus, Restrictions; Coronavirus, Vaccination

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (10.08 am): As the Premier announced this morning, from 4 March we can put our masks away. Thanks to the great work of Queenslanders in getting vaccinated, we have been able to withstand the worst of the Omicron wave. Of course, anyone who wants to wear a mask is welcome to do so. We encourage people to still keep a mask with them in case they find themselves not being able to socially distance or feel the need to wear a mask in crowded settings. Along with the other eased restrictions announced by the Premier, Queensland has some of the least onerous restrictions in the country and some of the best economic indicators thanks to vaccinations.

Today, 22 February, marks 12 months since the COVID-19 vaccination rollout began in Queensland. One year ago I accompanied then chief health officer Dr Jeannette Young and then head of infectious diseases at the Gold Coast University Hospital Dr John Gerrard to observe the very first vaccine being administered at the Gold Coast University Hospital to COVID-19 nurse Zoe Park. Since that historic occasion, our state clinics have administered millions upon millions of life-saving vaccine doses. Combined with the doses provided by primary care providers, more than 10 million doses have been administered in Queensland.

On 8 February 2022, Queensland reached the milestone of 90 per cent of the eligible population aged 16 and above being fully vaccinated. This means over four million Queenslanders are now vaccinated. This is an incredible achievement that many thought would not be possible at the start of the pandemic.

Undertaking the vaccine rollout in a state as decentralised and diverse as ours makes this achievement even greater. Our efforts have ensured that every Queenslander has had the opportunity to get vaccinated. This effort has involved thousands of staff and the work of all these people cannot be underestimated. I would like to express my thanks to all those who have worked on the vaccination rollout program from the vaccinators to the paramedics, pharmacists, security, floor managers, concierge and volunteers at our vaccination centres, as well as the operations and planning staff working behind the scenes.

Every death from COVID-19 is a tragedy and I express my sincere condolences to anyone who has lost a loved one to this virus. Without the high level of vaccination we now have in Queensland, thousands of Queenslanders would have suffered serious illness or died. The vaccine rollout is not over yet, and there is still work we need to do as COVID-19 continues to circulate. With the majority of the adult population now double vaccinated, our current focus is on getting more of the five- to 11-year-old cohort vaccinated, ensuring eligible Queenslanders get their booster shot and working to encourage more Queenslanders in low coverage areas to get vaccinated.

You are more likely to suffer serious illness or death without vaccination. It is not too late to get vaccinated. For the millions of Queenslanders who came forward to get vaccinated over the past 12 months we say thank you. Thank you for making it a priority for yourself, your family, your community and Queensland.

### Domestic and Family Violence, Coercive Control



**Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.10 am): On the weekend I had the pleasure of joining Sue and Lloyd Clarke to commemorate the second anniversary of the death of Hannah Clarke and her three beautiful children—Aaliyah, Laianah and Trey. Two years ago our community was changed by the loss of four innocent lives. I was honoured to join Sue and Lloyd along with frontline responders and supporters from their foundation, Small Steps 4 Hannah, to keep their memory alive.

Sue and Lloyd have used their tragedy to educate others on coercive control. That is why they were acknowledged as Queenslanders of the Year for their work. Coercive control is a dangerous form of domestic violence used to instil fear in victims. Perpetrators use tactics such as isolating a woman from her friends and family, tracking her movements and controlling her access to money, where she goes and what she wears. Fundamentally, this is about power and control and the belief that too many men have that they are entitled to this power.

It was the advocacy of Sue and Lloyd Clarke and other victim survivors that informed the work of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce and the government's commitment to criminalise it. However, the report is also clear that we cannot criminalise this behaviour until our systems and the community understand, identify and know how to respond to this form of abuse. It is complex. The task force is clear that moving to a criminal offence requires a staged approach. We must educate the community on what is coercive control. Sue and Lloyd have been using their story to help with this education. Partnering with Carolyn Robinson from Beyond DV, Sue has been talking to mothers and daughters to help them recognise the signs of a controlling relationship. Two years on, I want to thank Sue and Lloyd for creating a legacy for Hannah and her children and for helping us to keep other women and children safe.

### Whistleblower Protection



**Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.13 am): It has come to my attention that yesterday the Leader of the Opposition made a statement to the effect that he has been made aware of certain allegations and the people making those allegations are requesting protection as whistleblowers. For the benefit of the Leader of the Opposition and the House, I can confirm that such protections are already afforded under the Public Interest Disclosure Act. The act stipulates that.

... a Member of the Legislative Assembly to whom a public interest disclosure is made under section 14 may refer the disclosure to another public sector entity if the member considers the referral entity has power to investigate or remedy the conduct or other matter that is the subject of the disclosure.

The act goes on to state that 'the member has no role in investigating the disclosure'. It is clear that the Leader of the Opposition believes that these allegations warrant the further attention of an investigative body.


The Public Interest Disclosure Act includes serious consequences if there is reprisal action against a person who has made a public interest disclosure—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members to my left, the Attorney-General appears to be making a factual statement and I would ask that you listen to the statement as I wish to.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** The Public Interest Disclosure Act as well has protections against reckless disclosure of confidential information. Therefore, I urge the Leader of the Opposition to treat the allegations he claims to know about with the utmost importance and refer them to the CCC. The CCC is Queensland's standing royal commission. It has all the powers of a royal commission. Legal protections for whistleblowers exist under the Public Disclosure Act, introduced by a Labor government. There is absolutely no excuse for the Leader of the Opposition. He must show some integrity himself and he must act on any allegations he is aware of.

### Rail Infrastructure

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.15 am): What a great day to be a Queenslanders. Our record spend on roads and rail is growing as we futureproof our transport systems for a booming population. That is why today's \$1.1 billion Logan and Gold Coast faster rail commitment is so important. As the Premier said, there are more and more people moving to Queensland because it is the place to be. A considerable number of these southern migrants are calling the south-east home. New and long-term Queenslanders will benefit from the Logan and Gold Coast faster rail project.


As part of the project we will see five level crossings removed, making it safer and faster for Logan residents to move about. We will lay 20 kilometres of new track to get express trains through faster. We will also build 400 additional car parks. Nine stations around Logan will be completely upgraded, making them more accessible for Logan parents with prams, seniors and people with disability. We will build an active transport system along the whole corridor for Logan residents who ride, run and walk.

Today's \$1.121 billion commitment from the Palaszczuk Labor government is half of what is needed for this important project for population growth and also for the games. That is why we are calling on the federal government to match our commitment fifty-fifty. We want to deliver the best possible outcome for the booming population in Logan and the Gold Coast. At a total cost of almost \$2.6 billion, the project will create over 900 Queensland jobs.

Like the Cross River Rail project, the Logan and Gold Coast faster rail project will help drive Queensland's economic recovery from COVID-19. Just last week I visited Sunshine Coast fencing supply company Fencepac, which is helping us deliver Cross River Rail. Fencepac director Toby gave me a tour of their Maroochydore yard and told me about the 10 full-time workers they have employed to work on Cross River Rail who live on the Sunshine Coast. He also told me about the five apprentices who are currently involved in the major project, with two more coming on board soon. Being involved in Cross River Rail has been great for Fencepac and the other more than 1,500 Queensland suppliers and subcontractors who have benefited from the project to date. Just imagine the number of trainees, apprentices, suppliers, contractors and subcontractors Logan and Gold Coast faster rail could support around the Logan area. I look forward to seeing the federal government getting on board and catching the express train to a funding commitment for Logan, for the Gold Coast and for Queensland.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise the House that the reason for the slightly delayed start to question time is the number of Speaker's statements this morning. I wanted to ensure that time was not lost for ministerial statements.

### ABSENCE OF MINISTER

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.18 am): I advise that the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services will be absent from the House during this week's sitting due to illness. The Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities will take any questions relating to matters within the portfolios of the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services in question time this week.



## REPORT

### Office of the Leader of the Opposition



**Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.19 am): I lay upon the table of the House the report of expenses for the Office of the Leader of the Opposition for the period 1 July 2021 to 31 December 2021.

*Tabled paper:* Public Report of Office Expenses for the Office of the Leader of the Opposition for the period of 1 July 2021 to 31 December 2021 [\[164\]](#).

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**Mr SPEAKER:** Question time will conclude today at 11.20 am.

### Office of the Integrity Commissioner



**Mr CRISAFULLI** (10.19 am): My question is to the Premier. When was the director-general of Premier and Cabinet first made aware of the complaint from the Integrity Commissioner that a laptop was taken from her office and wiped, and when was the Premier advised?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for the question. My understanding is that those matters are with the CCC and I will not be commenting any further.

### Office of the Integrity Commissioner

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** My question is to the Premier. On 12 March last year it is reported that the Public Service Commissioner moved and wiped a laptop from the Office of the Integrity Commissioner. The Premier's official diary shows that she met with her director-general on the three consecutive days prior to this announcement. Is the Premier telling Queenslanders that her director-general did not know about the matter and did not brief her on any of these occasions?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I meet with my director-general most days. It is a common occurrence for the Premier of the state to talk about policy matters, unlike those opposite who did not value their public servants—they sacked 14,000. The opposition leader knows all about integrity when it comes to treating public servants in this state with complete and utter disdain. Those public servants still talk about it to this day. It is a bit rich for those opposite.

I will always treat public servants in this state with the utmost respect. I believe that is a hallmark of my government. That is why I think it is absolutely the right thing to do to have a review—which is healthy for any government—about culture, complaints and transparency in government, something that those opposite do not really understand. They do not understand those words. When it came to culture, there was a culture of sacking, there was a culture of intimidation and there was a culture of the worst kind of bullying I have ever been subjected to and members of my team were subjected to over the three years that the LNP were in government.

Every integrity reform that my government has introduced has been voted against by those opposite. My government introduced real-time disclosure laws. My government reduced the thresholds for political donations. We know that there are still matters before the ECQ about those opposite. They fought against developer donation bans.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 118 with respect to relevance. The question was about the Premier's diary, her meeting with the director-general, what was discussed at the meeting and the issues surrounding the Integrity Commissioner's laptop seizure—nothing to do with what the Premier is speaking about now.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, I understand that you have provided a direct response to the question. I would ask you to come back to the question as asked.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. As I said very clearly—and let me say it again—I meet with my director-general almost daily about a whole range of issues, unlike those opposite.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Members to my left, there is a convention in this place that when questions are asked usually people would like to hear the answer. I would like to hear the answer to the question as asked.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I will add this: on this side of the House we actually respect the institutions of this state. We respect that there is a CCC, which is a standing royal commission in this state.

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Unlike those opposite who come in here in the dead of night and sack the PCMC.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right and months later there was a Redcliffe by-election.

**Mr Dick:** What a great day that was!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** What a great member we have—an absolutely terrific member!

*(Time expired)*

### **Regional Queensland, Water Infrastructure**

**Mr SMITH:** My question is for the Premier. Will the Premier update the House on the government's commitment to investing in water infrastructure in regional Queensland?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** On this side of the House our government invests in water infrastructure—since coming to office over \$2 billion.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Member for Nanango—\$2 billion. I was absolutely delighted to be in Bundaberg recently with our excellent member up there.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Nanango!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** What a hardworking local member! They have a great mayor up there as well. We love working with the mayor and the member. Back to more important matters: my government committed \$600 million to rebuild Paradise Dam. We went to the dam site. It was a commitment we made during the election. On this side of the House we actually respect the independent inquiries where we had to lower the wall to make it safe for the community.

**Mr Lister** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The member for Southern Downs is getting his dam as well, so I do not know what he is complaining about.

**Mr Lister** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** You should be thanking me! Behind that mask is a cheeky smile; I know that. Then we called on the federal government to match the \$600 million but not before I think the member for Nanango and a couple of other members had some criticism about it in the town centre. I think it was three or four days later the federal minister for water announced \$600 million.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Nanango!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Not only are we investing in Bundaberg; we are investing in water infrastructure across the state. It was our government that built the Haughton pipeline and stage 2 because the federal government failed to come to the party. We have invested \$16.5 million for the business case to raise Burdekin Falls Dam, \$16.5 million to modernise an existing open channel irrigation scheme on the Atherton Tablelands, \$3 million to get Big Rocks Weir construction ready and a further \$27 million to start work on Big Rocks Weir. We are now consulting with locals on the proposed Toowoomba to Warwick pipeline—another commitment of this government. We are building the dams and we are investing in infrastructure and that means jobs, jobs and more jobs.

*(Time expired)*

### **Office of the Integrity Commissioner**

**Mr JANETZKI:** My question is to the Premier. Following the laptop's removal, the Premier met with her director-general on the two days immediately before she referred the Integrity Commissioner to the Economics and Governance Committee. Is the Premier telling Queenslanders her director-general did not mention a formal complaint made by the Integrity Commissioner concerning such a major development?

**Mr POWER:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The question made reference to a purported document that is before the committee and the rules of the committee under standing order 211. If the member wants to get a briefing, I am sure the deputy chair and I will give him a briefing about this matter.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Logan, I appreciate that you are raising this in your capacity as chair of a committee. In this particular circumstance it is relating to publicly available information that a matter has been referred, not the contents or the procedures or deliberations of the committee. Do you have another point of order?

**Mr POWER:** With respect, he made reference to the contents of the document that is purported to be before—

**Mr SPEAKER:** With respect, I have made a ruling. Premier, you have the call.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** This gives me a great opportunity to put some facts on the public record in this parliament. I have received some advice from the Solicitor-General that I can address in this House—

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Nanango, I have given you a fair shake this morning. You are warned under the standing orders.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:**—in relation to some issues that have been canvassed publicly. The matters I referred to the Economics and Governance Committee have been assessed as a public interest disclosure under the Public Interest Disclosure Act. The Public Interest Disclosure Act contains protections for whistleblowers to encourage disclosures of wrongdoing in the public sector. The protections provided by the act include confidentiality protections which extend to the identity, occupation and address of a person who makes the disclosure as well as the subject matter and details of the matters disclosed. Breaches of those confidentiality protections constitute offences which attract serious criminal consequences under the act.

When referring the matter to the Economics and Governance Committee I informed the committee that the matters had been assessed as a public interest disclosure under the Public Interest Disclosure Act. I have fully respected my obligations under the Public Interest Disclosure Act. For those reasons I cannot say any more about these matters; however, it is deeply concerning that the confidentiality protections provided for under the act have been compromised in this matter. I remind members that under schedule 5 of the standing orders of this House members should exercise care to avoid saying anything inside the House about a public interest disclosure to a member which (a) could lead to the unnecessary identification of persons who have made a public interest disclosure unless such persons have consented to the disclosure of their identity; (b) could cause unnecessary damage to any person's reputation—

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:**—if all allegations have been appropriately—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, there is a point of order. I would ask you to resume your seat, please.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Under standing order 118, relevance.

**Mr SPEAKER:** No.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Speaker, if I could be heard on my point of order?

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will allow you to continue, but I have a pretty fixed view.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** The question was about the Integrity Commissioner's complaint. The Premier is going into areas she was not even asked about.

**Mr SPEAKER:** No. I will ask you to resume your seat now. I will caution you, Manager of Opposition Business, in terms of frivolous points of order in this particular case. I know you have a particular role in the parliament, but the Premier was making a factual statement and I would assume that the opposition would like to hear the response. Premier, you have 52 seconds left. Do you have anything further to add?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I do, Mr Speaker: and (c), may jeopardise the investigation of a public interest disclosure by the appropriate entities.

### **Satellite Hospitals**

**Mr RUSSO:** My question is of the Premier and Minister for the Olympics. Will the Premier update the House on our satellite hospitals program?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for the question. On this side of the House we continue to talk about the things that matter to Queenslanders. That includes faster trains and better health care. It also includes getting health care closer to where people live. That is why I am proud that I went to the last election talking to Queenslanders about the seven satellite hospitals we are building. The member for Toohey knows very well how excited he is for his local community because a satellite hospital will be built on Levington Road, Eight Mile Plains. This is fantastic! It is halfway between the QEII and the Logan Hospital. It will provide a range of services to people living in the local area.

Our government is investing \$265 million on seven satellite hospitals in South-East Queensland. It will mean 773 jobs. I can now reveal that the sites have been chosen. As I stated, they are in Eight Mile Plains, Ripley, Tugun, Caboolture, Pine Rivers, Bribie Island and Redlands. On top of that, we are delivering a record \$22.2 billion Health budget. On this side of the House we know that investing in health care is great for families. When I talk to people across the regions and South-East Queensland, the first thing on their minds is COVID. That is the reality. I have addressed in this House the great job Queenslanders have done getting vaccinated. Now that we are moving to removing masks on 4 March, this is a prime opportunity for parents to get children vaccinated, especially in the five-to-11-year age group.

The next thing people talk to me about is the health care of their families, and that means the hospitals we are building for the future, especially in growth areas, but also the expansion of hospitals right across our state, including regional Queensland. Our satellite hospitals are the first of their kind in Australia, and I thank the Deputy Premier for putting that idea forward when he was health minister. This is once again taking our healthcare system out to be closer and more readily available to families across our state. You only have to contrast that with those opposite, who sacked over 4,000 healthcare staff. The commitment of my government since 2015 has been to restore frontline health services to make sure we are able to cater for the growth—

*(Time expired)*

### Office of the Integrity Commissioner

**Ms SIMPSON:** My question is to the Premier. Media reports suggest the Premier met with the director-general on the same day the McGrathNicol report—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I could not discern all of the voices—I have asked for silence—but I will warn the member for Mansfield. Please start your question again, member for Maroochydoore.

**Ms SIMPSON:** My question is to the Premier. Media reports suggest the Premier met with her director-general on the same day the McGrathNicol report was given to Rachel Hunter recommending that the laptop affair be investigated by the CCC. Is the Premier telling Queenslanders that the director-general did not tell her about the serious CCC matters?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** As I said in my opening ministerial statement, there are matters currently before the CCC and I will not be commenting on a CCC investigation. Nor should I. Let me remind those opposite that in this state we respect the processes.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** You do not.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Through the chair, Premier.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Those opposite do not. Those opposite have never respected the institutions of this state. Let me say to the Leader of the Opposition that today is an anniversary of a really interesting by-election in which those opposite ignored a member of their own team: Scott Driscoll.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I was told that it was an Easter egg hunt. We know what happened there, Mr Speaker. Let me also firmly put on the public record that there are robust institutions in this state, including the standing royal commission. As the Attorney-General said, if the Leader of the Opposition has any evidence he needs to refer it to the CCC. The CCC was put in place to conduct investigations, including the ethical conduct of public servants. That is the right place to refer it and it is the right place to investigate.

### Far North Queensland, Jobs

**Mr HEALY:** My question is of the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure. Can the Deputy Premier outline to the House what the Palaszczuk government is doing to create jobs in Far North Queensland, and is he aware of any alternative approaches?

**Dr MILES:** I thank the member for Cairns for his question. He knows how every member of this government is focused every single day on creating more jobs for Queenslanders, including in Cairns, because that is how you achieve a 4.4 per cent unemployment rate, that is how you create 17,000 jobs in one month and that is how you lead the nation in job creation—by making jobs for Queenslanders your No. 1 priority. That includes investing in big projects in the state's Far North, including the Cairns Marine Precinct. I was pleased to be there with the member for Cairns and Minister Crawford to release the business case for the Cairns Marine Precinct. We were there with Advance Cairns, and I think they said that was the fastest and best business case they had ever seen government do.

The Cairns Marine Precinct already supports 4,600 jobs across the region. It is already Northern Australia's major hub for the repair and maintenance of defence, commercial, tourism and recreational ships. We have a vision for it to grow even further. The business case was funded through our \$30 million election commitment to the Cairns Marine Precinct to allow it to grow further, and we have delivered on that commitment. The business case is a roadmap, a plan for how we can grow jobs there even further—in particular, through common user facilities that will allow Cairns businesses to support naval, Australian Border Force and commercial shipping and even superyachts. I know the member for Cairns is a true champion of superyachts. The ball is now in the Morrison government's court to support us to deliver on that plan.

On this side of the House, we believe in opening up waterfront opportunities to create jobs—while the Leader of the Opposition believes in quite the opposite. When he had a chance as deputy mayor in Townsville, the Townsville City Council used ratepayer funds to fence off part of the Ross River waterfront—the part that he lived in. The 11-metre fence was reported to provide him with exclusive, gated river frontage. They went on to make their own private riverfront oasis with a playhouse, a veggie garden and even a sandpit so he had somewhere to practise throwing his toys out of. For all the mud that he has thrown, there has not been one allegation of a benefit on this side of the House, while he has had a career of seeking his own personal benefits.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, I appreciate there was some provocation but I will ask you to withdraw some of those comments.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I withdraw.

### Office of the Integrity Commissioner

**Mr KRAUSE:** My question is to the Premier. Media reports suggest the CCC had dismissed allegations against the Integrity Commissioner before the Premier referred the same matter to the Economics and Governance Committee. Can the Premier confirm she was not aware of the CCC referral and outcome?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** As I said publicly, this matter is before the economics committee. I am not going to comment any further on the committee's deliberations, nor should I, and the parliamentary committee should be able to do their job. Secondly, as I have stated in this House very clearly, I acted on Solicitor-General's advice and today I have advised the House about the referral that was made under a public interest disclosure.

### Statutory Authorities, Funding

**Mr WHITING:** My question is to the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment. Will the Treasurer outline to the House how the Palaszczuk government provides ongoing support for the institutions that underpin accountable government in Queensland? Is the Treasurer aware of how previous governments have approached the funding of these institutions?

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for Bancroft for his question, and let us get some facts on the record. For the Crime and Corruption Commission, funding has increased by 25 per cent under the Palaszczuk Labor government. It has risen from \$51½ million in the last year of the Newman-Crisafulli

government to a record \$64.2 million in the current budget. Funding under our government has increased for the Queensland Ombudsman, funding has increased for the Information Commissioner, and funding has increased to support the office of the Queensland Integrity Commissioner.

Unlike the Leader of the Opposition, I did not have to go to a library to get a copy of the Fitzgerald report. I bought my copy of the Fitzgerald report more than 32 years ago. Some of us got on a bus and went into town and went to Goprint in George Street and bought a copy of that report when it was issued, and it was issued 33 years ago this July. The Fitzgerald report is one of the reasons that Labor backs integrity institutions in this state. We have proven it by increasing resources and increasing funding. This is in sharp contrast to the LNP, who cut 40 staff from the Crime and Misconduct Commission and was shaping up to cut another 30. It is in the LNP's DNA.

As the Fitzgerald report made clear, under Joh Bjelke-Petersen—a hero of so many of those members opposite—corruption was rife in this state. LNP ministers were on the take. The Police Commissioner, Terry Lewis, was hand-picked by Joh Bjelke-Petersen and was on the take. Even when the Nationals knew the jig was up and moved to depose their leader, Sir Joh was able to find two backbenchers so utterly craven that they were willing to accept ministerial commissions in his dying government—the member for Fassifern and the member for Cooroora. The Leader of the Opposition talks about those dark days like they happened in an alternative universe. Here is a memo to the Leader of the Opposition: it is your own party.

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

**Mr DICK:** And they showed it when they came into government. They nobbled and sacked the PCMC, they lifted donations thresholds and they kicked the opposition out of the parliament itself, and the Leader of the Opposition was one of the worst offenders. He went to Kingaroy and he threatened the people of Kingaroy. He said, 'You won't get a hospital until you sell your power station.' Today he is still at it, with his duked-up campaign of smear and innuendo. The Leader of the Opposition has over-egged it, the Leader of the Opposition has overcooked it, and the people of Queensland will never, ever accept the rubbish that he serves up.

### Office of the Integrity Commissioner

**Mr BLEIJIE:** My question is to the Premier. The Premier has advised that she learned of the March 2021 alleged laptop seizure in September 2021. In this six months, the Premier met with her director-general around 50 times and met with the Public Service Commissioner at least once. Is the Premier seriously suggesting and telling Queenslanders that she was not told about this raid or any of these matters in any of those meetings?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I would put my integrity against that of the member for Kawana any day of the week, because I have got a book here that I could refer to.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Put the document down, please.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I think everyone needs to remember that the member for Kawana was the Attorney-General during the Newman-Crisafulli years. He was the Attorney-General. First of all, there was the boot camp fiasco. Next there were the fights with the judiciary.

**Ms Fentiman:** And the Bar Association.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** And the Bar Association. Then there was an appointment of the Chief Justice, and I am not going to comment on that any further. Then we had the member for Kawana and the member for Mermaid Beach who concocted the sacking of the PCMC.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Standing order 118 is about relevance to the question. The question was very clear and it is nothing to do with what the Premier is speaking about now.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, under standing order 118(b), I ask you to return to the question as asked.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I addressed in my earlier ministerial statement that there are matters before the committee and there are matters before the CCC, and I will respect the committee process and I will respect the CCC in this state. Let me make it very clear that those opposite do not respect these institutions. I am very concerned that matters that have been referred to in the media have clearly come from the committee. These are very serious allegations and these are very serious issues.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Premier, can I please remind you that I have spoken regarding relevance to this particular question as asked. I ask you to come back to the question.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Let me say again: on this side of the House we respect our committee system and we respect the confidentiality that attaches to that committee system, unlike those opposite. The reason those opposite sacked the PCMC is they did not like the workings of the PCMC. They came in the middle of the night and did that. That is entirely relevant.

**Mr Crisafulli:** Have you heard of the term 'hubris'?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I respect the institutions of this state, unlike those opposite. The only hubris was in the Newman years. That was hubris. That was arrogance. That was an out-of-touch government. On this side of the House, we will continue to back Queenslanders and stand up for what Queenslanders want every single day of the week.

### Student Wellbeing Package

**Ms McMILLAN:** My question is of the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. Can the minister update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is delivering its game changing student wellbeing package election commitment and advise the House if there are any alternative approaches?

**Ms GRACE:** I thank the member for the question. I know she is very happy that Mount Gravatt East State School now has a psychologist as part of our \$100 million election commitment. When it comes to this side of the House, when we promise to do something under this Premier, we do it. That is all the integrity we need on this side of the House. When we say we are going to do something, we absolutely do it.

Every child deserves a world-class education and we are very proud that we want to create a supported, inclusive and welcoming environment in their school. I congratulate the member for Mansfield on her stance. We were very disappointed to hear about the discriminatory contract that Citipointe Christian College was telling students and parents that they needed to abide by in order to stay enrolled or they would be excluded or expelled from the school. I can say that the member for Mansfield stood up for her electorate and constituents and did a great job in bringing this to my attention. I then referred it to the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board and it is my understanding that they are now looking at this.

I welcome the school's decision, after a lot of public pressure and statements that we made publicly, to withdraw the contract, but it did cause unnecessary distress for students of the LGBTIQ-plus community. I welcome the principal's decision to step down and reflect on his role. I call on others who had an involvement in this to also consider their role going forward. It is interesting that we are at the time where we could have fixed this federally. There is a federal election in the air and we were unable to deliver it.

'There is no place in our education system for any form of discrimination against a student on the basis of their sexuality or gender identity.' That is a quote. It is not a quote from the member for Mansfield nor myself. That is a quote from a letter that the Prime Minister wrote to the Leader of the Opposition, Anthony Albanese. He was unable to deliver on his election promise, even though the Religious Discrimination Bill, at the core of the election commitment in 2018, is now on the shelf. What a debacle federally, letting down our most vulnerable students. At a time when they needed Australia to stand up, five members of the LNP—that is what you get from those opposite—crossed the floor because they could not support students from the LGBTIQ+ community. It is an absolute shame.

**Ms Fentiman** interjected.

**Ms GRACE:** I take the interjection from the Attorney-General that the member for Brisbane did not support those amendments with regards to gender identity.

The Palaszczuk government is getting on with the job. When we say we are going to do something, we deliver. No ICAC, no Religious Discrimination Bill, no protection for students—that is what you get from those opposite. We deliver on our election commitments.

*(Time expired)*

### Office of the Integrity Commissioner

**Mr MANDER:** My question is to the Premier. Why will the Premier not accept the advice of the Integrity Commissioner and give her and other whistleblowers the protection of a commission of inquiry?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** If the member for Everton had listened to the Attorney-General, he would know that there is whistleblower protection in this state. It exists. It was brought in by a Labor government. As I have said very clearly, Peter Coaldrake is doing a comprehensive review. In my ministerial statement earlier, I outlined the key areas that he will be looking at, including culture, transparency—

**Mr Mander:** Private emails.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Sorry?

**Mr Mander:** Private emails.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We are still waiting to see the member for Kawana's emails.

**Mr Dick:** Destruction of public records. Who did that? You did!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Treasurer!

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock! Member for Everton, I called the House to order. You are warned under the standing orders.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I have here a section of the Crime and Corruption Act which the member for Everton might want to have a look at. One of the purposes of the act is to continuously improve the integrity of and to reduce the incidence of corruption in the Public Service. Section 5 says very clearly—

The act's purposes are to be achieved primarily by establishing a permanent commission to be called the Crime and Corruption Commission.

On this side of the House, we back the independent corruption watchdog in the state. In fact, we fund the independent watchdog in this state.

**Mr Lister** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock! Member for Southern Downs, I have iterated to the House that comments should be made through the chair. You are warned under the standing orders. Members, I see through your masks. I know what you are saying.

**Ms Grace:** You're good.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Yes, I am.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Unlike those opposite, we do not hand-pick the chair of the anti-corruption watchdog in this state.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Oh, they remember that. Yes! Now it is coming back to the member for Kawana. Now it is coming back that you controlled the chair of the anti-corruption watchdog. The allegation was that the then chair went up to the premier's office. It is all there in documents. The chair went to the premier's office and the premier's media adviser told the chair that they had to write an article backing the attorney-general's bikie laws.

You want to talk about interference with the CCC, the member for Kawana, the member for Everton and the Leader of the Opposition were all part of the same show that trashed integrity in this state—absolutely trashed every ounce of integrity—and sought to destroy those institutions.

**Ms Fentiman** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I take the Attorney-General's interjection. Not one of them on that side will pick up the phone and call for a federal ICAC—not one!

*(Time expired)*

### Satellite Hospitals

**Mr MARTIN:** My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Can the minister update the House on how the satellite hospitals program benefits growing communities and any alternative approaches?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I thank the member for Stretton for the question. I know he understands the importance of investing in new models of care and delivering for our communities and is very proud of the health system that we have in this great state. I was very proud last week to accompany the Premier, the Deputy Premier, the Treasurer, the member for Toohey as the local member, the member for



Stretton and other hardworking local members to visit the site of the new Brisbane south satellite hospital at Eight Mile Plains. As the Premier has already stated, seven new satellite hospitals will be built. Construction will start later in the year and we hope to have all of these operational in late 2023. This model of care is really important. We know that to continue to improve our health care in this state we need to keep looking at and investing in new innovative ways of delivering care which includes taking the care closer to the community.

We know there are a lot of services that are run in our big tertiary hospitals that do not need to be located in those hospitals. This is expensive real estate that should be freed up for overnight beds and for elective and emergency surgery. We know there are services that we can take out of those hospitals and put into local communities where we have the largest population growth. That would free up space to increase the ward capacity. That is what we are doing with these seven satellite hospitals, an investment of \$265 million by the Palaszczuk government, which is such an exciting initiative—it is a nation-leading initiative—that the Premier and this government has committed to.

This infrastructure, of course, will also support jobs during the construction phase. It will support around 773 local construction jobs, with Hutchinson Builders being appointed the managing contractor. The great and innovative way we have procured this contract is having a single contractor looking after all seven satellite hospitals, which means we can build them quicker and more affordably and ensure we are delivering health care where it is needed: closest to the community.

The member asked me what are the alternatives. That is a short answer: there are not any. Those opposite are devoid of any ideas other than criticism when it comes to our health sector. All they do is attack our health system as opposed to genuine collaboration. If they want to collaborate, they can pick up the phone to Scott Morrison and tell him that they need to start investing in primary and allied health care and they need to fund states and territories at an appropriate level to ensure there is adequate funding for a sustainable health system in the future. The Morrison government is not committed to fifty-fifty funding and is not recognising the investment and the demand that exists in the states and territories. That is why every health minister has called on him to step up.

*(Time expired)*

### **Coronavirus, Restrictions**

**Ms BOLTON:** My question is to the Premier. With the Omicron peak reportedly passed, high vaccination rates, international visitors arriving, and masks and density mandates easing shortly, would the Premier advise at what point all Queenslanders will be allowed back into their cafes, restaurants and jobs, including essential workers, and what is Queensland's strategy to manage future waves and variants?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for that very comprehensive question. I might start with the latter part and work my way back. The member asked what are the strategies for any future waves or variants. I can advise the member that we are regularly updated at national cabinet about international best practice and what the Australian Chief Medical Officer is seeing in other parts of the world. I think that is the answer to the first part.

In answer to the second part, it is really important that people get their boosters, especially if they are in that vulnerable cohort. I thank Queenslanders because I asked elderly residents to stay at home during this wave. Once we get to 4 March I think it will be time for our seniors to come back out into the open. If they feel more comfortable wearing a mask in crowded settings, they should absolutely do that. People have done the right thing. They have gone out and gotten double vaccinated and they have gotten their boosters.

Thirdly, can I say I was attacked relentlessly for calling for children to be vaccinated, and now over 40 per cent of our five- to 11-year-olds are vaccinated. I thank the families who have written to me about how good they feel that their children are vaccinated. Now we have the opportunity to get more children vaccinated, especially before the mask mandate lifts on 4 March, because there will be no requirement to wear them in schools and the schools will be open. Visitors will be allowed back into schools as well. This is part of the new normal.

The member also raised issues about vaccination mandates. Vaccine mandates are still common practice in most parts of the world. We have said that we continually review our restrictions with the Chief Health Officer. There is a large number of Queenslanders who were waiting on Novavax. I pushed for this at national cabinet and the Novavax is now publicly available. I ask people to please—

**Mr Bleijie:** I got the AZ!

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** You are no Jimmy Rees!

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana, I want to make clear to the House there is no compulsion for any member to reveal their health data or health record to others.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We do review those easing of restrictions. Like I announced today, we had a cap on households of no more than 100 in your house. Now that will be removed on 4 March as well. We review those restrictions.

I thank Queenslanders. It has been a very tough journey over the last two years. Our whole life has been turned upside down. Hopefully, now we are on the path to a new normal and life can start to get back to normal business. The next time we meet we will not have to be wearing these masks.

### **Integrity in Government**

**Mr SULLIVAN:** My question is of the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. Can the minister update the House on the Palaszczuk government's strong history of improving integrity laws in government, and is she aware of alternative approaches?

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I thank the member for Stafford for his question. Of course, we take integrity and strengthening our laws incredibly seriously. We restored \$1,000 as the donation disclosure threshold, we have implemented real-time disclosures for donations, we have banned property developer donations and reintroduced expenditure caps after those opposite got rid of them, and those opposite voted against each and every one of these integrity reforms.

**A government member:** They went to the High Court.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** That is right. They did not just lose when taking us to the High Court; they had to repay the developer donations that they had already received and they referred their own leader at the time, the member for Nanango, to the ECQ.

Those opposite have been very quick to forget their own record on integrity. In the last few weeks we have seen the Leader of the Opposition parade out members of his shadow cabinet to talk on integrity, which I think is pretty ironic. First, we have the shadow minister for integrity, the member for Maroochydore, and at one point the Leader of the Opposition said she was qualified for that role because of how long she has spent in the House. That experience, though, includes the time when the member was the Speaker when she threw out the cameras so that media could not report on what the government was doing.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Ms SIMPSON:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The minister is deliberately misleading and is offensive in her contribution as there were always cameras connected with a DL link to all networks in Queensland.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, it is not an opportunity—

**Ms SIMPSON:** She does not tell the truth. There were cameras here.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Maroochydore, it is not an opportunity to argue the point when raising a point of order. However, I will ask that the Attorney-General ensure she is not reflecting on the Office of the Speaker in decisions that may have been made at some particular point in time.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** No, Mr Speaker and thank you. Then we have the ex-housing minister, the member for Everton, who spent his time as housing minister kicking grandmothers out of social housing. Not only that, he had to fit in some good old-fashioned sexist comments when it came to commenting on the fact that there were too many women on the Parole Board.

**Ms Bates** interjected.

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

**Ms FENTIMAN:** Shameful! Not only that, what about when he swore on a stack of Bibles that he did not abuse former member Kate Jones before admitting he did not realise he had said it. He is such a professional at belittling women that he does it unconsciously. This is the shadow cabinet that the Leader of the Opposition is rolling out.

Lastly, on Friday we finally got to see the member for Kawana, who is normally hidden away. Even he got a go last week. The member for Kawana, of course, is the former attorney-general who went to war with the judiciary and leaked confidential discussions with the president of the Court of Appeal and the Bar Association, and of course, senior figures in the profession lined up one after

another to denounce him as untrustworthy and unprincipled. That is not to mention he failed to disclose meetings with lobbyists, his affinity for awarding boot camp contracts with LNP donors and, as we have heard, sacking the PCMC in the middle of the night and even deleting his emails.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana there is no code.

### **North West Hospital and Health Service**

**Mr KATTER:** My question is to the Premier. Given that the integrity of her government relies on the freedom for public servants to provide frank and fearless advice without fear of repercussions, will the Premier ensure the Peter Coaldrake inquiry will examine the June 2021 sacking of the North West Hospital and Health Service Board following appeals for the government to plug a \$7 million shortfall in funding to ensure a commitment to integrity for the people of Queensland?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, I again caution you about long preambles. Please take that under advisement.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for the question. In relation to the Mount Isa health board, I understand that the health minister has an administrator currently working there and that there will be a new board established very shortly. Of course, Peter Coaldrake is allowed to look at any matter that he wants to in order to provide recommendations for any necessary changes.

Secondly, I say to the member that public servants absolutely should be able to give frank and fearless advice. I remember a former premier from the other side of the House who said that public servants had nothing to fear. We all know the devastating consequences of the LNP government not treating public servants very well. They sacked them, especially workers in regional Queensland. The member would be well aware of public servants in his area who lost their jobs and had to pack up and leave. This impacts schools and hospitals. It ricochets through the whole workforce and has a big impact on the local economy.

Let me reassure Queenslanders that I respect our Public Service. My director-general has written to every public servant to ensure they are familiar with the ways in which they can raise different issues—whether that be to their manager, to the Ombudsman or to the CCC. We have multiple avenues in place for public servants if they do want to pursue any course of complaint. I am more than happy to ask the health minister to give you an update on the Mount Isa health board.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Through the chair, Premier.

### **Northern Gold Coast, Training and Skills**

**Mrs McMAHON:** My question is of the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development. Will the minister please advise the House how the Palaszczuk government is investing in skills and training in the northern Gold Coast region?

**Ms FARMER:** I thank the member for her question. As the member knows, there is no greater supporter of skills and training than this Palaszczuk government. This is why we have invested a billion dollars this year alone in giving Queenslanders the skills they need for jobs now and in the future. We have invested more than \$225 million in training infrastructure since 2017.

Last week, the Minister for the Environment and I were at Coomera TAFE, turning the first sod on the latest facility, the \$11.8 million Marine Centre of Excellence. The member for Coomera was there. He loves what we are doing for TAFE. It is a nice change from when his lot were in government and they decimated TAFE. This will be an amazing facility. It will provide training opportunities for a booming industry. We have been so excited about turning the first sod.

This was supposed to occur two weeks ago. It is jointly funded by the federal government. Stuart Robert, the federal minister for skills, had to change at the last minute due to another commitment. It turned out to be the day the media was reporting that Scott Morrison was about to make a major skills announcement. I thought that Stuart Robert and Scott Morrison were going to make a major skills announcement and allocate lots of money for training in Queensland. You can imagine how disappointed I was when I realised that the big skills announcement was about Scott Morrison's skills at washing hair and in a target seat which was presumably to lift his women's vote! 'That's not too hard,' he said, while he was washing the poor person's hair. Thrilled as I was to finally see him holding a hose, it was really horrifying. As James Weir from news.com.au asked—

Remember when *Jaws* came out in the '70s and some moviegoers were too scared to go back into the ocean? I feel the same way about going back to the hairdresser.

Then, we saw Scott Morrison's welding stunt, with his mask up. Every TAFE instructor will play that clip to their students to illustrate how you can get permanent eye damage when you do not know what you are doing. It is the same bloke who wanted changes made to the age people can drive a forklift—the current age is 18. That was an idea to address skills shortages in Australia. Some \$3 billion has been ripped out of TAFE since this federal LNP has been in government. Skills shortage is a critical issue in Australia and skills and training are key to economic recovery. We do not need PR stunts; we need skills and training to be taken seriously. Federal Labor has made a \$1.2 billion skills announcement and we all know what is happening in Queensland. There has been a 62 per cent increase in apprenticeship commencements under our program. We need this issue taken seriously. Australians want Scott Morrison out of their hair. They need him 'perm-anently' gone.

### **Integrity in Government, Review**

**Mr HART:** My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier confirm that an email was sent from her director-general last night advising that PSC staff would be involved in the Coaldrake review but in less than 12 hours it has been overturned? How can Queenslanders have faith in the Premier's ability to handle integrity when her own integrity review is marred right from the start?

**Mrs D'ATH:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe that under standing order 115(b) the way this question has been framed is argumentative. The Manager of Opposition Business can laugh, but he should understand what is in the standing orders. Certainly, the language used in that question I say should be ruled out of order for being argumentative.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, Leader of the House. I will allow the question but I will give the Premier latitude in terms of her response.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for the question. As I said, we respect the institutions of this state, including parliament. My members turn up to parliament—unlike the member for Burleigh, who decided to have an overseas holiday and not turn up to parliament.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, I called the House to order. I expect that the House comes to order.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Then there was the little element of the brewery and a train line going near the brewery.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** No conflict of interest there! You might have needed a bit of integrity advice there, member! Let me say clearly in respect of the member's question that—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Do you want the answer?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Premier, on two fronts: first, you will direct your comments through the chair; and, second, I ask you to come back to the relevance of the question under standing order 118(b).

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I absolutely believe that Peter Coaldrake should be able to do this review completely independently. To that effect, no public servants will be seconded to that review. Peter Coaldrake has the capability to hire whomever he wants, whether that be someone with legal expertise or someone from universities. It is my clear expectation and resolve that not one public servant will be seconded to work on that. It needs to be absolutely independent, and that is my guarantee to the people of this state.

### **Road Safety, Investment**

**Mr HARPER:** My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Could the minister update the House on the Palaszczuk government's road safety investment?

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

**Mr BAILEY:** I thank the member for Thuringowa for his question. He is otherwise known as 'Mr Riverway Drive' and is getting things done in his electorate. Whether it be Townsville Ring Road or Riverway Drive, this man knows bitumen.

We are seeing a fantastic economic performance by this government. We have 4.4 per cent unemployment because we invest in roads and we invest in rail. Unemployment got up to 7.1 per cent under those opposite. We have a booming jobs market—376,000 jobs—because we invest. We do not cut—unlike the Newman government, in which the Leader of the Opposition was an acolyte of the premier of the time. We invest in jobs and we invest in roads.

I am very pleased to announce that we will be delivering more than \$200 million worth of road safety upgrades across Queensland. This funding boost will deliver 46 upgrades right across Queensland, including in many regional areas, as part of our economic plan for recovery from COVID. We will have workers delivering a \$19 million upgrade of the Elizabeth Avenue intersection in Clontarf. I am sure the member for Redcliffe will be very pleased to see that. She has lobbied hard for it. We will also be delivering a \$6 million upgrade to the Drynan Drive intersection in Calliope—a project that the member for Gladstone, the regional development minister, and the Gladstone mayor, Matt Burnett, have worked and campaigned hard for.

You would not know how much was going on if you looked at the federal government. The Morrison government ripped off Queensland in the last federal budget. We got \$1.6 billion for roads while South Australia, which has half the population, got double the investment, with \$3.2 billion. Victoria and New South Wales got \$3 billion. What does the Morrison government have against the Queensland government? They underfund us on infrastructure continually. It has been left to us to do things such as upgrade Cleveland Redland Bay Road. One hundred per cent of it was funded—\$110 million—by this government because we believe in roads and jobs.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr SPEAKER:** The time for question time has expired.

## MOTION

### Business Program




**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.21 am): I move—

1. That the following bills will be considered during this week's sitting:
  - (a) the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2), and
  - (b) the Appropriation Bill (No. 2)
2. That in accordance with standing order 172, the bills listed in 1. be considered as cognate bills for their remaining stages, with
  - i. separate questions being put in regard to the second readings;
  - ii. the consideration of the bills in detail together; and
  - iii. separate questions being put for the third readings and long titles.
3. The following time limit for the bills listed in 1. to apply:
  - (a) a maximum of five hours to complete all stages, at which time if not completed Mr Speaker:
    - i. shall call on a minister to table any explanatory notes to their circulated amendments, any statement of compatibility with human rights or any statement relating to an override declaration
    - ii. shall put all remaining questions necessary to pass the bill without further debate
    - iii. may interrupt non-specified business or debate on a bill or motion to complete the requirements of the motion
    - iv. will complete all stages required by this motion notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders.

In moving this motion, I note that this week we will hopefully be debating a number of bills, with only one which we seek to allot time for, and the time allotted is a maximum of five hours for the appropriation bills. Of course the appropriation bills are very important to this parliament and to the people of Queensland and I look forward to listening to those debates. In speaking briefly to the business program motion for this week, as we are only seeking to allocate a time for one particular debate, I say welcome back to everyone, including the Manager of Opposition Business, for the start of the 2022 sitting year. I know that he is going to enjoy the debates on the business program motion and the Business Committee meetings as he has in previous years. I ask that members support the motion.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Before I call the member for Kawana, I advise the following members that they are on warnings until at least lunchtime: the members for Mansfield, Nanango, Everton, Southern Downs, Mudgeeraba and Kawana.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.22 am): We start the year where we left in 2021 with respect to the Business Committee motion. Nothing has really changed over the Christmas period: what the government wants the government gets; there are no membership changes; I still have the most terrible experience at these Business Committee meetings, hence why I have started doing them by teleconference now.

As I have said, the meetings are such a waste of time for any of the members, including the opposition, and a waste of time for the government, because do members know what? I suspect that if I were a minister I would be wanting to spend more of my time administering business for Queenslanders rather than sitting around talking, as they just talk and talk and talk in the Business Committee meeting.

That said, I am a member of that committee and so will discharge the duties and obligations bestowed upon me by this honourable House. I will continue to do that. That does not mean that it is a committee that achieves anything, because basically what happens is Ms Bolton, the member for Noosa, and I get a text message before the Business Committee meeting which says what the government is going to do for the week, and then they ratify it with their numbers in the Business Committee meeting. I am not sure what sense of cooperation the Leader of the House gets out of it, but for basically five years I have never got any sense of cooperation out of the Business Committee meetings. I just keep getting continually bashed and losing all the votes that we have, including yesterday when I said—

**Ms Fentiman** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Do not feel sorry for me, Attorney-General. I am a big man; I can handle the Business Committee meeting myself when you have the professional thespian over there, the minister, Mark Bailey, dealing out what he deals out every day.

I thought the five hours was reasonable in terms of the appropriation bill debate and I look forward to the contributions on that this week; however, I think there are other important matters that we should be debating. I sought in a bipartisan manner from the Leader of the House to have half a day this week set aside to debate a separate motion calling for a royal commission into the integrity issues engulfing the state government. Unfortunately, I lost that debate as well. There was a moment of silence where I thought I had convinced the Leader of the House that we should debate a motion about integrity and setting up a royal commission, but unfortunately that did not take place.

The way I wanted the week to work is we have everything today, the private member's motion tomorrow night and then on Thursday—or if we need to stay here later, we can—we debate a good, solid separate motion calling for a royal commission into the integrity issues engulfing the state Palaszczuk Labor government. Unfortunately, that is not the case and we will not see that additional motion this week for a very important royal commission that no other inquiry, including the Coaldrake inquiry, will get to the bottom of. That is why the opposition and whistleblowers, including the Integrity Commissioner, who yesterday put out an extraordinary statement calling for a royal commission into Palaszczuk Labor government integrity—

**Mr BAILEY:** I rise to a point of order. The member is clearly straying from discussing the actual business agenda here. He is straying into matters that are extraneous. I ask that he come back to the matter at hand.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Thank you, Minister. Member for Kawana, I was listening to your alternative suggestion in terms of the order of business for the week. Please resume speaking about that and refrain from going into extraneous matters.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, and I take your guidance. I was putting the proposition afforded to us in terms of the opposite proposition to this motion. The fact is that I am only saying what happened in the meeting. I wanted this on the agenda for debate. In terms of the importance of a royal commission, the government does not seem to want to give the opposition or crossbench the additional time as requested. We will not be opposing—

**Mrs D'Ath:** I knew that was a trick.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Sorry? I will take the interjection if you say it again. I just did not hear.

**Mrs D'Ath:** I knew it was a stunt.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** A stunt? It was not a stunt. A royal commission into integrity is in search of the truth. It is not a stunt. Is the Leader of the House in making that interjection—and I thank her for repeating the interjection because I did not actually hear it the first time, but I thank her now because I can take it—seriously suggesting that the media statement issued by the chief integrity officer yesterday was merely a stunt? Is that what the Leader of the House is saying—that Dr Stepanov did a stunt yesterday?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I rise to a point of order. The member is verballing me. I did not make that allegation and he should withdraw.


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

**Mrs D'ATH:** He should withdraw. I take personal offence and he should withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Leader of the House. Member for Kawana, the Leader of the House has taken offence. Will you withdraw?


**Mr BLEIJIE:** I withdraw. I intended to speak only briefly on this subject matter today and support the government's motion for the five hours of appropriation debate, but all of the interruptions and the interjections have forced me to wind down the clock, which I do not like doing in this place because we do want to get on to the important matters of business. That is why we want more time this week to talk about the integrity matters today. Mr Deputy Speaker, this morning you saw the Premier just basically wiping all of this off—'Oh, it's subject to the CCC', 'It's before a committee', 'It's before everything', 'It's before the Coaldrake review'. Nothing will stop these issues in this government until we have a proper royal commission.

*(Time expired)*

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (11.28 am): I am not going to speak for very long. How the Business Committee meeting goes and how the member for Kawana depicts it are usually two extraordinarily different things. It was very amicable yesterday and the business motion is appropriate. We are looking at appropriations, we are looking at the health bill and we are looking at the small business bill. Once again, the member for Kawana wastes the time of this chamber making silly points and trying to go right off the Business Committee agenda and talk about things that he would prefer to say that are against the standing orders. He wastes time every single session. Everyone, including most of his own side, are bored by his silly routine. The business program motion deserves to be supported. It is logical.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY:** Those on that side protesteth too much and I know that there are many members over there who are absolutely bored and left cold by the silly antics of the member for Kawana. His bad acting is pretty transparent.

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.29 am): I start by saying that I did hear the mild 'Moby' insult from the member for Miller during question time. I have gone away to have a look. I think I ought to be personally insulted, but I do not think Moby will ever catch on like mangocube, Minister. I am happy to be called Moby.

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I claim to be misrepresented. It was a compliment.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): There is no point of order.

**Mrs D'ATH:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I would ask that you remind members to refer to members by their proper title.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you for your assistance, Leader of the House. There has only been 18 seconds gone so I will take that as a reminder to members.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I am sure the member took no personal offence, as I did not. I do want to spend some time, unlike the member for Kawana, who ended up winding the clock down anyway, to reflect on a couple of things in relation to this motion. Outside the House we see the integrity inferno rage. The Integrity Commissioner, the former state archivist, Whitton and Dickie—and even Peter Beattie is back—are talking about integrity. We will be pursuing those integrity issues all week.

Inside this House this motion is emblematic of the integrity and honesty challenges that this government fails every sitting week. Every sitting week over the last five years, as I have said and the member for Kawana has said repeatedly, whether it be the family-friendly hours, which disadvantages regional members of parliament to be able to get home to their electorates, whether it be the curtailing of private members' statements before question time that we saw years ago, whether it is the constant guillotining of consideration in detail—

**Mrs D'ATH:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This motion is about the program that has been put forward to the House this week, not to re-prosecute procedural motions around standing orders for how the House deals with matters. I ask that he be brought back to the substance of the motion.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Deputy Leader of the Opposition is referring to the motion specifically and what could or could not be in there. I consider it relevant. Deputy Leader of the Opposition, please resume.

**Mr JANETZKI:** Again from the Leader of the House we see every tactic to try to shut down our time for debate in this House. This motion remains vitally important with the integrity inferno raging outside the House with all the independent whistleblowers—

**Mr Bailey:** You're wasting time now.

**Mr JANETZKI:** And those opposite will hear more about it this week.

**Mr Bailey:** You're wasting a lot of time right now.

**Mr JANETZKI:** Member for Miller, you will hear a lot more about integrity issues this week, but in this motion I want to make it clear that this side of the House continues to be offended by the lack of integrity, honesty and accountability in the House in relation to bills under debate.

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The deputy leader is clearly misusing this business program motion to make extraneous points, just as the member for Kawana did. He is using exactly the same tactics. It is a matter for debate about the business of parliament this week. It is a silly tactic. It is against standing orders.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** It is a relevance point of order, I assume, Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Deputy Leader of the Opposition, could you keep your comments to the proposed business resolution and any alternatives that you would like to see in there which are relevant to the debate.

**Mr JANETZKI:** Thank you, because I did want to turn to the *Notice Paper* next.

**Mrs D'ATH:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In relation to alternatives, they have to be put forward as amendments, not simply by arguing and speculating on what they could be debating this week.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe the Leader of the House has deliberately reflected on your ruling given 10 seconds ago and I ask that you consider that.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I will take some advice. Leader of the House, I will caution you about reflecting on rulings by the chair in relation to any standing order and in particular in relation to the ruling I just made in relation to relevance. Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I encourage you to please remain relevant to the motion before the House. I am sure you can do it.

**Mr JANETZKI:** With pleasure, Mr Deputy Speaker. I now would like to turn to the *Notice Paper* and the bills that could have been debated this week. All summer the *Notice Paper* had rested on the website. I had a bit of a look. It was quite clear that there were a couple of bills that would have been debated this week. In the *Notice Paper* that stood over the summer the first bill was the Police Legislation (Efficiencies and Effectiveness) Amendment Bill and then the fourth bill on the *Notice Paper* was the Child Protection Reform and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. When the revised *Notice Paper* came out last night, those bills had been pushed to No. 5 and No. 6 on the *Notice Paper*. I would have thought that given the events of the last three months across Queensland we would have wanted to be debating a bill relating to the police. I would have thought we would have wanted to be debating a bill relating to child protection. In my travels over the last month or two we have seen time and again a crime issue right across Queensland. From Cairns to Coolangatta our communities are calling out for the crime crisis to be addressed.

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I again draw the attention of the chamber to the fact that the member is using the business item to make extraneous broader points against the government. This is not the time and place to do it under the standing orders. It is a deliberate flouting of the standing orders by both himself and, previously, the member for Kawana.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Deputy Leader of the Opposition is obviously speaking against the motion, and in that respect he has a wide ambit in speaking against the business program motion. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition is being relevant, and I would ask him to remain relevant to the motion.

**Mr JANETZKI:** Another bill that this House should be debating this week, the bill that was No. 4 on the *Notice Paper* all summer but now it has dropped to No. 6 and will not be debated this week and ought to be, is about child protection. I will not be silenced in this House when it comes time to talk about children who have died in my electorate. I came here this week expecting the Child Protection Reform and Other Legislation Amendment Bill to be debated in the House. Then I see the business program motion come out and the child protection bill is now at No. 6. We will not now be debating this child protection bill. Over the last six weeks we have seen the deaths of Elizabeth Rose Struhs and Jaylen Priest, young children who died under the child protection system in this state. We could have discussed protection and reforms in the Child Protection Reform and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I can think of no greater cause than the protection of our children.



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

**AYES, 49:**

**ALP, 49**—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Madden, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Power, Richards, Russo, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

**NOES, 33:**

**LNP, 32**—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Camm, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir.


**PHON, 1**—Andrew.

Pairs: Pugh, Nicholls; Ryan, Crandon.

Resolved in the affirmative.

## PUBLIC HEALTH AND OTHER LEGISLATION (EXTENSION OF EXPIRING PROVISIONS) AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (11.43 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Acts Interpretation Act 1954, the Corrective Services Act 2006, the Corrective Services and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2020, the COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020, the Disaster Management Act 2003, the Justice and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Amendment Act 2020, the Mental Health Act 2016, the Public Health Act 2005, the Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Act 2021 and the Public Health and Other Legislation (Public Health Emergency) Amendment Act 2020 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Community Support and Services Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2022 [\[165\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2022, explanatory notes [\[166\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[167\]](#).

I am pleased to present this bill for an act to extend provisions required to support the public health response until the COVID-19 public health legislation expiry day, defined as the day on which the COVID-19 emergency is ended by the minister under the Public Health Act 2005, or 31 October 2022, whichever is earlier. I think we had all hoped that at this point in 2022 COVID would be over but the reality is that, as we can see globally, nationally and here in Queensland, it certainly is not over yet. The measures to be extended in this bill include: the public health COVID-19 measures under the Public Health Act; measures to respond to the risks of COVID-19 in corrective services facilities under the Corrective Services Act 2006; disaster arrangements under the Disaster Management Act 2003; measures to allow patients subject to the Mental Health Act 2016 to be granted leave to comply with public health directions; and a range of other measures. The bill also provides for most of the remaining other COVID-19 measures to expire on 30 April 2022 unless a different expiry date has already been set by earlier amending legislation.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been complex and unpredictable, presenting significant challenges across the globe for the past two years. Since COVID-19 was first detected, there have been over 400 million COVID-19 cases and nearly six million deaths reported globally. Since the start of the pandemic, Queenslanders put their trust in our Premier and Chief Health Officer to keep us safe from COVID-19. Due to the early and decisive action by the Palaszczuk government, Queensland's swift and adaptive public health response was highly successful in containing community transmission, providing the opportunity to reach high vaccination coverage across Queensland and ultimately saving lives.

Since late 2021, Queensland has been easing restrictions and moving away from an elimination approach to a suppression strategy and toward eventually living with COVID-19. Under Queensland's COVID-19 Vaccine Plan to Unite Families, over 90 per cent of Queenslanders are now fully vaccinated. We have reopened Queensland's domestic and international borders, with no quarantine requirements for vaccinated persons. Also, contact tracing requirements have reduced and businesses are once again operating at full capacity.

While the easing of restrictions has been welcomed by many, the recent Omicron wave has shown we must remain vigilant as COVID-19 can spread rapidly and unpredictably, with the potential to significantly impact hospital systems, the economy and the community. Our response to the Omicron wave is a testament to the careful planning and decisive action taken by our Chief Health Officer, clinicians, emergency officers, public health specialists, environmental health scientists and the broader health system. If not for the ability to issue directions, the Chief Health Officer would not have had the power to implement strategies such as requiring masks in high-risk settings and requiring unvaccinated travellers entering Queensland to quarantine. Those strategies have helped to slow the transmission of COVID-19 and the Omicron variant, limiting the impact on Queensland's health system through this peak period of transmission.

The pandemic continues to be unpredictable. We do not yet know whether new variants may emerge, particularly now that international borders are open. We do not yet know what the impacts will be in the winter months, particularly if it coincides with flu season. Queensland Health is also anticipating several more waves of COVID-19 in coming months, with the potential for waves consisting of multiple variants. It is critical that the ability to use flexible and rapid public health responses is retained so that, as normal social and economic activity resume, appropriate public health measures can be put in place if needed to address ongoing public health risks, the latest health advice and protect the health system.

For these reasons, the bill extends essential measures to support Queensland's public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic beyond their current expiry date of 30 April 2022. The bill will extend most temporary public health measures by six months to 31 October 2022 or until I, in my role as Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, declare the end of the public health emergency under the Public Health Act 2005 if this is earlier than 31 October 2022.

The bill will continue the amendments to the Public Health Act giving emergency powers to the Chief Health Officer and emergency officers to make directions to limit and respond to the spread of COVID-19 in Queensland. These amendments allow for the Chief Health Officer to give public health directions that ensure masks are worn in places where you cannot physically distance, that people isolate when they contract COVID-19 and that our vulnerable populations in hospitals, aged care and disability accommodation are best protected. These powers have been critical to the success of the Palaszczuk government's health response so far.

In addition, the bill will continue amendments to health and other portfolio legislation to support Queensland's essential public health response to COVID-19, including continuing: measures to respond to the risks of COVID-19 in corrective services facilities under the Corrective Services Act 2006; disaster arrangements under the Disaster Management Act 2003; and measures to allow patients subject to the Mental Health Act 2016 to be granted leave to comply with public health directions. If and when I am satisfied that the temporary COVID-19 legislative powers are no longer necessary to prevent or minimise serious adverse effects on human health, I am required to end the declared public health emergency under the Public Health Act. Should this occur, all temporary COVID-19 measures will cease except transitional arrangements.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to ensuring only those measures that are necessary to support Queensland's public health response to the COVID-19 emergency are extended. For this reason the bill does not extend most of the extraordinary measures put in place under the COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020. These temporary and extraordinary powers were enacted to support the functioning of businesses and government institutions disrupted or impacted by COVID-19 and allowed requirements across legislation to be temporarily modified. This included, for example, permitting attendance at some judicial proceedings, body corporate meetings, public administration or other processes by video or phone conference rather than physical attendance.

As Queensland transitions towards living with COVID-19, there is no longer a compelling need for continuing these extraordinary measures. Pleasingly, some of these temporary measures have proven to be transformative for business and individuals during the pandemic and have been made permanent in other recent bills.

While most of the COVID-19 measures not directly related to the public health response will expire on 30 April 2022 or another day enacted through earlier amending acts, the bill continues a very limited number of savings and transitional provisions in the COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020. This includes continuing provisions that support the operation of the temporary Queensland Small Business Commissioner. The Small Business Commissioner Bill 2021, which is currently before the House, proposes to permanently establish the Office of the Small Business Commissioner. It is appropriate that the office continue temporarily until such time as the Small Business Commissioner Bill is debated.

The Retail Shop Leases and Other Commercial Leases (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Regulation 2020, which provides for matters related to retail and commercial leases affected by the COVID-19 emergency, has already been extended until 30 April 2024. The bill does not change this extended operation. The bill also continues necessary validation provisions for certain regulations made under the modification framework and extends the transitional regulation-making power to facilitate the return to normal operations once COVID-19 measures expire.

In closing, I am proud of the role the Palaszczuk government has played in responding to the most recent wave of Omicron, particularly as borders reopened. We will be able to handle any challenge COVID-19 presents us in the future so long as we continue to have sufficient legislative powers to do so. Together, we are learning to live with the risks of COVID-19 in a safe and adaptive way. I want to acknowledge Dr John Gerrard, who took the reins as Chief Health Officer in December 2021 so seamlessly and continues to lead Queensland through the challenges of the recent Omicron wave.

I also want to acknowledge our frontline staff—our health workers, our paramedics, our police, our border workers and all of those working in retail or other service delivery who have worked so hard to make Queensland's response to COVID-19 the success that it has been. We know that their jobs have been difficult. I also want to thank the Queensland community for doing their part by physical distancing, wearing masks, getting vaccinated, staying home when unwell and all the other practices we do to minimise the risk of transmission. It is through everyone's efforts that we have been able to recover more quickly than other parts of the world which have endured lengthy lockdowns on multiple occasions.

The pandemic is not over yet. We must remain vigilant and respond quickly to risks as they emerge. We must have confidence that our community will remain safe and that there are sufficient resources and capacity to manage all arrangements in place. The extension of the public health measures required to support Queensland's response to the COVID-19 pandemic will help us do just that. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (11.54 am):  
I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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


Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

### Referral to Community Support and Services Committee

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Community Support and Services Committee.

### Declared Urgent; Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (11.55 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That under the provisions of standing order 137 the Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill be declared an urgent bill and the Community Support and Services Committee report to the House on the bill by 25 March 2022.

I do so on the basis that, noting that the current bill lapses on 30 April and with the sitting weeks that are in the calendar for this year, it would be necessary to meet that time frame and ensure that these important powers do not lapse to have the bill debated by that date.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL (NO. 2)

### APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 2)

Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) resumed from 15 September 2021 (see p. 2670) and Appropriation Bill (No. 2) resumed from 15 September 2021 (see p. 2672).

## Second Reading (Cognate Debate)



**Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (11.56 am): I move—

That the bills be now read a second time.

Queensland has led the nation's recovery out of COVID-19. Our strong economic recovery has been built on a strong health response. That health response has allowed our economy to stay open until Queenslanders had sufficient access to vaccinations. The results speak for themselves. Last week's labour force data showed that, without Queensland jobs, Australia would have gone backwards in January. Another 17,400 Queenslanders found work in January, defying expectations of a decrease due to Omicron. Among the states, only Queensland and Western Australia recorded increases in employment in the month.

Since COVID reached Queensland, our state has created 124,300 jobs—more than any other state or territory. Nearly half of all jobs created since the start of the pandemic have been created in Queensland. Altogether, the Palaszczuk government has created 376,800 jobs since we were first elected seven years ago. That is 1,000 jobs a week, on average, even through the worst pandemic in a century. The unemployment rate fell to 4.4 per cent in January, its lowest level since December 2008. Queensland recorded the largest fall in the unemployment rate among all states and territories. At the same time, Queensland recorded the second-largest increase in participation in the country. Thanks to our pandemic response, more people have the confidence to seek and find work in Queensland.

Throughout COVID, Queensland has enjoyed the strongest population growth in Australia. We are welcoming more interstate migrants than any other jurisdiction. More than 31,000 people moved to Queensland in 2020, and 85,000 interstate migrants are expected to arrive in Queensland before June 2024. With the reopening of international borders this week, our population will only grow further. Our government is responding to that with our \$50 billion infrastructure guarantee providing Queenslanders with the hospitals, schools, police stations, fire stations, ambulance stations and community facilities that they rightly expect.

Queensland's economy is growing. Our state recorded an annual economic growth rate of 6.1 per cent, well above Australia's 3.9 per cent GDP growth. All the engines of Queensland's economy are firing. Consumers have the confidence to spend. The latest Westpac-Melbourne Institute Consumer Sentiment Survey puts our confidence above that of any other state. Queenslanders are acting on this confidence by supporting our retailers. Retail spending is now 17 per cent higher than it was before COVID. Altogether, household consumption in Queensland grew by nearly three per cent over the past 12 months, 1.5 times faster than the rest of Australia.

Businesses are bouncing back, too. The authoritative NAB business survey shows that business conditions in January were higher in Queensland than in any other state except Western Australia. Businesses have the confidence to build and to buy new machinery and equipment. Business investment in the latest quarter increased by 4.9 per cent, six times faster than the rest of Australia.

While Australia's borders have just been reopened to the movement of people, Queensland's borders have been progressively reopened to the movement of trade throughout 2021. Our exporters recorded a bumper year, with the value of exports increasing by a whopping \$16.5 billion last year. The value of Queensland's exports rose across the board—from beef to beans, from coal to copper. Our export success has been built on our government's hard work in opening new markets and bringing Queensland to the rest of the world. We look forward to continuing to support the private sector in this important role.

Our government has provided a record level of support to all parts of Queensland's economy throughout COVID-19. Our \$14.5 billion commitment has included: \$2 billion for the Queensland Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund to support industry and drive job creation; \$1.2 billion for the initial Queensland Health response to expand fever clinics, emergency department capacity, acute care services and regional aeromedical services for remote communities; a \$1 billion industry support package to support large businesses to scale back up when economic activity improves; a \$1 billion business support package, including payroll tax relief, relief for businesses renting government premises, waivers of liquor licensing fees, and \$500 electricity bill rebates for eligible sole traders and small businesses; a \$1 billion jobs support loan facility, with loans of up to \$250,000 to support businesses to keep Queenslanders in work; \$861 million for an additional COVID-19 health response, including mandatory quarantine; a \$500 million worker assistance package; \$320 million for the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program; and \$200 million to extend the Works for Queensland program from 2024-25, bringing the total program funding to \$1 billion.

We made JobKeeper payroll tax free, unlike the federal government which continued to apply income tax. We took responsibility for the delivery of federal initiatives like HomeBuilder, alongside our own \$5,000 regional home building boost and the ongoing \$15,000 First Home Owners' Grant. These initiatives not only supported construction jobs but also helped Queensland's household lending, dwelling approvals and dwelling starts to grow faster than the national average.

In the second half of 2021, our government, jointly with the Australian government, announced our \$600 million COVID-19 Business Support Grants program, supporting more than 40,000 Queensland businesses. Within this, \$80 million in tourism and hospitality sector hardship grants have supported more than 3,000 businesses. We have also committed \$2.1 billion over the forward estimates to support our response to COVID-19. These commitments ensure the budget has the prudent buffers required to protect and grow our state's economy.

Our government's timely and precise health response not only saved lives but also spared Queensland from the worst impacts of prolonged lockdowns seen in other states and around the world. Likewise, our government's timely, targeted and proportionate fiscal response has helped our state to avoid a recession. The first COVID-19 budget forecast a budget year deficit of \$8.6 billion—the largest deficit in recent history. By the second COVID-19 budget, that estimated deficit had fallen to \$3.8 billion, as our economic support took effect and Queensland's economy was cushioned from COVID-19. Last December, at the budget update, I was pleased to report that the final outcome for the 2020-21 financial year was a deficit of \$937 million—barely more than one-tenth of Treasury's original forecast.

Facing the worst pandemic in a century, our government provided the largest support package in Queensland's postwar history. Our economy avoided a recession and our budget is now forecasting a surplus within the next four years. Because our economic support was timely and targeted, our budget has emerged in a stronger position than almost anywhere else in Australia, or indeed the world. It is the efficiency and acquittal of this spending that is the subject of the bills before the House today.

I thank the Economics and Governance Committee for its report tabled on 1 November 2021 regarding the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) 2021 and the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2021. I acknowledge the presence in the House of the chair, the member for Logan, and thank him for his important work on this bill.

**Mr Stevens:** And the deputy chair.

**Mr DICK:** I again thank the chair for his important work. I acknowledge all members of the committee, including, on some occasions, the deputy chair. I also thank those who appeared as witnesses as part of the committee's inquiry. I note that the committee made two recommendations to parliament—that both bills be passed.

The purpose of the bills is to provide for supplementary appropriation for unforeseen expenditure that occurred in the 2020-21 financial year. Unforeseen expenditure is the term used to describe payments from the Consolidated Fund to a department which are above the amounts approved in prior appropriation acts. For example, a department may need additional appropriation to respond to emergent issues or implement government policy, or there may be a change in the timing of Commonwealth payments or project delivery. Therefore, unforeseen expenditure is not necessarily the same as a departmental overspend. Furthermore, the bills are only concerned with unforeseen expenditure for 2020-21. Some agencies may have underspends, which are not considered in this process.

Section 35 of the Financial Accountability Act 2009 provides that should expenditure from the Consolidated Fund exceed the amount approved by annual appropriation, the Governor in Council, on the recommendation of the Treasurer, may authorise the expenditure. This amount comprises unforeseen expenditure and must be approved by the Governor in Council within four weeks of the end of the financial year.

I am pleased to report that this year's unforeseen expenditure is less than half the amount of unforeseen expenditure incurred in the 2019-20 financial year; is just 0.74 per cent of total appropriations, which is less than half the average of the past decade; and is less than the peak of unforeseen expenditure under the LNP of 0.94 per cent of appropriations, reached in 2013-14. On 15 July 2021, the Governor in Council authorised unforeseen expenditure incurred during the 2020-21 financial year of \$449,251,000.

The Consolidated Fund Financial Report contains explanations of all unforeseen expenditure incurred by departments and this informs parliament's understanding and debate of the bills. Pursuant to sections 23 and 24 of the Financial Accountability Act, the Consolidated Fund Financial Report must

be audited by the Auditor-General by 30 September and tabled in parliament within two weeks of this date. The Consolidated Fund Financial Report was certified by the Auditor-General on 27 August 2021 and tabled on the same day.

The payment of this unforeseen expenditure is also to be formally authorised under an act of parliament in accordance with section 66 of the Constitution of Queensland 2001. Parliamentary approval for the unforeseen expenditure is now being sought, which comprises \$1,795,000 for the Legislative Assembly and \$447,456,000 incurred by six other departments.

Firstly, the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) 2021 seeks parliamentary approval of supplementary appropriation for unforeseen expenditure in the 2020-21 financial year of \$1,795,000. The unforeseen expenditure incurred by the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service was primarily due to additional funding of departmental services for costs associated with the 2020 state election and additional funding to support service delivery pressures.

The Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2021 will provide supplementary appropriation for unforeseen expenditure incurred by six departments in the 2020-21 financial year of \$447,456,000. The majority, 87.8 per cent, of the unforeseen expenditure arises from three departments. The Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs had unforeseen expenditure of \$114,247,000. This was primarily due to additional funding for the increased demand for out-of-home care services in the child protection system and timing adjustments to the proceeds of sale relating to the Children's Court building. The Department of Justice and Attorney-General had unforeseen expenditure of \$188,940,000, primarily related to additional funding to meet the state's share of the Queensland flood class action settlement in 2020-21. Queensland Fire and Emergency Services had unforeseen expenditure of \$91,179,000. This was primarily for the COVID-19 response for quarantine accommodation costs, logistics and border control activities, additional firefighters and aerial firefighting costs.

The unforeseen expenditure of \$449,251,000 represents 0.74 per cent of the 2020-21 budgeted appropriation. This proportion of unforeseen expenditure in 2020-21 is lower than the proportion of unforeseen expenditure in 2019-20 which was 1.92 per cent. After netting the unforeseen expenditure and lapsed appropriations, total appropriation in 2020-21 was \$983,551,000 less than previously budgeted. These bills continue to demonstrate this government's diligent approach to the state budget, alongside a range of initiatives to support economic growth, businesses and jobs.

I reiterate my thanks to the committee members and secretariat for their hard work in considering this bill. I commend the bills to the House.



**Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (12.09 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2021, which provides for supplementary appropriation for various departments for unforeseen expenditure that occurred in the 2021 financial year, and the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) 2021, which provides for supplementary appropriation for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service for unforeseen expenditure that occurred in the 2021 financial year. The opposition will not be opposing the bills. I note that there were no submissions to the committee's consideration of the bills.

Supplementary appropriation is necessary where expenditure from the Consolidated Fund for a department rises beyond the amount approved for that department as annual appropriation at budget time. Such supplementary appropriation is authorised by the Governor in Council on authorisation of the Treasurer to be made in advance of appropriation. I note that the total unforeseen expenditure incurred by the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service was near \$1.8 million, which the Treasurer has advised was primarily for the running of the election during the pandemic.

I turn to the Treasurer's seeking of authorisation to pay nearly \$448 million from the Consolidated Fund for six departments as stated in the financial year starting 1 July 2020. I will be returning to those six departments a little later on in my contribution. The bill is seven pages in length but really it is only about four pages. Still it is one of the most important bills that this parliament will debate. This is the people's opportunity, through us as parliamentarians, to scrutinise the allocation of the public's money expended by the government of the day. It is the public's money. We are here to ensure that every dollar is spent in the highest and best cause in the service of the people and businesses from whom it is appropriated.

Today we are talking about nearly half a billion dollars. Firstly, it is worth noting that all the Treasurer had to do was control expenditure for seven months, not even a whole year—just seven months—but even that ended up being a bridge too far with nearly half a billion dollars. Of course one

only need examine the government's track record on unforeseen expenditure and budget mismanagement to know this could hardly be considered a surprise. Let us look at Labor's recent unforeseen expenditure figures totalling \$1.1 billion in 2019-20, \$1.4 billion in 2018-19, \$500 million in 2017-18 and \$2.27 billion in 2016-17. What a far cry from the LNP government's unforeseen expenditure figures of \$63 million in 2012-13 or \$12 million in 2014-15.

Indeed, the fact that these supplementary appropriation bills are being considered so shortly after the end of the financial year, although I note we have waited five months since the committee's deliberations were handed down for debate, is in fact a result of the financial accountability measures introduced during the last term of the LNP government. Previously, then treasurer Andrew Fraser combined the supplementary appropriation with the annual appropriation bills introduced on budget day. That practice resulted in lengthy delays in accountability between when the expenditure was incurred and when it was approved by the parliament. For example, the Appropriation Bill for the 2011-12 budget year included unforeseen expenditure from the 2009-10 budget year. That is at least a year's delay from the end of the financial year and parliamentary scrutiny of unforeseen expenditure for that particular year.

The opposition has made integrity in government a priority. During the budget last year I announced our policy of a new parliamentary budget office in government. This office will provide an independent, nonpartisan economic and financial outlook six weeks before the commencement of each election campaign. It will also produce an intergenerational report that sets out a long-term strategy for Queensland.

**Mr POWER:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I ask the member to come back to the appropriation bill and be relevant to the bill.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Bush): As I hear it, he is remaining within the realms of the bill.

**Mr JANETZKI:** This office will provide an independent, nonpartisan economic and financial outlook six weeks before the commencement of an election campaign and it will produce an intergenerational report that sets out a long-term—

**Ms PEASE:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Could you ask the member to come back to the long title of the bill? From what I am hearing, he is debating some fantasy, quite frankly.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Toowoomba South, I ask you to come back to the supplementary appropriation.

**Mr JANETZKI:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I would argue that, given the wide remit of the Treasurer and they being appropriation bills, this is entirely in keeping—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Toowoomba South, I have directed you to come back to the long title of the bill.

**Mr JANETZKI:** When it comes to the appropriation of public funds, accountability matters. Those opposite may not want to hear the accountability measures that a future Liberal National government would introduce in terms of financial accountability. They may not want to hear it but I swear that after the last six weeks they have all had—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr JANETZKI:** Look at them all! After the last six weeks they have all had with the integrity crises raging across the government, we will not be silenced by raising integrity in the financial reporting of this state.

**Government members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, members on my right!

**Mr JANETZKI:** We will not be silenced when it comes to the financial integrity reporting measures we will introduce into this state. Those opposite betray their guilt through their interjections. We will not resile from bringing accountability into the financial reporting in this state.

When it comes to the appropriation of public funds, accountability matters. That is a view shared by Queensland's independent public servants. Last year the Auditor-General made a clear recommendation that at the very least the state's financial statements should have been disclosed to the Queensland people before the 2020 election. In New South Wales and Victoria, their finalised financial statements are released by the middle of October every year. In Queensland, it could be up to six or seven months post the end of the financial year.

A second recommendation made by the Auditor-General at that time—and repeated again in December—was that financial statements ought to be produced for the Queensland Future Fund. This is the fund into which the Treasurer placed the ambitiously valued titles office. The Treasurer has on both occasions dismissed these calls through his chief bureaucrat, denying them on the grounds that the fund is not an entity of itself but a financial instrument and thus does not warrant financial statements. We have a fund which can receive, spend and invest money but we cannot know how much, when or where.

With a straight face the Treasurer is recording a financial benefit from the corporatisation of the Titles Registry—kind of like a privatisation but not really. To keep this in perspective, in 2017 New South Wales privatised its Titles Registry for \$2.6 billion and Victoria in 2018 for \$2.85 billion. In Queensland, the registry was transferred to the Debt Retirement Fund but with a valuation of \$7.8 billion, which was a remarkable lift from the initial estimated \$4 billion. The government then uses this valuation to offset its net debt.

**Mr Stevens:** Shame! Absolute shame!

**Mr JANETZKI:** Thank you, member for Mermaid Beach. This is coming from the party that sold all of the assets without any warning either. I want to stay on point, because the valuation of the Titles Registry is the key point of the Appropriation Bill following the budget last June, which flows through to this Appropriation Bill today. I want to unpack it a little bit and back up the committee deputy chair's deep-seated views as well.

Firstly, the Treasurer confirmed at estimates last year that a large portion of the valuation was due to a taxation power unique to government which could not possibly occur should the registry actually be privatised. A valuation must be an amount for which an entity can reasonably be sold. We will see in the fullness of time whether the Treasurer is potentially offending longstanding government accounting principles. I note that an ABS public sector unit classification in July last year said—

When classifying a unit for official statistics the ABS looks beyond legal status and focuses on the economic substance behind the nature of an entity.

My call on the budget last year was that it was a budget without principles, and I have seen no reason to change that view. Pretending to have privatised the Titles Registry when it has not and then refusing to release full financial statements for the funds which own it is a disgrace, and the Treasurer knows it. As I have said, this side of the House will continue to pursue the government for a failure of financial integrity in the accounting of this state and for its true positioning of the budget for the future.

I could not spend all my contribution speaking about various accounting principles, the nature of the budget and how the Treasurer has positioned it without reflecting on whether the government in fact has any budget strategy whatsoever. We have a Treasurer who comes in and parrots figures, but does he have an understanding and does he have the heart for the job? Does he have the ticker for it?

When I look back to December, the Treasurer proved himself to be 'as bad as Trad'. There were nine taxes introduced up to that point under the Palaszczuk government, most of them attacking the wealth-creating property industry, and then in December the Treasurer decided to introduce a 10th tax in MYFER. We have a record of the Treasurer saying in this place, 'There will be no new taxes,' and, 'There will be no increased taxes,' time and time again, and finally we have the Treasurer breaking his promise and launching a 10th tax. We now have 10 new taxes since the Palaszczuk government was voted in to government in 2015. During the media conference the Treasurer held after introducing this 10th new tax—

**Ms Grace:** It's the same old dead horse!

**Mr JANETZKI:** Which the member for McConnell has been voting for. She is quite happy to continue to tax the people of Queensland. This is what we saw from the Treasurer during his press conference. I will just read the transcript. A journalist challenged the Treasurer and said, 'You're pocketing hundreds of millions of dollars from transfer duty. You're benefiting from the housing boom. Your forecasts are saying inflation is going to outstrip wages growth. Do you feel at least a little bit bad for people doing it tough in these housing affordability conditions?' We would have thought the Treasurer would show some empathy in relation to housing affordability challenges. There are record low rental vacancy rates right across Queensland, a \$2.9 billion government fund for social housing but only a one per cent increase in total social housing bedrooms in the last five years. We would have expected the Treasurer to have some empathy, some understanding of the challenges.

The journalist asked, 'Do you feel at least a little bit bad for people doing it tough in these housing affordability conditions?' What did the Treasurer say? 'No, not at all.' I submit that the Treasurer is woefully out of touch with the lived experience of Queenslanders. He would not have the faintest clue about how an economy should work for everyone. No matter where you are, it should be working for



the people who are deeply concerned about housing affordability right now in Queensland. There are people on the public housing waiting list who have been waiting years, with the waiting lists only blowing out ever and ever further. We would expect the Treasurer to have some empathy for those Queenslanders who are doing it tough, but he does not.

Returning to the lack of a budget strategy, apart from new taxes the other thing that the government has been strong on has been trickery and deceit. I have gone through some of those accounting-without-principles concepts already in my contribution, but I do want to make a few comments on their lack of a budget strategy because right from the very beginning—let's be clear—raiding public servants' superannuation and long service leave is not a budget strategy. Operating government-controlled entities as an ATM is not a budget strategy. Slashing infrastructure spending by \$4 billion over the forwards is not a budget strategy. Misleading the people of Queensland by taking a \$4 billion debt promise to an election and then presenting a figure seven times as great immediately after it is not a budget strategy. Abandoning your fiscal principles by blowing out the debt to \$130 billion over the forwards is not a budget strategy.

It is certainly not a budget strategy to abolish independent statutory bodies like the Productivity Commission and then demand that it reports to you. It is also not a budget strategy to: oversee backlog road maintenance, \$6 billion and growing; allow budget blowouts of the Gold Coast Light Rail stage 3, \$334 million; the Coomera Connector, \$600 million; Cross River Rail, heading towards \$2 billion by our best estimates; let alone, can I say, Paradise Dam, which now looks like it will cost the Australian taxpayer \$1.2 billion to fix this Labor government's shoddy management of.

I want to turn to some of the six departments that have had unforeseen expenditure: Department of Justice and Attorney-General, unforeseen expenditure of \$188 million due to Queensland floods class action settlement payments; Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water, nearly \$29 million for timing adjustments; and Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, nearly \$53 million for financial grant payments and adjustments. The two that caught my eye were Queensland Fire and Emergency Services for \$91 million and the Queensland Police Service for nearly \$10 million. They were both due to COVID related matters.

I just want to spend a moment on the unforeseen expenditure across those two departments and the management of the border process last year—this will probably be the last opportunity I get to raise this issue in terms of an appropriation—and some of the challenges and heartbreaking stories this government seemed oblivious to. People were trapped across the border and our hardworking public servants, whether they be QFES or Queensland police, were put to work in those situations. I again want to comment on the Minz family from the Toowoomba region, who were unnecessarily stuck across the border for four months on the grounds of incorrect Queensland Health advice and a government that continually showed no compassion. I want to reflect on the appropriations with respect to those two departments.


The other department I want to raise is the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs for \$114 million. That was assigned to be unforeseen expenditure because of increases in out-of-home care, and I want to comment on out-of-home care. Across my region, out-of-home care continues to grow quite worryingly. We have had a 22 per cent increase in kids living away from home in the last five years. We now have 2,300 people across my region who are living away from home.

I acknowledge the hard work of so many in the sector. In one instance, which I have spoken about in the media, I have a five-year-old and a seven-year-old who have been to over 30 homes already in their lives. They are five and seven years old. That is 30 different families, 30 different house rules and 30 different routines for these children. I want to make a plea to the government. With \$114 million in unforeseen expenditure for this department and a growing problem across my region with 2,300 kids now living away from home, which is a 22 per cent increase in the last five years, it is time for this government to sort out the child safety system and the children living away from home. We cannot have our most precious and vulnerable children in this situation. We cannot have a five-year-old and a seven-year-old in out-of-home care in 30 different homes. We cannot have a situation where our vulnerable and precious children are dying.

My challenge to child safety is with this appropriation we need to be doing everything we can. We need to make sure this money is being spent in the best way possible. That is a big responsibility on the minister and this government, and they must do it better. The opposition would be more comfortable with these supplementary appropriations if we knew it would be put to the best service delivery, but we have no confidence whatsoever that government money—no, it is taxpayer money; the money that the government appropriates from the taxpayer of Queensland—is being spent for the best

service of the Queensland people. It is time that this government remembered that government money is not their money; it is taxpayer money, and it should be spent on the best frontline services we can have in Queensland and the government are failing in it.

After three terms now—we are well into our third term of this government—this government continues to fail in its duty to provide an economy that works for everyone. This third term government is now failing in its duty to report honestly and with integrity on the true state of the Queensland budget in our financial statements. Most miserably, this government is failing in its obligation to deliver services—whether it be health, housing, infrastructure, youth justice or child safety. I put it to the House that it is Queenslanders who are paying for it.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (12.33 pm): I rise to speak on the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) and the Appropriation Bill (No. 2). We have new secretariat staff, but I wish to thank the outgoing secretariat staff who did a great job. I hope the temporary one will do a good job too. I also wish to thank the committee members.

Members of the House can probably see from the report that our deliberations are always done in a good spirit with full and frank discussion, and of course we respect standing order 211—that is, the confidentiality of proceedings before the House. I want to thank all members of the committee, but especially the deputy chair and the opposition members of the committee, because they deeply respect section 211—apart from a singular unforeseen breach. They deeply respect those provisions that are so important to the workings and the standing orders of this House. That goes to the integrity of this House. However, that is not shown in some of those on the opposition front bench who do not respect the integrity measures in the committee.

I return to the bill. I have talked through the substance of constructing this bill and the integrity displayed by many members. We have to deal with the unforeseen expenditure. We just heard the member for Toowoomba South—with his new look—try to mischaracterise the nature of unforeseen expenditure. He said that any government that had unforeseen expenditure obviously has problems with its budgeting. What he did not point out was that the federal government is responsible for around 50 per cent of Queensland's more than \$60 billion revenue base. Every year within the unforeseen expenditure of Appropriation Bill (No. 2) there are always payments from the Commonwealth that were anticipated to be paid in a previous year that are brought forward to this year or payments that are anticipated to be paid in a following year that are brought forward to the year that we are discussing. That means we have to present them in this bill.

Unfortunately, the member's misguided attack was an attack on the Commonwealth government, with their changes in payment schedules. What were we supposed to do? Is the member for Toowoomba South seriously suggesting that we were supposed to hold back these Commonwealth payments—many of which we support and have great value? The members for Townsville and Mundingburra are here. Was the Townsville channel upgrade project—which is being managed by TMR—supposed to be cut? Is that what the member for Toowoomba South was suggesting? Either he is suggesting that or he has no understanding that many of these unforeseen expenditure funds actually come through from the Commonwealth.

We had Community Health and Hospitals Program funding that came through. It was not originally budgeted for the Commonwealth to come through in this period but it has. We think that is a good project and we want to pass it on. We want to see Queenslanders getting this into action, and we know we act as a pass on. The member for Toowoomba South either does not understand this or is attempting to mislead the House in the way we understand this bill—both of which are disappointing.

What about the North Queensland Restocking, Replanting and On-Farm Infrastructure Grants? There are others in there as well. There are a variety of Commonwealth programs that were not anticipated by the Commonwealth and we had not been told would be budgeted in that year, but they are there. It is deeply disappointing that the member for Toowoomba South would attack the federal government in this way. There are plenty of things he should attack the federal government for, but passing on funding in this financial year and the Queensland government getting it out where it can do some good is not something he should be attacking the federal government for. I can give him a list later that he can work from.

We have seen that the steady and secure funding of our state and our services has led to a stable and strong economy. We know that there is really strong economic growth. We have heard that our Queensland economy grew by 6.1 per cent, in a time when Australia's economic growth was healthy but not nearly as healthy as Queensland at 3.9 per cent. I want to think about what that really means. The Treasurer spoke about Google mobility data, and that is really important. What is really important is that we can see that on the ground in Logan. At the North MacLean BP, we can see Trent and Matt

who run a great business there. They see that industry and movement has picked up, but they know other BP owners and other truck stops in different parts of Australia where it is much more anaemic—where they are having to fight harder. That is why we back businesses like that.

We see that household consumption grew by 2.9 per cent in the latest quarter, and that is 1½ times the rest of Australia. We can see that that is on the ground. I want to talk about a great business, which the member for Jordan knows about. This great business is the Sorbello's cafe in the Pub Lane shops. It is a Gloria Jean's and it is a fantastic small business.

**Ms Grace:** We were there.

**Mr POWER:** I have to say this as an aside. The education minister opened a fantastic new school, which I am going to get to, and afterwards I entreated all of the journalists to come up and get a coffee at Sorbello's.

**Dr Rowan:** I heard that.

**Mr POWER:** You heard that at the press conference? The minister came up. Unfortunately, Vito was not there but he is a great bloke and it is a great business. I might ask the minister later whether she ended up getting a pot plant because they have fantastic pot plants.

**Mr Watts:** What line in the bill is this?

**Mr POWER:** This is about economic activity. This is what the LNP do not care about. They do not care about small businesses benefitting from the economic growth that is happening with great increases in household consumption.

We want to especially focus on jobs. I cannot see that the supplementary expenditure has been there to back up jobs in Queensland. We have added more jobs than any other state or territory since March 2020 with 124,300 more Queenslanders in jobs today. That is more than there were pre COVID. Our government has seen the addition in total, in the time we have been in government, of 376,000 since 2015. That is more than 1,000 jobs every week.

We have also dropped the unemployment rate to 4.4 per cent, the lowest rate since December 2018. I want you to think what that actually means. When we talk about the graduates of Park Ridge State High School or the fantastic Parklands Christian College that I talked about with the group before, their graduates are going into a more buoyant job market. They are getting the right start in life. They are getting into a job and they have a future. We see that increasing economic strength.

I want to also talk about something which is really important for Logan which is dwelling commencements. They are 40 per cent higher than they were under COVID. Think about that. There are 40 per cent more young families going out and getting into a new house. It has grown by 91 per cent in the last 12 months because of the strong backing of this government's budgeting and economics, and that is much faster than the national average.

A lot of the rest of the country is dragged down by the Morrison effect. We have tried to keep the Morrison effect at bay as much as possible, and we have seen the results: a more than 91 per cent increase and faster than the national average. That means young families are moving into Logan. Some of them are coming from Sydney, from Victoria and from South Australia, and there are probably a few from Perth as well. They are coming here because they see we are a government that backs young families and we are a state that is growing jobs because we have a strong and stable economy.

How many of the interstate migrants are coming into Queensland? It is more than any other jurisdiction. They see the strength of this supplementary appropriation bill and that is what attracts them. A total of 31,000 people moved into Queensland in 2020. I know that a lot of them are moving into Logan. They are moving in with their skills, their fantastic families, their ideas and their energy. They want to be great Queenslanders and they want to make a great contribution to our state. We are ready for them. This is what I wanted to say to the minister: we are building the schools to back them up. We are making an investment firstly in the jobs which are constructing the schools. The Everleigh State School that the minister and the Premier attended is a fantastic new service.

The Minister would be thinking that surely—I do not know if you looked back—the LNP must have built some schools in Logan during their time. They built no new schools at all in this growing area—not one.

The member for Toowoomba South spoke about strategy in budgets. I know we have a strategy: it is to make a stronger Queensland, to have better jobs in Queensland, and to have greater growth in Queensland. There is one strategy, though, that is alternative and that is the strategy of the LNP. We know what it is. It is easy. It is only three words. Their strategy is to cut, to sack and to sell off. That is what they stood for and that is what they are about.



**Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (12.42 pm): Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak on the appropriation bill today. We are aware that this bill recognises expenditures required to fill the government's programs that have not been budgeted for in the previous years. It is about a net figure of just under half a billion dollars—\$449 million, as I recall. Basically that half a billion dollars is going on the bill for taxpayers, the debt that they will owe to the state for many years to come. When we left government, the forward estimates were around \$72 billion back in 2015. In 2022, we are now up to \$130 billion, as the opposition spokesperson said earlier in his speech. Basically, there is no way that this government will be able to repay that \$130 billion of debt.

One of the ways that they may contemplate—and I have some documents here to show that they have contemplated it previously—is the sale of Queensland assets. I will just run through some of the Labor government sales of Queensland assets. We have the Queensland Motorways for \$3 billion; Abbot Point port, \$1.8 billion; QR National, \$4 billion; Port of Brisbane, \$2.1 billion; Forestry Plantations, \$600 million; Cairns and Mackay airports, \$738 million; Brisbane Airport, \$289 million; wind assets, \$460 million, and the list goes on. This is the body that keeps talking to the LNP about selling assets. Unfortunately, they are the pot calling the kettle black because they are the ones that have sold these assets to Queensland and it still does not ameliorate the \$130 billion of debt. They have used the COVID excuse to get another \$30 billion worth of credit in order to run off and spend that as well, two-thirds of which is being spent on recurrent expenditure to keep the lights on in Queensland.

As far as I am aware, there is only one qualified economist and accountant in this House who is a politician, and that would be me. I am absolutely flabbergasted how, in May of last year, the Treasurer came into this House with his 'debt reduction bill' which valued the titles office at around \$4.2 billion. That figure, as I recall, meant a nine per cent reduction in the debt ratio which I am sure the Treasurer was advised early in the piece by the ratings agency would save them from a ratings downgrade. Hello! We got to the actual budget for 2021-22 about four to six weeks later and guess what? The Treasurer came back with a brand new valuation of \$7.5 billion. He is a miracle worker. It is just amazing how you can get these figures from these unproven sources. He would not table the documents that he based his valuation on. Where in the world of integrity can we say, 'This is worth \$7.5 billion,' without backing it up with the documents to prove that it was worth \$7.5 billion?

How does it bring integrity to the Treasurer's office when he—and I am not going to say 'fraudulent'—fudges the figures for the budget to save this government from an economic downgrade? The last treasurer to receive an economic downgrade was former treasurer Andrew Fraser in the Bligh government. Shortly after that downgrade they were lifted from office, as everyone would recall. A downgrade was not possible for this government; it would have been very embarrassing.

We see this other expenditure on the credit cards to try to save those figures. To me, the shameful way that this valuation of the titles office was done to protect the government from a ratings agency downgrade is the height of hypocrisy when it comes to integrity in this parliament. It is the biggest cover-up. As we know there are lies, more lies and statistics. I think it was Mark Twain or somebody of that ilk who came up with that great little comment.


The bottom line is: if the Treasurer has any credibility at all as a treasurer, he will table those documents—and the Auditor-General has supported the proof of those figures. That will tell us how he arrived at that incredible figure for the valuation of the titles office, which is still owned and run by the government and will be for the next 150-odd years. We need to see the facts and figures to maintain some integrity of the financial position of Queenslanders and the amount of debt each and every one of them carries.

The extra \$30 billion that came through on the back of COVID that was needed for COVID expenditure was just another excuse to grab more borrowings—more money—to keep the lights on in Queensland. The investment in infrastructure—a third of that money—is absolutely embarrassing. That is why we hear ad nauseam in this House about the begging bowl being taken to the federal government, 'Give me more money please.' It is funny that they make no mention of the alternative to Scott Morrison. I think his name is Albanese. That rings a bell. Unfortunately, no-one on that side of the House is out there in the community promoting Albo's capacity to be the next Prime Minister. That will be the end of royalties coming in from coal, which is keeping this government alive. If Albo is able to shut down all the coalmines, that will be the end of the royalties that keep funding the prolific spending in this budget.

This particular appropriation identifies the programs that were necessary. We had the COVID issues, the fire-fighting issues and there were the new programs, which the opposition Treasurer spoke about, in relation to child safety and child care, which we all care about. Obviously these matters just go on top of the bill that Queenslanders have to pay in terms of debt. It is a sad day that no-one in the

media reflects on the debt that is growing, and it is now growing federally as well. We would not have that beautiful 4.4 per cent unemployment figure if the federal government had not tipped in up to a trillion dollars in payments to keep the economy and businesses going.

Compared to New South Wales this particular government had a paucity of small business and employment support and relaxations—all those sorts of minor issues that the government came up with. That was nothing compared to what the federal government did to save the Queensland economy's bacon and to keep people employed and being funded. In May we will see what the Australian people think about the cries of the Queensland government for more money from the federal government. As we all know, Queensland is a wonderful place.

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (12.52 pm): I rise to speak to the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) 2021 and Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2021. Can I say how thrilled I am to be delivering my first ever second Appropriation Bill speech. As a new member of the Economics and Governance Committee, this is the first time I have had the chance to be briefed by Treasury officials about the Consolidated Fund Financial Report. Who knew that delivering a budget and a budget speech would not be the end of it? I would like to place on record my apologies to my university economics professors for a teenage Mel telling them some 30-odd years ago, 'I'll never need to know this.'

I had to educate myself on how this tail end of the budget in terms of economics works. Obviously we all passed a budget last year. We all sat around till late in the night. We gave our speeches, the parliament approved it and allocated funds. However, obviously as events throughout the year play out, there are unforeseen expenses and the government provided in-principle approval for the release of money from the Consolidated Fund. However, as a matter of transparency and accountability, we sit here to formally approve this unforeseen expenditure.

Let me tell honourable members about the Consolidated Fund Financial Report. This is the good stuff. For the purposes of this bill, the Consolidated Fund Financial Report provides an explanation from each government department about the variations to the original Appropriation Bill. This amount may be more; it may be more depending on the range of circumstances. Where the amount is more than has been allocated by the Appropriation Bill, it is considered unforeseen expenditure. Where the amount is less than allocated, it is considered a lapsed appropriation. I hope my 16-year-old self is following.

The briefing from Queensland Treasury outlined that the lapsed appropriations relevant to this bill across 17 government departments are approximately \$1.432 billion. This may seem like a large amount, but it is not that the money was not wanted or needed by the departments. Treasury explained to the committee during the hearing process that often it is because the money for whatever reason cannot go out the door in the relevant financial year, so it is held over to the next financial year. It is not that it is not spent, just that it could not be spent by 30 June.

One would assume the reasons for such delays during a pandemic, as anyone who has tried to get any work done would know, are fairly self-explanatory. I would point out to the assembled members that that amount is the second lowest lapsed amount in the past decade and it actually represents only about 2.35 per cent of the total budget. I congratulate all departments on the successful budgeting and foreshadowing of their expenses. As the Consolidated Fund Financial Report refers to unforeseen expenditure, I will briefly explain to the House where some of the overspends were in the past year as they were reported in principle to the committee.

The department with the largest unforeseen expenditure was the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. We were advised that the majority of this amount was to meet the state's role and involvement in the Queensland floods class action settlement during the 2021 period. The Queensland government takes its responsibilities to Queenslanders in this instance seriously. The next largest was in relation to the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs, and its unforeseen expenditure was due to increased demand for out-of-home care services in the child protection system. This government is committed to ensuring that our most vulnerable young Queenslanders are taken care of, particularly during this pandemic.

It should be no surprise to members assembled that the next highest overspend was in relation to COVID costs incurred by the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and the Queensland Police Service. As the lead administering agency in disaster management, QFES incurred most of the cost of quarantine services. We would like to have been on the other side of the pandemic by this time, but obviously no-one here has a crystal ball. These quarantine costs have continued and the Queensland government has had to pick up the chalice where our federal government has failed us. The Queensland Police Service had to continue to deliver COVID compliance measures during this time when we really thought we would be on the other side of this pandemic.

I would like to thank all those members of the Queensland Police Service who stood on the front line, whether it was at the borders, at our airports or going around ensuring compliance because that really was ensuring the safety of Queenslanders during this pandemic. It was a lot of their work, whether they were on the border, in the airports or working in hotel quarantine, that did incur costs, but it did so to make sure that Queenslanders were safe.

Most of the rest of the unforeseen expenditure outlined to the committee pertained to machinery-of-government costs incurred during the changeover of portfolios. The appropriations total as at the end of June 2021 for the Parliamentary Service was an unforeseen expenditure of \$1.795 million. It was outlined to the committee that the reason for this overspend related in part to the costs of running the 2020 state election during the pandemic. It is noted that the committee found that the bill contained no breaches of fundamental legislative principles and there is no statement of reservation for this bill.

**Mr Power:** That's because it's great.


**Mrs McMAHON:** I take that interjection. It is a fantastic bill. I thank the committee members and the secretariat for their work. The committee recommended that this bill be passed. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mrs McMahon, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 12.59 pm to 2.00 pm.

## MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

### Palaszczuk Labor Government, Integrity

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): This government has trashed transparency. This government has trashed integrity. This government has trashed accountability. Today, we saw the Premier adding a few more walls to the integrity bunker that she is hiding in, refusing to answer questions. First, it was a committee that she has a deep understanding of—but no-one else understands why that is relevant. Then, it was the CCC investigations that for some reason she has an understanding of. Now, she is putting up rushed advice from the Solicitor-General as another wall. I ask: who is the Premier hiding from? Is she hiding from the truth? Is she hiding from the lengthening list of whistleblowers? Is she hiding from Queenslanders? Is she hiding from her own Labor MPs, who are whispering to the media, walking the hallways of this place and saying behind her back that she is losing control? All the old concocted PR tricks of the 30 media spinners do not cut it anymore. After seven years in power, integrity does not matter to her anymore.

Today, clear evidence in the Premier's diary has been laid bare. Her director-general knew about the raid and yet, despite briefing the Premier on over 50 occasions, the Premier seriously expects Queenslanders to believe that she was never told about the trashing of our democracy until she read it in the media—that she was never told what was really on the laptop. We now only have two conclusions: in her third term, either the Premier's inner sanctum no longer trusts her or she is up to her eyeballs in the greatest hit job on the Integrity Commissioner we have seen.

When I go around the state listening to Queenslanders, they tell me that trust in government matters to them. Trust is ringing for an ambulance and knowing it will be there in your hour of need. Trust is knowing that when you are sick, there is a hospital bed for you. Trust is not blaming another level of government because you have not built any new hospitals. Trust is knowing you can go to bed at night and not wake up and see a stranger rummaging through your possessions. Trust is not having a revolving door of a youth justice system that signals to out-of-control kids that they can thumb their nose at the law—a system that has consequences for repeat action. Trust is knowing that when police nab a young thief who has gone astray our systems will provide the support to get the child back on track.

Trust is knowing that the government has a plan to deal with rising population growth. Trust is not leaving commuters stuck on the side of the road, because the government cannot deliver a project on time and on budget. Trust is disclosing NAPLAN results so that parents can understand how their school is performing. Trust is not hiding data about asbestos in schools. Trust is planning and delivering new water infrastructure to expand agriculture, not replacing what you messed up in the first place. Trust is being able to ensure every Queenslanders can have a roof over their head. Trust is not leaving tens of thousands on a housing waiting list while the government dithers. Trust is not ignoring overcrowding issues in First Nations communities that contribute to greater social disadvantage.

Trust is meeting your environmental targets and protecting special areas for future generations. Trust is not delivering press releases about targets that you are never going to meet. Trust is making sure that every child is safe. Those 53 children known to Child Safety who died last financial year—we broke their trust. The issue of trust in government is now more important than at any time in over three decades. The best way to maintain trust is to act with integrity.

Let us recap some of the issues that have been raised in the last few weeks. The Integrity Commissioner highlighted issues around the influence of Labor lobbyists. She then had her office allegedly raided by the Premier's Public Service Commission and a laptop taken and wiped. What was on the laptop and who benefited from it being erased from history?

The former state archivist—that is the person responsible for keeping the records—was pressured into changing a report into a minister's use of private email for government business. The report was subsequently released, but sections critical of government ministers were removed. His contract was not renewed. A former senior media adviser was forced out of his job after raising concerns about 'unethical, immoral and at times potentially illegal behaviour'. A former senior policy adviser to the Premier claims he was sacked after raising integrity issues. The former legal services commissioner said that ethical issues he raised on the job were ignored. The former director of the Forensic Disability Service says that she was scapegoated for exposing flaws in the justice system.

The issues raised demonstrate a concerning pattern of behaviour within this government: speak out and you will be pushed out. This government has broken the trust placed in it by the people of Queensland. We do not want a state where public servants are conditioned to hide information that may be damaging for their political masters.

**Mr Bailey** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order! Member for Miller!

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** We do not want a state where doors are only open if you hire the right Labor Party aligned lobbyist in a car park. We do not want a government that is more interested in how things look than how they are.

Voters trust elected officials to act honourably. The only honourable thing for the Premier to do is establish a commission of inquiry to get to the bottom of the issues raised by the many current and former whistleblowers. Why? Because a commission of inquiry will provide protection for witnesses and whistleblowers. It is independent of government. It will investigate the Premier and her ministers and their role in it. It has greater powers to obtain evidence. As demonstrated this morning during question time, either the Premier was kept in the dark or she is up to her eyeballs in it. Either way, the truth must come out.

Integrity matters to Queenslanders and it matters to me. When I was elected as opposition leader at the start of this term, I decided that we would not just mirror the roles of the government; I wanted to put integrity front and centre. We named a shadow minister for integrity, who will drive a standard and a culture that we will be proud to put forward to Queenslanders. We named a shadow minister for open data, because if government has the information it belongs to Queenslanders. That will drive the cultural change and the services that people expect. We named a shadow minister for customer service, because we intend to make sure that the people of Queensland are served by their government. It will be a cultural change for the people of Queensland, as opposed to ministers heavying public servants.

I want to read a quote that is particularly relevant this week. It states—

I think there was a very strong evidence out there that the government had stopped listening to the people and when that happens people stop listening to the government.

That quote is from the then opposition leader and now Premier describing the Bligh government. The comments related not to political opponents but to a long-term Labor government in which she sat around the cabinet table—just like now, a government that had trashed transparency; just like now, a government that had trashed integrity; just like now, a government—

**Mr Bailey** interjected.

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

**Mr CRISAFULLI:**—that had trashed transparency; just like now, a government that had trashed integrity and doctored reports to cover up its mates; just like now, a government that had trashed accountability; and, just like now, Queenslanders are waiting to take out the trash of a dodgy, rotten, long-term government.

## Integrity in Government



**Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (2.10 pm): Well, another day, another crazed rant from the Leader of the Opposition: more conspiracy theories, allegations, faux outrage, more mud, more attempts to drag the reputations of hardworking public servants through the dirt and, more disturbingly, more untruths, more statements that the member knows are not true, no new evidence, nothing that has not been or is not being investigated, and we know that because if there were he would have referred them to the CCC, the standing royal commission where these things should be investigated.

If we strip away his dramatic high school debate club rhetoric, he does not even have a single allegation linked to a member of the executive government. The one claim he is clinging to is the one he knows is not true—the supposed seized laptop. The Public Service Commission has stated very clearly—

At no time did the Public Service Commission 'raid' the offices of the Integrity Commissioner. At no time did the Public Service Commission 'seize' anything from the Integrity Commissioner. A laptop was provided to the CCC at their request.

Would members not expect that if the Public Service Commission was asked to provide a laptop as evidence it would do so? There certainly is not any evidence—even allegations—of the kind of bribery or corruption that led to the first Fitzgerald inquiry.

The Leader of the Opposition talks about the darkest days since the Bjelke-Petersen government three decades ago; he should know very well because they were the three years of the Newman-Crisafulli government. Even if they were true, the allegations made by the Leader of the Opposition do not compare to the Newman government's actions. He cannot accuse us of sacking the PCMC in the middle of the night, because they did that. He cannot accuse us of hiding donations, because it was him who voted to increase the donation thresholds to hide donations. That was you. We reduced it; you voted against it. You cannot accuse us of slashing CCC funding, because it was you who did that. You cut the scrutiny of the estimates committees from two weeks to two days; we brought it back. You cannot accuse us of doing favours for Karreman Quarries after it donated \$75,000, because that was you. We did not amend the law to allow Sibelco—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Address your comments through the chair.

**Dr MILES:**—to extend its mining lease until 2035 after it spent \$91,000 on Campbell Newman's Ashgrove campaign, because that was the LNP. We did not use ministerial powers to rezone privately owned land on the Maroochy River against the wishes of council and departmental advice, because that was the LNP. I did not fence off part of the Ross River riverfront to give myself an exclusive gated river frontage. No, that was the Leader of the Opposition. Then when he was local government minister he signed off on the sale of public land by Brisbane City Council to an LNP donor without going to tender for more than \$100,000 less than market value. That was not us; that was them.

We will not be lectured to about integrity by those on that side of the House because he was there. He was as crooked as the rest of the Newman government's ministers and there is so much evidence of it and nothing that he has accused us of in recent week comes anywhere near close.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Deputy Premier, there was some unparliamentary language in there. I would ask you to withdraw.

**Dr MILES:** I withdraw. Even if the most ridiculous allegations he has made were true, they would not compare to the hundreds of integrity questions that people have over the LNP and continue to have over the LNP, and that does not even come close to its federal counterparts being so afraid of integrity that they will not even deliver on their own election commitment to bring in a federal ICAC. He might think he has got something, but he has got nothing.

## Palaszczuk Labor Government, Wellcamp Quarantine Facility



**Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.15 pm): Long before the Wellcamp quarantine facility was more flammable material in the government's integrity inferno, this state government had already proven itself to be contemptuous of the Queensland taxpayer and the people of the Darling Downs. It is worth going back to the history of the quarantine facility to August last year, and that contribution from the Deputy Premier reminded me again of the government's



complete contempt for the taxpayers of Queensland and for decency and goodness in this state, because what happened in August last year was the government came to the Darling Downs and without any notice whatsoever dropped the quarantine facility onto our community.

One would have thought that the government would have spoken with the health department. No. One would have thought that it would have spoken with the police to work out how many police officers would be necessary. Nope. One would have thought that it would come and talk to the Ambulance Service to work out how the arrangements would be made, but not even that. Did it have the courtesy to even notify the mayor of our region? No, it did not. It did not matter whatever it was doing with the quarantine facility; it was contemptuous of the taxpayers of Queensland and it was contemptuous of the people of the Darling Downs.

What do we know now eight, nine, 10 months later? Firstly, we finally discovered that there was a \$50 million build for the quarantine facility. That has now been confirmed. What we know is that the government ignored procurement and probity requirements. Its own 13-page document which would guide how procurement and probity would be undertaken in this state for engaging in a contract of this nature was completely ignored, and I note that the member for Kawana has in fact written to the Auditor-General in this regard to seek out answers on whether the taxpayer was getting the best value for money. I put it to the House that there was simply a complete ignorance of the probity and procurement standards, and the government on that foot alone should be condemned.


What do we know now? We know now that Anacta got 20 meetings for its client Aspen Medical and of those 20 meetings 15 were in fact commercial-in-confidence, but it did not just get the meetings; it ended up getting it a \$56 million contract without a tender. There are similar questions around other appointments on to this contract as well. Whether it be Ernst & Young for the transaction manager or whether it be Compass as the manager of the program on site, there are serious questions to be answered here. But what is the one thing we know now more than any other? It is that this government has no idea what commercial-in-confidence means—not a clue. In one 24-hour period we had three senior figures of the government, allegedly all with law degrees, come out and give different interpretations of commercial-in-confidence.

Firstly the Premier, at 11.38 am, said leasing documents are commercial-in-confidence; at 11.39 am she said leasing arrangements are commercial-in-confidence; and at 11.40 am the law changed. The Premier had started writhing on contract law 101. A few of us must have missed that lecture at university, but the Premier said, 'I will release my confidential information if someone else releases theirs.' It is absolutely shameful. How can any business that engages with the Queensland government have confidence that their trade secrets or confidential information will ever be protected. How can they ever have confidence when the Premier of the state is so blase about confidential information.

The next morning the health minister jumped up to try to correct the record. She only confirmed that it was \$190 million across the entire project. She must not have received the memo. She was formerly the attorney-general who got rid of Fitzgerald-era optional preferential voting with 18 minutes notice, introducing 229 amendments over 100 pages at 9.30 at night for the biggest reforms to the electoral system in Queensland history. This is the quality of lawyers we have in the government talking about commercial-in-confidence information.

The next morning the Treasurer with the law degree who spent time at Tuvalu jumps up. At least he seemed to have some understanding of commercial-in-confidence, but again how can any business have confidence when dealing with the Queensland government. First they proved how contemptuous they were of the taxpayer and the Darling Downs people, now they just prove how incompetent they are.

### Leader of the Opposition, Performance

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (2.21 pm): I begin by commending the Leader of the Opposition. I watched his speech and I want to commend him on getting to double digits on social media views. He got to 10! What a great start for the Leader of the Opposition. When it comes to integrity, the Leader of the Opposition is like the little boy who cried wolf. For weeks we have heard the howls from the Leader of the Opposition, the confected outrage, the wild eyes, the table-thumping carry on, but his accusations have no substance. The Leader of the Opposition has not identified a single solitary issue that has not already been dealt with by a responsible integrity agency in this state or is being dealt with by a responsible integrity agency. Just like the little boy who cried wolf, the opposition leader will be shown to be his own worst enemy.

There is a reason that the Leader of the Opposition is so strident when his evidence is so weak. There is a reason the Leader of the Opposition is trying to concoct a crisis. It is because the real crisis is in his leadership. The Leader of the Opposition is not cutting through, and every single person in Queensland knows it. His existence is not registering in the electorate. Nobody knows who the Leader of the Opposition is, what he does or what he stands for.

Let us not forget that at his first electoral test at the Stretton by-election the Leader of the Opposition failed miserably. It was the worst by-election performance by a Leader of the Opposition for 20 years and the LNP backbench knows it. Today we call him the current Leader of the Opposition, but it will not be long before we will just be calling him the member for Broadwater. His party will abandon him just like he abandoned Townsville. This is a Leader of the Opposition who had to shift over 1,000 kilometres to find a community that would tolerate him. Now he has even abandoned Broadwater. He has sold his house there. I would welcome him to Brisbane but I live in Logan.

The Leader of the Opposition is supposed to be putting forward an alternative government, and that is what he has failed to do. That is why his leadership is failing. As every week passes, the Leader of the Opposition drifts further away from any kind of credible alternative. The Leader of the Opposition is alone with nothing left but desperate mud-slinging, smear and innuendo. The Leader of the Opposition thinks he is clever. You only have to look at him to know that. The Leader of the Opposition thinks he is putting the government under pressure, but nothing could be further from the truth. Where was the Leader of the Opposition in December and January when small and family businesses were in their hour of need?

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order!

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I place you on a warning, member for Mudgeeraba. I was clearly on my feet.

**Mr DICK:** He abandoned them just like he abandoned his electorates. Where was the Leader of the Opposition when our government stepped up to back in business, bringing workers back into the CBD? Where was the Leader of the Opposition when our government was keeping small and family businesses free of the density restrictions that plagued southern states? Where was the Leader of the Opposition when our government was working with the aviation industry to put together a \$200 million package to support tourism and businesses in Queensland? Where was the Leader of the Opposition when all that was happening? He was yelling into the void with his made-up crisis.

I have to sympathise with the member for Buderim. I am sure he was telling the leader that the LNP needed to get onto an agenda that mattered to Queenslanders. Where was the shadow Treasurer? We know he has made some changes: styling up for the leadership. Do not worry about the leadership, member for Toowoomba South. Look behind you; it is the member for Whitsunday who is styling up for your job. You can get a makeover as much as you like, but look over your shoulder. It is the member for Whitsunday who is coming. Whoever is the leader, whoever is the deputy leader, nothing will change with the crew opposite. It is the same old LNP. There is no alternative government. There are no alternative policies and there are certainly no alternative plans for Queensland's strong economic recovery.

### Sunshine Coast University Hospital



**Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (2.26 pm): Today I raise the effects of a toxic culture running through the wards of Queensland's newest and shiniest hospital—the Sunshine Coast University Hospital—and I will detail how bullying complaints and serious allegations were ignored by the hospital board, by Queensland Health and by the government. Under this government it was a culture that was rampant for almost three years. The Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service's performance has gone from bad to worse and it all started with mates helping mates while experienced staff walked out the door, no integrity, a culture of cover-ups and looking the other way.

Here are the facts: in April last year I submitted an RTI application about the behaviour of senior employees in the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service after being approached by multiple staff who told me of a dysfunctional workplace characterised by bullying, harassment and intimidation. They told me of their fear of reprisal by senior management and of a hospital system where patient care was suffering because of mismanagement at the highest levels. My RTI request was a simple one if the health service had nothing to hide. Six weeks after the RTI was submitted, then CEO Naomi Dwyer resigned. That is hardly a coincidence.

Here we are in February 2022—10 months since the request was made—and, after fighting tooth and nail to get the information that I requested a year ago, I finally have the results of the RTI. One document, a letter written to Dr John Wakefield, the Director-General of Queensland Health, stated it was a desperate plea for his direct intervention and help. It says—

The leadership of the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service continues to be in crisis due to the appalling behaviours and conduct displayed by the Chief Executive—

Naomi Dwyer—

and the Chief Operating Officer ...

The work environment was described as harsh, punishing, unreasonable, chaotic and increasingly dysfunctional and the letter states that this without a doubt is impacting the health service's performance and its people. The letter states there were serious failings in duty of care and no action was taken by the hospital board or Queensland Health despite them being aware of the issues. It says there is a pervasive, brutal culture of blame, fear and retribution. People were too afraid to make a complaint because, if the CEO or chief operating officer found out, their careers would be over. The threat was that real.

The person ends this damning letter with an appeal to the head of Queensland Health that CEO Naomi Dwyer and her chief operating officer have their contracts terminated immediately. They were not. We know this did not happen. In fact, Ms Dwyer resigned only after my RTI was submitted. She was given very public accolades on her way out. Here is what else we know: all seven of Ms Dwyer's executive level direct reports left the health service within the first 12 months of her being appointed CEO. At least 24 senior staff members left the health service while Ms Dwyer was in charge. There is no way this went unnoticed. During Ms Dwyer's three-year reign, there were five different heads of the People and Culture Department—five different heads in three years!

Despite the rhetoric we heard this morning from the Attorney-General, last year two brave whistleblowers had their employment suspended. The CEO and the chief operating officer may have now left, but the effects from the toxic culture they created are still being felt. Thirty per cent of all elective surgery patients on the Sunshine Coast are not treated in time at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital. In fact, the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service has the worst two performing public hospitals in all of Queensland.

As the letter states, the working environment was 'without a doubt impacting the health service's performance and its people'. If only the hospital board and Queensland Health had acted when they were first made aware of the bullying and intimidation or when executives and high-level medical staff started dropping like flies. The health service is still struggling to attract experienced doctors because its reputation has been destroyed. That is why people such as Wendy Carter, from my electorate of Buderim and who was down here last year, has been waiting months, wheelchair bound and in severe pain, just to get an appointment—an appointment she should have had within 30 days. It is why two 12-year-old girls from my electorate have languished for months longer than they should have, waiting for surgery on their knees.

It is clear that the culture of cover-ups, which is so pervasive within this Labor state government, has resulted in Queensland Health workers being bullied, harassed and victimised. They and the Sunshine Coast residents that they care for deserve better. The toxic culture and failures of leadership that were allowed to fester in the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service for almost three years need to be exposed. The board, the Queensland Health leadership and the Minister for Health have all failed in their duty of care to Sunshine Coast health. This appalling behaviour and the cover-up that followed must be exposed to ensure that they do not happen again—not on the Sunshine Coast and not anywhere in Queensland. There must be accountability. I call on the Minister for Health to explain why neither she nor her predecessor, the Deputy Premier, protected health workers when they should have.

### Integrity in Government



**Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (2.30 pm): The Palaszczuk government is absolutely committed to ensuring Queenslanders can have the utmost confidence in our integrity institutions. That is why we acted decisively on the recommendations from the PCCC's report into the Logan City Council matter. As part of the implementation of those recommendations, we have established a commission of inquiry into the CCC's charging powers and the use of seconded police officers and it is to be headed by a giant of Queensland anti-corruption history—Tony Fitzgerald AC, QC. This will ensure that Queenslanders can have confidence in their anti-corruption watchdog.

We have also established a wideranging review into culture and accountability in Queensland's public sector, headed by Professor Peter Coaldrake AO. Professor Coaldrake is a highly respected academic. His review will ensure the Public Service in this state is operating to the highest level of integrity, accountability and impartiality. Of course, that is in addition to all of the strong and robust measures we have introduced to increase integrity in government: restoring \$1,000 as the donation disclosure threshold after those opposite increased it to over \$12,000; implementing the real-time disclosure of donations; banning property developer donations; and reintroducing electoral expenditure caps after the LNP abolished them. Those opposite have fought us on every single one of those integrity measures. Why? It is because those opposite have no real interest in integrity or accountability, good governance or proper process! They care about one thing only: taking any opportunity to get their faces in front of a camera and saying whatever is necessary to try to make Queenslanders forget their own dark history.

Last week the member for Kawana had the audacity to stand up with the Leader of the Opposition and try to lecture this government on integrity. Give me a break! The member for Kawana was attorney-general in the Newman-Crisafulli government—the worst government for integrity since that of Joh Bjelke-Petersen. Let us not forget that the former solicitor-general, now the Hon. Justice Walter Sofronoff—one of the most respected members of the Queensland legal profession—resigned in disgust in 2014 after the member for Kawana leaked confidential discussions with the judiciary to the press because it suited his political motives. Walter Sofronoff called on the then attorney-general to resign. The president of the Bar Association quit in protest as well. He too said that the then attorney-general should resign. Lawyers, barristers, judges and senior legal figures—you name it—all lined up, one after the other, to denounce him as untrustworthy.

The then attorney-general also admitted to deleting his emails. I have since referred that matter to the State Archivist for investigation. He failed to declare meetings with lobbyists in his ministerial diary. He awarded boot camp and court transcription service contracts to LNP donors, and he sacked the PCMC in the middle of the night because they were concerned about the acting chair of the CMC misleading the committee over a hack job op-ed—

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member for Mudgeeraba, you can leave the chamber for one hour. You have already been warned.


*Whereupon the honourable member for Mudgeeraba withdrew from the chamber at 2.35 pm.*

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I do not remember him making a peep when Campbell Newman's chief of staff called up the then integrity commissioner, David Solomon, on a Sunday, blasting him in an 'ill-informed, abusive rant' for criticising the government. In Mr Solomon's 2013-14 annual report, he wrote that the then premier's chief of staff told him they could no longer have faith in his integrity. All of this, yet the member for Kawana still believes he is in a position to lecture anyone on integrity. If he had any integrity whatsoever, perhaps he would have taken Justice Sofronoff's advice back in 2014.

Perhaps he and others on that side of the House should be more inclined to stand up and ask why the LNP in Canberra is refusing to introduce a bill for a federal ICAC. It seems like every day the headlines are about sports rorts, car park rorts, 'grassgate', Peter Dutton interfering with community safety grant allocations, yet the Prime Minister thinks that a federal ICAC is not a priority and neither do those opposite apparently. Not one of them will answer questions about why they do not think it is important for the federal government to have a federal anti-corruption watchdog. If the Leader of the Opposition actually cared about integrity, he would pick up the phone, call Scott Morrison and ask him to put in place a federal watchdog.

*(Time expired)*

### Integrity in Government

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (2.36 pm): For the past few weeks many Queenslanders, including whistleblowers, former public servants and the Integrity Commissioner, have been speaking out about integrity issues and calling for a royal commission into the Palaszczuk government. It is important to note that the integrity issues engulfing the government are not new. Who could forget 'mangocube emailgate', the QBCC, the Attorney-General not declaring her free Canadian ski accommodation, Deputy Premier Miles rigging the Queensland Health poll and Jackie Trad—where do I start?

In July 2020, the Crime and Corruption Commission tabled a report into the appointment of a school principal and the allegations that Jackie Trad had intervened in the selection process. It was important and in the public interest that the Crime and Corruption report was tabled in parliament so

that Queenslanders could have confidence in our systems of integrity and our public institutions, which have been so battered by the Palaszczuk government of late. When we look at these matters we must always consider what is in the public interest. It is in that vein that I draw a most serious issue to the attention of parliament.

On 17 November 2021 Mr Michael McKenna, from the *Australian*, wrote an article titled 'Secrecy shroud over watchdog report into Jackie Trad'. The issue reported in that article stemmed from an original LNP complaint to the CCC with respect to the appointment of Mr Frankie Carroll as under treasurer. A whistleblower had contacted the LNP and advised that an independent selection panel was established and recommended Mr Leon Allen for appointment as under treasurer but, as was the case with the principal's selection in South Brisbane, Jackie Trad, as treasurer, personally intervened and Mr Allen did not get the job. Mr Frankie Carroll was appointed under treasurer. That process was overseen by the Premier's handpicked director-general, Mr Dave Stewart. The *Australian* has reported that the CCC investigation has been completed.

I have had it put to me by a number of sources that this investigation has, in fact, been completed by the Crime and Corruption Commission and is ready for tabling in parliament. The only thing stopping the CCC report being tabled in parliament is Jackie Trad. Jackie Trad is so determined to hide the report from the public eye that she has applied to the Supreme Court of Queensland to have the report suppressed from being made public. That court action follows another Labor mate, disgraced former public trustee Peter Carne, applying to the Supreme Court to have the Crime and Corruption Commission report into his conduct—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member, are you absolutely certain that you are not straying into the area of sub judice in your contribution?

**Mr BLEIJIE**: Yes, I am, pursuant to standing order 233. Mr Deputy Speaker, I can assure you that it is not sub judice subject to standing order 233.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER**: Okay. You may continue.

**Mr BLEIJIE**: Standing order 233 deals with criminal matters and this is not a criminal matter. As I said, another Labor mate, disgraced former public trustee Peter Carne, applied to the Supreme Court to have the Crime and Corruption Commission report into his conduct suppressed. He lost that court action and has filed an appeal to the Court of Appeal. There is nothing on the court register so far that relates to Jackie Trad's application. Why is that?

I am told that the Supreme Court is holding off making a final decision on the Jackie Trad matter until the Court of Appeal hands down its decision with respect to Peter Carne. I was also told that Mr Dave Stewart may have launched similar action as Jackie Trad or joined Jackie Trad's application. Mr Stewart should answer these allegations. It would be easier if he were not sitting in a plum job now in London. I call on Jackie Trad to withdraw her application.

Crime and Corruption Commission reports given to parliament for tabling should not be kept in the dark. This completed CCC report into the appointment of the under treasurer should be made immediately available to the people of Queensland. I call on Premier Palaszczuk to order the immediate release of this Crime and Corruption Commission report. We do not know what is in the report, but what we do know is that you do not run off to the Supreme Court to have the matter hidden from the public if you have nothing to fear or hide. If the Premier does not release this crime and corruption report into the appointment of under treasurer Frankie Carroll, then she and her government are complicit with Jackie Trad in trying to hide these things from the public.

Once upon a time when the Premier was opposition leader in 2014, she signed up to the Fitzgerald principles and made a big song and dance about the Fitzgerald principles. One of the principles the Premier signed up to as opposition leader was the principle that one should not withhold or obfuscate information to which voters are entitled. I put it to you, Mr Deputy Speaker, that the voters and the public of Queensland are absolutely entitled to see the Crime and Corruption Commission report that has been completed and has been sitting somewhere for many months. It is not up to Jackie Trad to run off to the Supreme Court to try and hide this CCC report. If the Premier believes in openness, accountability and the Fitzgerald principle that she applied to and signed up to, she would ask her old mate Jackie Trad to stop, withdraw the application to the Supreme Court and come and be public about it.

(Time expired)

## Integrity in Government



**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (2.42 pm): I thought I had heard it all, but listening to the Manager of Opposition Business, the member for Kawana and a former attorney-general saying now the Premier should intervene to stop someone accessing their right to the Supreme Court or somehow direct them into releasing something is quite extraordinary. It is really not surprising from the opposition.

The Leader of the Opposition stood here today and talked about trust. He continually used the word 'trust'. Where was that trust in 2012? Where was that trust when the people of Queensland were being told, 'You can trust a Newman government; you have nothing to fear.' Where was that trust? The member for Buderim talks about protecting health workers when they need it. Where was that protection for them when their jobs were being slashed and their funding was being cut. Where was that trust when the Barrett Adolescent Centre was closed down? Where was the trust for the people of Redcliffe when Scott Driscoll did what he did to our community association and our community? Many on the other side stood in this chamber and defended him time and time again. Today is the eighth anniversary of the Redcliffe by-election. I am reminded every day why I am the member for Redcliffe and the devastation of what the LNP's member did to that community. I find it amusing going back to read the words—

I say to those opposite who continually, in this House and more so in the media, make wild accusations against people that if they have records of evidence, then refer it to the appropriate authorities.

What good advice! That was the former attorney-general Jarrod Bleijie in relation to accusations about the Queensland Retail Traders and Shopkeepers Association and the use of resources and staff by former member for Redcliffe Scott Driscoll. Where was the trust then? 'MP linked to funds scandal'. They defended him all the way through. 'Triple Life—LNP MP used office as secret lobby base.' 'Check-out cheek'. This man went to jail for his behaviour. I did not hear any outcries from those opposite when he was doing all of this. In fact, when they were in government Campbell Newman's chief of staff called the Integrity Commissioner to undertake what was described by the Integrity Commissioner at the time as an 'ill informed abusive rant'.

The Acting Queensland Integrity Commissioner David Solomon criticised the government in a paper released in late 2013 called 'Ministerial access and the public trust.'

That is timely—trust. He said—

The LNP Queensland government had repeatedly rejected his calls to make more lobbyists publicly accountable.

They sacked 26 staff in the CMC. They sacked the parliamentary oversight committee of the then CMC in the middle of the night after committee members questioned the level of the Newman government's interference in the then CMC. They had Campbell Newman's chief media adviser call the then acting head of the CMC to arrange an op-ed in support of the LNP government and its failed VLAD laws. This is their idea of trust, integrity and accountability.

It is extraordinary that they have the nerve to come in here and make accusations, accusations that in many cases are years old, which have been referred to the authorities that the former attorney-general says you should refer allegations to and having found that no misconduct has occurred. They want to re-prosecute it because they have nothing else to offer this state. The Leader of the Opposition comes in here and talks about trust? The member for Buderim comes in here and talks about supporting health workers?

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order! Member for Buderim, you have made your contribution.

**Mrs D'ATH**: It is astonishing.

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

**Mrs D'ATH**: The concerns reported in June 2021?


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER**: Member for Buderim, I tried repeatedly to bring you to order. You are warned under the standing orders.

**Mrs D'ATH**: The member for Buderim used the words 'bullying, harassment and intimidation'. That is what I heard from public servants between 2012 and 2015—absolute harassment, intimidation, fear. They were in tears because of the harassment. What about the firies who worked on the Redcliffe by-election who were threatened? I saw Campbell Newman walk up to one of them and ask for his number and what station he worked at. Talk about trust! They are absolute hypocrites.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The House will come to order.

### **Coronavirus, Vaccination Mandate**

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (2.47 pm): I rise today to speak about the vaccine mandate introduced by this government in December last year. In my 18 years of parliament I never thought I would see another government segregation policy that again marginalises a section of our society. I highlight the scare campaign of this government. For months, the state government has been contradicting itself and shifting the goalposts. We were told that Queenslanders would be safe if fully vaccinated. Then they told us the virus was hunting down the unvaccinated. Then they told us the virus is now hunting down the unboosted. Now we have been told that a fourth shot may be required by the end of the year. The mandate should never have been introduced. All it has achieved is isolation of the hospitality industry, health workers, teachers, the closing of businesses, putting people out of work and dividing families and friends.


I point out that every death, whether COVID related or not, is tragic; however, the latest Australian Bureau of Statistics information released last week puts it in perspective. Over the 22 months of COVID, 273,901 Australians died; however, of these deaths only 2,639 people were COVID related, with 92 per cent of these having three serious underlying conditions. Some 100,000 people died of cancer; 32,000 died of heart disease; 30,000 died of Alzheimer's and dementia; and 10,000 died of diabetes. COVID related deaths represent fewer than one per cent of the total deaths in Australia over the past 22 months. The median age of COVID related deaths was 81 years for men and 86 years for women. Both are above our national average life span. Far more people died from the flu than COVID. We had 2,639 COVID deaths over 22 months. However, over a period of 12 months in 2019, 4,124 people died of the flu. That is a far worse death toll. All this information can be found by anyone on the ABS website.

The vaccination mandate commenced in Queensland on 17 December 2021 when we had 2,227 cases and a fully vaccinated status of 83.6 per cent. Just over two months later COVID cases in the state had jumped to 532,273, with a fully vaccinated status of 90.6 per cent. Since the mandate started in Queensland, Queensland has averaged 8,031 new cases per day. During the same period, the number in the state who are unvaccinated has fallen from 16.4 per cent to 9.4 per cent, yet we have recorded 530,000 new cases.

My point is this: we have exiled the unvaccinated from society and restricted their movements yet COVID has rapidly spread throughout the state. Who is spreading the virus? It is very clear that the spread of the virus does not discriminate between those who are vaccinated and those who are not. This data clearly shows that the mandate is a complete waste of time and has made zero difference to stopping the spread of COVID through the state. In fact, this government has worsened the state's health response by standing down 4,000 of our highly trained health workers when the mandate was introduced. We have also lost specialised staff in aged care and home care services which has left many of our sick, elderly and disabled helpless.

A massive amount of resources has been wasted in policing businesses, cafes, pubs and takeaways to enforce a mandate that is unnecessary, highly destructive and ineffective. Instead of a mandate we should be focused on putting all our resources into protecting and providing care to the sick, the frail, the disabled and the elderly. I call on the Premier to immediately end the mandate for all Queenslanders so we can get back to some form of normality and sanity.

### **Paradise Dam**

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (2.52 pm): I am glad to announce to the House that the Palaszczuk Labor government is building back Paradise Dam. We are building back confidence for the growers in our region to invest in the industries that invest back into the regions—the agriculture and horticulture industries. It was fantastic on Christmas Eve to stand with Minister Butcher on the banks of the Burnett River at Anzac Park in front of journalists and a handful of growers to announce that the Sunwater report said that it was safe to restore Paradise Dam and that the Palaszczuk Labor government was committed to restoring the dam for the region and our growers.

It was wonderful to be joined by the Premier, Deputy Premier and Minister Butcher at Paradise Dam a couple of weeks ago to put the money on the table. There is \$600 million to restore Paradise Dam. We are calling on the federal government to match that funding. Thanks to the hard work of the Treasurer and Minister Butcher, the federal government came through. They came through because the Palaszczuk Labor government led the way on this campaign.

We will see the 5.8 metres that the dam wall was lowered by restored for our region and growers. Paradise Dam is crucial to the Bundaberg region. I have said many times when I have spoken to growers, the media, the relevant ministers and in this House that when people look at a map of the electorate of Bundaberg they need to zoom out. When they see all the green around the electorate, that is not just farms; it is industry and it means jobs on-farm and off-farm. These are family businesses. So many of the farms in Bundaberg are family run. It is the path to the future. It is the way for our young people to see that their interest in technology will lead them down the path of staying in Bundaberg in the future and having a career in agriculture or horticulture.

Without our growers in Bundaberg there are no roads, there are no schools, there are no health facilities and there is no town of Bundaberg. That is why this commitment by the Palaszczuk Labor government is so important. We need to acknowledge that our growers do it tough not only in Queensland but all across Australia. They are subject to environmental conditions—the weather, drought and natural disasters—pests, trade wars and pricing on the international market. That is especially the case when we look at the price of cane and how that has impacted the Bundaberg region.

The essential works on the dam were exactly that—essential. We could not risk a dam failure in Bundaberg. We could not risk the lives of people downstream in our community. We could not risk the failure of a dam that provides water for so many of our industries in the Bundaberg region. That would not be good governance. That would not be integrity. Integrity is maintaining community safety and this government is steeped in integrity and maintains community safety. That is what we are all about.

There is no doubt that this was hard on our growers. That is why I stood with our growers and have spoken with them and listened to them. Together we advocated and fought the fight and we restored Paradise Dam for the Bundaberg region. I thank Minister Butcher, the Treasurer, the Deputy Premier and the Premier for this. I also want to thank Dean Akers, a local sweet potato grower; Tom Marland, a man of good character on the other side of the politic spectrum to me, but we were able to come together on this issue because we know what is right for the region; Craig Van Rooyen; Judy Platt; Geoff Chivers; Michael McMahon; Joe Lyons; Bree Grima; and the many more growers of the region who stood together.

As it seems that integrity is the theme for the week, let us talk about integrity when it comes to Paradise Dam. Let us talk about how the LNP ran tactics saying that the Labor government was trying to punish growers by undertaking the essential works at Paradise Dam. They used language like 'tearing down the wall'. It is not tearing down the wall when multiple reports and 14 expert engineers say, 'This dam is at risk of failure.'

That is the integrity of the other side. They play politics with people's lives. We saw that during the height of the COVID pandemic when they demanded that the borders be opened and we allow people to come into our unvaccinated community as it was at the time and risk the lives of Queenslanders. They did it with COVID and they tried to do it with Paradise Dam.

The member for Nanango summed up the LNP when it comes to their integrity. At estimates last year when Minister Butcher and Sunwater presented a sample block of concrete that showed how the grout had completely disappeared between two slabs of concrete, the member for Nanango said, 'How do we know that that is even from Paradise Dam?' She was suggesting that a government owned corporation such as Sunwater would falsify a block of concrete to mislead parliament. That is their integrity. That is what they stand for. We stand up for regional Queenslanders. We stand up for the regions. We are building back Paradise Dam.

### **Palaszczuk Labor Government, Integrity**



**Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (2.57 pm): We have never seen so many senior public servants stand up and speak out about major integrity issues in this government. From the Integrity Commissioner we have reports of her office being raided, a laptop being taken and critical information being deleted. We have had the former state archivist who was investigating the email trail of government ministers who were acting outside of the Public Records Act and raising concerns about that speak out. The former legal services commissioner has spoken out. The Forensic Disability Service former director has spoken out. Many of these officers are speaking out and asking for a truly independent inquiry. There must be an independent inquiry that has protections for public servants.

I want to address the falsity of the government which says, 'There is nothing to see here. There is the PID Act that they can access.' I have evidence from whistleblowers who have come forward who want to remain anonymous and will not lodge complaints because they fear retribution from this government. As one said to me in an email that I used as the basis for my questioning at estimates last



year around the State Archivist, 'I want to stay anonymous because look at the retribution against the former state archivist.' According to the whistleblower the former state archivist's reports were interfered with. We have since heard the former state archivist speak out.

I address too the issue around parliamentary committees. The Premier said, 'Nothing to see here. They can go to a parliamentary committee.' The estimates committees last year were a disgrace. Labor members were deliberately trying to run down the clock and block questions about the interference in the former state archivist's role.

The list goes on. Why won't the Premier answer the question? She has a lot to hide and she does not want to come clean with Queenslanders about what she knew when about that laptop raid.

In the few seconds left to me I want to address a very important matter: the Premier's announcement about Olympic infrastructure. It is *deja vu*. Didn't we hear this announcement last year? Yes, we did. Here we go again with another announcement that has been brought back on spin cycle—we have heard it before—about rail to the Gold Coast.

There is a long list of things they have announced before which do need to happen but they are running behind time and over budget. I remind the government that they also need to step up and fund and build the Maroochydore rail, which Labor promised to have finished by 2020. It needs to happen for the Olympics. Other projects that are also over time and over budget are: the Gold Coast Light Rail stage 3, \$334 million cost blowout; and the Coomera Connector, \$600 million. This is real money. It is not confetti. It is not play money. It is people's money. The list goes on. The Centenary bridge duplication—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order! The time for matters of public interest has expired.


## **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL (NO. 2)**

### **APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 2)**

#### **Second Reading (Cognate Debate)**

Resumed from p. 50, on motion of Mr Dick—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (3.00 pm): I rise this afternoon to make a contribution to the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) 2021 and the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2021. I would like to thank my colleagues and other members on the Economics and Governance Committee, particularly the deputy chair. I know the chair got a special call-out by the Treasurer earlier today, so I would like to acknowledge the deputy chair. It does help having a qualified accountant on the Economics and Governance Committee.

These bills authorise the Treasurer to pay a combined total of \$449.25 million from the Consolidated Fund for unforeseen expenditure. By department, this expenditure amounts to \$188.9 million for the Department of Justice and Attorney General; \$114.2 million for the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs; \$91.1 million for Queensland Fire and Emergency Services; \$28.9 million for the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water; \$52.845 for the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning; and \$9.8 million for the Queensland Police Service.

It begs the obvious question: how did the Treasurer get it so wrong when this budget was released five months into the financial year? As usual, debate on this bill will be accompanied by a long list of excuses from members on the other side. They will roll out their carefully scripted lines about the wonderful job they have done keeping us all safe and, after all the back patting and narcissism, the members opposite will start the finger pointing and blame games. They will even resort to making references to a previous government that has not been in power for nearly a decade in order to shield themselves from the reality they have created for Queenslanders.

Debt and economic mismanagement are part of Labor's DNA. When they run out of money, they come after yours. As we have seen over the past week, they will try the subtle art of subterfuge to cover their tracks. That is when the Premier, her 2IC, the Treasurer, and the health minister hit the repeat button on their favourite phrase 'commercial-in-confidence'. If you are the Premier, or part of the inner sanctum, it is only commercial-in-confidence until it is not. Then it is game on: it is time to take off the

gloves and try to shift blame on to the feds. If the unthinkable happens and our nation wakes up to a Labor-Greens minority government in May, it will send the Premier's spin team into a frenzy. Who will they blame then for their budget blowouts and the state's bleak economic outlook?

The Wellcamp fiasco is just another example of the lengths this crisis ridden government will go to in order to avoid scrutiny and hoodwink Queensland taxpayers. While the Premier thought she could sell Queenslanders a lemon, it turns out that we are all a bit smarter than that. Queenslanders have had enough. Not only are they sick of a Labor government that cannot manage the state's finances; they are also sick of the lack of accountability and transparency. They are sick of the deceit, the lies and the blame games. While other state governments have made the tough decisions and taken responsibility, the Palaszczuk Labor government ducks and weaves and tries to buy its way out of trouble at the expense of hardworking mums and dads, cash-strapped families and young people, and seniors who have dutifully paid taxes their whole lives.

Labor's obsession with how things look rather than how things are will have a generational impact on this state. The signs are clear, and they are growing. According to the Treasurer, some Queensland businesses are doing it tough due to supply chain issues and staffing shortages, but not according to the CCIQ's latest survey data, which reveals the true state of our economic crisis. Business confidence is down 16.9 per cent—the lowest since September 2020. Sales and revenue are down 6.9 per cent on the last quarter and still falling. Employment levels are down 4.5 per cent and 63 per cent of businesses and staff have revealed they are impacted by mental health.

Some of the reasons given by business owners for their current struggles include increased uncertainty, staff shortages, supply chain disruptions, discontent with political leadership, absence of financial support, lagging impact of border restriction changes and restrictions on the unvaccinated. It paints a very grim outlook for small businesses which make up around 97 per cent of business activity in this state.

The LNP understand the intrinsic value of small businesses. That is why we are focused on three fundamental policies when it comes to supporting the backbone of our state's economy. We believe in an economy for everyone. Unlike the Palaszczuk Labor government, who only govern for their union mates and big business, we believe in economic settings that properly support small and family business, encourage private investment and create a regulatory environment where business can thrive.

If you currently operate a small business in this state, you are ignored by this government. While competitors in other states such as New South Wales, Victoria or South Australia are provided with financial support from their governments, in Queensland small business operators are left to die and wither in the aftermath of COVID. Our repeated calls for a support package on behalf of small businesses during the Omicron wave have been ignored and dismissed by the Treasurer.

Across the border in New South Wales, businesses with a turnover between \$75,000 and \$50 million which have suffered a downturn of 40 per cent or more are eligible for payments up to 20 per cent of their payroll as well as other special assistance grants. In Victoria and South Australia, it is a similar story—but not in Queensland.


Unlike Labor, the second fundamental principle which the opposition believes should be underlying our economy is service delivery. A strong economy allows us to invest more in health, education and better support the most vulnerable in our community. Unfortunately, Queenslanders have seen firsthand the devastating outcomes that happen when governments cannot get the basics right—ambulance ramping, cancelled surgeries and lengthy wait lists just to get the health services they rightly deserve and expect.

We need to fast-track infrastructure projects to get our economy moving and growing. Instead, this government is bogged down by debt and mounting integrity issues. Our state debt continues to grow under this Labor government and will reach almost \$130 billion over the forward estimates. Close to \$30 billion of this debt is simply to keep the lights on.

This is particularly concerning given that Queensland leads the nation for relative population growth. Perhaps that is why the Treasurer has introduced 10 new taxes, ripping more than \$4 billion from the pockets of hardworking Queenslanders. Payroll tax, GST and stamp duty all performed above budgeted expectations to deliver the government a \$4 billion windfall in 2020-21, and the total government taxation revenue is expected to increase by 27.58 per cent to \$18.6 billion. But these are the figures the government does not want us to see.

What has been exposed in recent weeks is much more than a 'vibe'. It has been growing like a cancer through the highest levels of governance long before COVID—a government that has given up on integrity, on accountability and on transparency; a government that has given up on governing,

instead they govern for their mates and only care about how things look and not how things are; a government that has a long history of financial mismanagement and no apparent desire or ability to pay down debt. I will not be opposing the bill.

 **Mr TANTARI** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (3.08 pm): I rise in support of the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) in the cognate debate before us. These bills seek parliamentary approval regarding unforeseen expenditure in 2020-21. This is an annual process under the Financial Accountability Act 2009 to reconcile departmental appropriations at the end of each financial year against the relevant budget projections—for example, the 2021 budget which was delivered in December 2020.

Let us delve into the substance of the bills and away from the realms of fantasy and fiction from those on the other side. In July this year, the Governor in Council authorised unforeseen expenditure during the financial year of just over \$449 million, comprising around \$1.8 billion for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service and about \$448 million incurred by six other departments. Parliamentary approval for the unforeseen expenditure is now being sought through this bill.

State departments incur unforeseen expenditure for many reasons. For example, a department may need additional appropriation to respond to emergent issues, implement appropriate government policy, or due to a change in the timing of Commonwealth payments or project delivery. The unforeseen expenditure in 2020-21 is less than half the amount incurred in the 2019-20 financial year. To put that into context, as a total share of the appropriations the total appropriation is around three-quarters of one per cent, which is below the average of the last decade, which was around 1.9 per cent of all appropriations.

The majority of the unforeseen expenditure arises from three departments, and this is for very good reasons, including funding for an increased demand for out-of-home care services in the child protection system—a system, by the way, this government supports rigorously from attacks by the other side. Further unforeseen expenditure arises from the need to meet the state's share of the floods class action settlement. Other costs come from QFES, which protected and kept Queenslanders safe through their response to quarantine accommodation costs and logistics and border control activities that were entirely appropriate in the circumstances during the extraordinary period set down for this appropriation. In addition to this, there was expenditure for firefighting and aerial firefighting costs associated with keeping life and property safe from unanticipated, but not surprising, bushfires across Queensland.

The difference in fiscal management between the Palaszczuk government and those opposite is quite evident. Under the Palaszczuk government the state of Queensland continues to power ahead. Following on from our strong health response, the appropriations we are debating continue to drive the government's COVID-19 economic recovery plan. The Palaszczuk government's economic recovery plan is working and delivering strong growth and recovery by ensuring our economy rebounds whilst unfortunately the rest of the world still deals with the containment of the COVID virus. This is borne out in recently released labour force data which confirms what all of the reputable national data shows; that is, Queensland's economy is leading and pushing forward Australia's economic recovery.

The strength of our Queensland economy is thanks to our world-leading health response. Our health response allowed our economy to stay open until Queenslanders had sufficient access to vaccinations. Queensland has added more jobs than any other state or territory since March 2020, with 124,300 more Queenslanders in jobs today than there were pre COVID. Let me repeat that for those opposite, who oppose the government's agenda at every turn. Queensland has created more jobs than any other state or territory and more jobs than every state and territory combined. This means that there are 124,300 more Queenslanders working in February 2022 than there were back in March 2020. That is before COVID struck and brought the world to a halt. Since the election of the Palaszczuk government in 2015 an additional 376,800 jobs have been added. That is more than 1,000 a week. That is more jobs for the people of Queensland and more jobs for the people of Hervey Bay.

When you go around my electorate the activity is palpable. There is activity everywhere. A new school hall is prepared to be built in Urgan and new classrooms in Pialba. This comes on top of the superb creative arts centre completed at the Hervey Bay High School. These appropriations are not just dry numbers; they are the new and enhanced facilities that are utilised by our school communities to enhance student and teacher outcomes as well as being great for our community in general. Works and projects are being completed regularly because of the forethought and timely response of the Palaszczuk government to assess the needs and get the job done. We have local roads being planned, local hospitals being upgraded and local school playgrounds being replaced. These facilities include: Kawungan State School's revamped administration block; canteen facilities for the Urgan State High School; recently announced additional funding to provide a further fit-out of the new STEM building at Hervey Bay High School; and the exciting renewal of the senior playground at Sandy Strait State

School, which they are really looking forward to. These were all accelerated because of the growth Hervey Bay is now experiencing under a pro-active and forward-thinking government. This is a government that leaves no-one behind, lifts the community and drives positive outcomes—unlike the cut, sell and sack policy approach of those opposite.

Hervey Bay is seeing new intersection construction underway to ease congestion and improve safety. These major pieces of infrastructure will assist people to move around the Hervey Bay electorate more efficiently and a lot more safely. As I speak, we have new hospital services rising from the ground with the construction of the new mental health unit well underway. This \$34 million investment shows that the Palaszczuk government is on the mark in responding to regional needs. The Hervey Bay electorate is part of a growth region that has received massive commitments and investment from the Palaszczuk government. Billions of dollars in manufacturing industry infrastructure will have a dynamic impact on the people of the region. The volume of jobs being produced for the region is extraordinary. With the knock-on effects of supply chains, the new jobs count moves into the many thousands. This is in stark contrast to the former Newman government, which ignored our region, slashed and burned our jobs and devastated our community. At the end of their sad legacy it was left to the Palaszczuk government to rebuild shattered regional centres like Hervey Bay, but none of what has been achieved since has come about by chance. The results are a consequence of our strongly focused health response. This has led to our strong economic recovery and is driven in part by the additional appropriations we are currently debating.


The Queensland economy is now larger than it was pre COVID. The economy grew by 6.1 per cent in 2021, faster than the national average. Australia's economy grew by 3.9 per cent. This growth has ensured that our unemployment rate dropped to its lowest since December 2008. Our unemployment rate has dropped to 4.4 per cent. Let me repeat that: 4.4 per cent. All of this has made Queensland the envy of Australia. The Palaszczuk government's health and economic response has enabled our state—and in particular our regions—to stay safe and bounce back. We are now so much the envy of Australia that Queensland is attracting more interstate migrants than any other jurisdiction. More than 31,000 people moved to Queensland in 2020, and 85,000 Australians from other states are expected to come to Queensland before June 2024.

In the Hervey Bay electorate you can see this growth everywhere. Our building industry is red-hot, our businesses are active, our expenditure is up and people are seeing their hard efforts over the last two years being rewarded. The people of Hervey Bay did this because our vaccination rates are some of the highest in the state. They responded to directions given by the Chief Health Officer and worked tirelessly to keep each other safe.

As a member of the committee that reviewed this bill, I want to thank the committee for its deliberations. We were ably led by the committee chair, the member for Logan, and the committee deputy chair, the member for Mermaid Beach. I would also like to mention the magnificent work done by the committee secretariat.

Appropriation bills are the lifeblood of government. Without them, the state would not function. With this bill, the corrections are measured and required. Finally, the importance of getting vaccinated and boosted to keep Queenslanders safe and our plan for a strong economic recovery has never been more important for our future economy. The Palaszczuk government has steered the path required to get us to this point. The government's thoughtfully considered decisions, all backed by medical evidence, has allowed our community to safely navigate the stormy waters created by the worldwide pandemic and got us to this point safely.

The focussed leadership of our Premier has been outstanding; her standards of integrity are without peer. Our government's determination to steer our state on the right path back through the most challenging times any of us have ever seen is outstanding—all under misguided and weak attacks by the state opposition and a federal government that sees everything through only one prism: their own electoral survival. This is so evident to those who watch on. Their desperation is palpable. They know the baseball bats are waiting. They know their fraud will be exposed. Well-managed appropriations are what this bill is about. I support the bills before the House.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (3.18 pm): I rise to address the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) 2021 and the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2021. Introduced by the Treasurer on 15 September 2021, the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2021 and the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) 2021 provide for the supplementary appropriation for various state government departments for unforeseen expenditure and for the supplementary appropriation for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service for unforeseen expenditure respectively that occurred in the 2020-2021 financial year.

Specifically with respect to the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2021, this legislation authorises the Labor Treasurer to pay \$447.456 million—or nearly half a billion dollars—from the consolidated fund for six Queensland state government departments.

It is incredible, but perhaps not surprising, that the Labor Treasurer—who only had to prepare a budget for seven months due to the commencement of the 57th Parliament—was still unable to control the spending of the Palaszczuk state Labor government. The Palaszczuk state Labor government has a history of prolific spending of Queensland taxpayers' dollars. Time and again, Labor seeks to mask such spending through its own smoke-and-mirrors tactics and state budget trickery. We have seen that over many state budgets, with debt loaded onto government owned corporations and also the raiding of the defined benefits schemes of public servants.

What Queenslanders have seen over consecutive years is a Labor state government that continues to get its priorities wrong and fails to focus on restoring and rebuilding Queensland's economy. This is backed up by hard facts, where in the latest CommSec State of the States report Queensland is ranked fifth of eight jurisdictions, and fifth of six states for overall economic performance. In the same report, Queensland also had the worst state score for economic growth, the worst score for infrastructure investment and the worst state score for unemployment.

Queensland businesses, especially our small and family businesses, are suffering. The December Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland Pulse survey has business confidence in Queensland plunging by 16.9 per cent, with 63 per cent of businesses also reporting mental health challenges. That is certainly being shown through the conversations I have with small businesses not only in the electorate of Moggill but also across the western suburbs of Brisbane and also when I travel in my various shadow portfolio responsibilities.

The Palaszczuk state Labor government has all but given up on delivering for small and family businesses and building our economy. I recently visited the Redlands region and met with the Redlands Coast Chamber of Commerce, where, as the Liberal National Party's shadow minister for education, I discussed a range of job-training opportunities and education requirements for our young Queenslanders. While I was there, I also heard firsthand from many local businesses—similar to what I have heard from small businesses in the electorate of Moggill—who told me how they have felt absolutely abandoned by the state Labor government during some of the toughest economic circumstances they have experienced due to the COVID-19 pandemic over the last two years. There is simply no attention given by Labor to the genuine needs and economic support that Queensland businesses are crying out for—not only in the electorate of Moggill but also right across Queensland.

We know why that is. It is because the attention of the state Labor government is solely on governing for themselves and not for everyday Queenslanders. They are certainly facing a myriad of integrity and accountability scandals and also significant allegations of corruption which have been raised by not only public servants but also senior statutory office holders.

We know that the Palaszczuk state Labor government has significant issues with integrity and accountability. It is a cornerstone of democracy that governments be held to account on their budgeted appropriation and additional expenditure. In our democracy in Queensland, this is done through the annual budget committee hearings process—a process which, sadly, the Palaszczuk state Labor government has all but trashed. It is a fact that under the Palaszczuk state Labor government there is a complete lack of transparency around the budget estimates process, with Labor ministers routinely seeking to avoid any form of accountability. We have seen that over the last few years in the way estimates are conducted and the way various committee chairs conduct themselves in the parliament.

Transparency and accountability must be restored when it comes to Queenslanders knowing the true state of Queensland's finances. That is why the Liberal National Party has announced its policy of implementing a parliamentary budget office so that transparency and honesty are brought back to the forefront of all state government operations. Such wasteful and inefficient spending by the state Labor government has consequences, and these consequences are felt in communities right across Queensland. In my own electorate of Moggill, the failure of the state Labor government to sufficiently plan, appropriate and deliver state government funding for our local area is having lasting consequences on small businesses, community groups and school communities.

State government funding is needed—and needed right now—within the electorate of Moggill so that the electorate's only high school, Kenmore State High School, can get a new library and student services administration hub and so that additional modern, dedicated purpose-built environments including a sports centre, performing arts auditorium and a new school hall facility can finally be delivered for students, teachers, staff and parents of the school. In view of past Labor state government budgets—where time and again local families of the electorate of Moggill are overlooked—I would like

to take this opportunity to say to the Labor state government that it must also prioritise a new high school to service families in the suburbs of Bellbowrie, Moggill, Anstead, Mount Crosby, Karana Downs and surrounding areas. The Labor member for Ipswich West has also called on the state Labor government to look at that infrastructure with respect to the Karalee area. It is one of those areas where additional high school infrastructure is needed to service two adjacent electorates—not only the electorate of Moggill but also the electorate of Ipswich West. There is certainly no excuse as to why this was not allocated within this year's budget.

Labor's wrong priorities and a lack of infrastructure investment have consequences. Local residents in the electorate of Moggill have every right to ask how Labor is still unable to fund adequately and deliver a comprehensive integrated road and public transport plan and infrastructure to bust traffic congestion and improve pedestrian and public transport for the western suburbs of Brisbane.

There is still no transparency when it comes to what the Labor state government intends to do with the community feedback it received in relation to the Kenmore roundabout. Flawed designs were released by the Labor government. Significant community feedback was provided to the Department of Transport and Main Roads, and still there is no infrastructure—despite dollars sitting within the Department of Transport and Main Roads and funding being allocated by the federal Morrison coalition government. The state Labor government is responsible for delivering that infrastructure, yet we still have no transparency as to when it will provide feedback to the community and get on with delivering that. That is the same with myriad other proposed transport infrastructure. When it comes to roads and public transport infrastructure in Queensland, there are myriad other issues that still exist across Queensland where there is no transparency as to when they are going to be delivered, let alone what is happening with planning and appropriate designs.

Queensland state governments are entrusted to be the custodian of taxpayers' dollars and to ensure that all state government expenditure is spent with care and sound budgeting principles. The failure of the state Labor government to do this and to properly manage the Queensland economy will have devastating impacts—not only in the short term but in the long term as well. In consideration of these appropriation bills and previous state Labor government budget appropriations, it is imperative that the state Labor government finally starts to govern for all Queenslanders and, in particular, delivers the vital health, education, road and transport infrastructure that is so desperately needed across Queensland.

In relation to the Palaszczuk state Labor government, we can absolutely say that Labor is failing on openness, integrity and accountability. It is failing on service delivery. Labor is certainly failing on delivering a sustainable economy for Queensland—let alone providing much needed infrastructure, particularly across the western suburbs of Brisbane. I constantly hear the Labor government try to sheet blame on to former LNP governments here in Queensland or the federal Morrison coalition government. Could members imagine if Anthony Albanese were elected Prime Minister of Australia? He is a leader of the hard left. He has had links to the Communist Party here. If you look at his tax agenda in relation to channeling Bill Shorten, he is trying to channel the hard left. He is always talking to the Chinese Communist Party and he is probably talking to Vladimir Putin as well. Could members imagine if federal Labor were to run this country? We can only thank goodness we have had the federal Morrison coalition government that has provided the economic leadership for this nation. What is needed here in Queensland is an LNP state government.



**Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (3.28 pm): I rise to support the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) and the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2). The Palaszczuk government, like many around the country and around the world, has faced unprecedented economic conditions as a result of the global COVID-19 pandemic. Our government has acted firmly and decisively to manage the economic impacts of the pandemic. Most importantly, it has acted in the direct interests of the people of Queensland.

Members will recall that our Premier stood firm, backed by our health advice, when those opposite called for the borders to be opened 64 times before we even had a vaccine available to protect the population. Instead, we held firm and focused on the health of Queenslanders first—because you cannot have a healthy economy unless you have healthy people. The Palaszczuk government made strategic investments to support our economy—from payroll tax relief and market diversification grants to support for digital trade missions to keep our export markets strong.

We directly supported the needs of the agriculture industry through our agriculture coordination group to make sure critical issues were presented directly to government and then responded to in a timely fashion. Freight issues, workforce issues, logistical issues—this pandemic has thrown everything

at our agriculture sector and we have come through incredibly well. Critical to the success of this work was working out and putting in place effective border arrangements based on and updated with the best available health advice.

Of course, the abject failure of the Commonwealth government to fulfil its constitutional responsibility for quarantine arrangements will stand as a permanent indictment of the LNP and the federal coalition. How a federal government, in the face of the worst pandemic to hit the world in more than a century, could turn its back on such a fundamental responsibility is beyond me.

Quarantine capacity was, of course, a critical component that allowed Pacific workers to enter Queensland and fill vital roles on farms, in meat processing facilities and in other roles where there was an insufficient supply of local workers. The Palaszczuk government ensured that regional on-farm quarantine facilities were available for agriculture sector workers. My Department of Agriculture and Fisheries worked closely with Queensland Health to make sure those facilities were fit for purpose and met the conditions of the health advice.

We have done more, with the new facility at Wellcamp ready to play an important role in whatever future turns this pandemic might look like or deliver. While the federal government hastens slowly on its facility at Pinkenba, Queensland has the Wellcamp facility ready to meet the state's needs.

Across the economy we see Queensland leading the nation in employment growth. An unemployment rate of 4.4 per cent was probably hard to imagine before coronavirus hit our shores, and almost unthinkable when we were in the full grip of the pandemic's early stages. In just the last month some 17,400 jobs were created in our state, well ahead of every other state in the nation. In fact, there are more than 120,000 more Queenslanders in employment than there were pre pandemic. More than 1,000 jobs have been created per week since 2015. This is a record of which any government would be proud. We listened to the health advice, we saved Queensland lives and we invested strategically in the economy.

That is not the only sign of strength in the Queensland economy. Housing starts are up 40 per cent compared to before the pandemic. Economic growth in Queensland was 6.1 per cent last year, far outstripping the performance of the national economy. Retail sales are up 17 per cent compared to before the pandemic. Exports in 2021 are up \$79 billion compared to the year before. It is worth mentioning more than once—hundreds of thousands more jobs since 2015.

Turning to my electorate, this bill again highlights the positive work the Palaszczuk government has accomplished for Ferny Grove. It comes as no surprise that the nature of government and the running of departments require a need for funding especially and much more so during a global pandemic. The committee report notes that the key expenditure of about 87.8 per cent arose from three departments: the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs; the Department of Justice and Attorney-General; and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services. The remaining amounts were incurred by the Queensland Police Service; the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water; and the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning. I would also like to pass on my thanks to the Public Service in my electorate and across Queensland which kept things going and kept up the service delivery standards that we have come to expect.

As many local members have no doubt experienced, their constituents, be they grandparents or other family members, raised concerns regarding their family experiences with Child Safety and the need for assistance. Part of the additional expenditure in child safety was primarily due to additional funding to address increased demand for out-of-home care services in the child protection system.

In terms of the costs of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, this was 'primarily due to funding to meet the state's share of the Queensland floods class action settlement in 2020-21'. For many Queenslanders, those floods remain in our memories, and some of the constituents who were part of the Mud Army turned around and offered themselves as supporters for the Care Army.

My electorate office fielded a number of calls throughout the pandemic when it came to the need for hotel quarantine arrangements and keeping Queenslanders safe. Before the vaccine was widespread, or even available, we needed to utilise hotel quarantine. This did carry a cost, as the committee report noted. Additional departmental services expenses incurred by Queensland Fire and Emergency Services for 2020-21 were 'primarily due to funding for the COVID-19 response for quarantine accommodation costs and logistics and border control activities, and additional funding to fulfil the election commitment of recruiting additional firefighters and for aerial firefighting'. I have come across many passionate firefighters in my time, as many members of this place would have also. I would like to thank the union, the QUFU, for their ongoing engagement as part of this government's plan to boost firefighter numbers.

It goes without saying that I would also like to acknowledge the Queensland Police Service as well as the Queensland Police Union for their roles in the COVID-19 response, a visible presence in protecting Queenslanders, whether it be on the borders or in hotel accommodation. They were there, the women and men in their blue uniforms, bravely assisting the public and keeping us all safe during this insidious pandemic.

The committee report noted expenses for the Queensland Police Service in 2020-21 were principally related to funding to ensure the sustainability of compliance activities for COVID-19 public health measures. The local Ferny Grove police station did a sterling job in supporting the community during the pandemic, and the approach from Queensland police in assisting the community with taking the appropriate health measures were, and are, applied with courtesy and, where needed, with firmness.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the importance of Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) considering that it was experienced by all of this House and as the Treasurer advised on introducing the bill, this expenditure 'related in part to the costs of running the 2020 state election during the pandemic'. The state election was one like no other any Queenslanders has experienced. Who can ever forget the success on this side of the House? Five new members starting from Bundaberg, Hervey Bay, Caloundra and Nicklin down to Pumicestone—five quality members brought into this House as a result of the 2020 election. The election was successfully held as a result of our measures and practices that were put in place to make sure voters were kept safe as well. All Queenslanders had the right and ability to have their say and the opportunity to cast their votes. This right should not be taken for granted, dismissed or called into question as some now former members of the LNP have attempted to do. To entertain claims that an election can be rigged is bad news for democracy and should not be entertained.


This is the people's house, one where schoolchildren from my electorate, and electorates from across this state, come to learn about the democracy that their parents and guardians participate in and one day they will participate in. The very fact that a worldwide pandemic did not stop the right to vote and the right to have a say should be celebrated. We should not forget the 2020 election and we should fight back any conspiracy theories from those opposite or anyone else who—

**Mr MANDER:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 118, relevance. This has absolutely nothing to do with the bill. I would ask that you rule on that thank you.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mrs Gerber): Member for Ferny Grove, I will ask that you come back to the long title of the bill. I have been granting some latitude, but I ask that you come back to the long title of the bill.

**Mr FURNER:** It has every relevance to do with the bill had the member for Everton read this bill. We should not forget the 2020 election and we should fight back any conspiracy theories promulgated by those opposite or any other party out there. The people of Ferny Grove and all Queenslanders have benefited from what these bills have achieved, something for which we should all be grateful. I commend the bill to the House.

I wish to place on the record our thanks to all Queenslanders for their support during the difficult times we face during this pandemic and the absolute support they are providing to the Palaszczuk government on a regular basis. We are here for longevity. We are here to make sure we provide, as we do in every budget delivered in this House, the appropriate support and foundations to make sure Queensland prospers well into the future.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (3.38 pm): I rise to speak to the appropriation bills currently before the House. This is not unusual. Indeed, it is a process that we go through pretty much every year. The government will present an appropriation bill to cover unforeseen expenditure that may arise that was not foreseen or accounted for in the annual budget. This unforeseen expenditure needs to be approved by the parliament via an appropriation bill.

According to the explanatory notes to the bill, timely consideration of unforeseen expenditure enhances transparency and accountability of government expenditure. Isn't that a phrase that we have heard a lot about in recent times? Openness and transparency in regard to this government is all about the lack thereof. During the end-of-year break we saw the Palaszczuk government engulfed in a lack of integrity crisis—a crisis of a lack of integrity and transparency. It is somewhat ironic that the first bill we have before the House this calendar year has explanatory notes that state it will enhance transparency and accountability of government. In my brief contribution to this debate let's have a look at how that transparency and accountability stack up.



The Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) 2021 has an unforeseen expenditure amount of \$1.795 million for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service. On introducing the bill, the Treasurer advised that this expenditure related, in part, to the costs of running the 2020 state election during the pandemic. There is no doubt that the pandemic has thrown many budgets into disarray and of course there is going to be a significant spend on this parliamentary precinct in the coming year.

The unforeseen expenditure for the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) is more significant, a total of \$447.456 million. The majority of the total unforeseen expenditure, 87.8 per cent, arose from three departments: the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs; the Department of Justice and Attorney-General; and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services. The remaining amounts were incurred by the Queensland Police Service; the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water; and the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning. The Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs will receive \$114.247 million. This is a department that is in crisis under this government. The explanatory notes state that the additional departmental services expenses, \$92.247 million, were primarily due to the additional funding to address increased demand for out-of-home care services in the child protection system.

Almost daily we hear of the failures in this department under this minister. If this funding would solve those problems, it would be truly wonderful. However, the problems run a little deeper than that. There is a cultural problem that needs to be resolved first. We are talking about the most vulnerable members of our society, and those on the front line need all the support and resources that can be provided. My staff and I, like many members in this House, have experienced the frustration that comes with trying to get a satisfactory resolution to the issues that come into our office. This is extremely traumatic for our staff and we have all experienced it. They take it home and it weighs on their conscience.


Additional expenditure of \$188.94 million incurred by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General in 2020-21 was identified by Treasury as being primarily due to funding to meet the state's share of the Queensland flood class action settlement in 2021. Most of the general public would like to see this department and minister get tough on the young recidivist offenders who are causing havoc across this state. Having a car stolen by one of these hoodlums seems to be a way of life. Nowhere is immune. From the city to the bush, crime is out of control in this state.

Additional expenditure incurred by the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water, \$6.352 million, was chiefly due to the reallocation of funding from the Department of Resources for water functions when those departments were split. Going forward, this department will need a much larger injection to repair Paradise Dam. This is the dam that was built by the Beattie government, partially torn down by this government and now needs to be rebuilt with the support of the federal government. The department of state development will receive \$52.845 million.

The question that many residents in Condamine have for this department and this Palaszczuk government is: where is the funding amount for the Wellcamp quarantine facility? The government refuses to tell Queenslanders how much this project is costing the state. The Premier and the Wagner Group both say it is commercial-in-confidence. These are public funds and the taxpayer has a right to know. Let us not forget that this project did not go out to a tender process; there was only one bidder. After months of secrecy, last week we had the bizarre situation where the Premier then disclosed that the state had contributed \$50 million. The same afternoon the health minister was talking about a figure of \$190 million. We do not know what the lease amount is or what the terms of that agreement are.

There is only one reason the government will not disclose the details of this arrangement and that is because there is something they do not want the public to know. There is something in this deal that they know will not pass the pub test. The Treasurer stood in this House this morning and proudly announced public funding for a range of projects, but on the Wellcamp project mystery still surrounds. As I said at the beginning of my contribution, the explanatory notes state that the government needs to display transparency and accountability of government expenditure. That includes Wellcamp.

There is additional funding for the Police Service and Fire and Emergency Services, which we know have had an enormous workload throughout the pandemic. We will not be opposing this bill, but this government still has a lot of questions to answer.

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (3.45 pm): I rise to support the appropriation bills before us. As members should be aware, this is an annual process which reconciles departmental appropriations at the end of each financial year against the relevant budget projections, in this instance for the 2020-21 financial year. I feel I have to say this because it would seem from listening to those across the chamber that some people think this is some kind of Labor conspiracy when, in fact, it is an annual process under

the Financial Accountability Act 2009. Six departments saw unforeseen expenditure representing 0.74 per cent of the 2020-21 budgeted allocations, well below the average of the past decade and below the LNP peak of unforeseen expenditure of 0.94 per cent. That was under an LNP treasurer.

Our economy in Queensland is going from strength to strength, and isn't that driving some of those opposites completely mad? They are so mad that they are looking for any opportunity or excuse to talk down the Queensland economy. Why do they hate Queensland? Why? They cannot deny the facts. Our economic growth in 2021 was faster than the national average, growing by 6.1 per cent compared to Australia's economy, which grew by 3.9 per cent. By working hard to limit the spread of COVID-19 and our world-leading health response, we have delivered a strong economic position the envy of other states and nations, remembering that amidst the most challenging of economic conditions in a global pandemic all indications are that our state government's economic plan is working.

We saw evidence of this only last week when the latest ABS labour force figures were released showing Queensland's unemployment rate is 4.4 per cent, the lowest level since December 2008. I tried to recall what I was doing in December 2008. It turns out that I was actually pregnant with my second child, and that baby started high school this year. That is how long ago it was.

Queensland has added more jobs than any other state or territory since March 2020, with 124,300 more Queenslanders in jobs today than there were pre COVID. Through initiatives such as our \$3.34 billion Queensland Jobs Fund, our government is supporting the growth of industries, enabling Queensland businesses to make more and add value across the state's regions. Our government's economic recovery plan is helping manufacturers to develop advanced capabilities and support sustainability backed by reliable, renewable, competitively priced energy.

A fantastic example of this is my own electorate where Australian energy technology company Lavo hydrogen is establishing a \$15 million facility backed by the Palaszczuk government through our Invested in Queensland fund. Construction of the new facility is due to get underway shortly and the jobs to come from this are significant. Up to 200 construction jobs will be created over the next 12 months. Once fuel cell production ramps up, there will be almost 170 operational jobs supported here by 2026. Lavo's hydrogen technology has generated considerable customer interest here in Australia and overseas, and this new facility will allow the company to export Queensland-made products to the world. This is one of a number of significant projects being supported by our government through the Invested in Queensland program including the construction and ownership of a new processing plant for vanadium in Townsville, a key new resource mineral used for the construction of large-scale grid batteries that store their charge in tanks of liquid.

Australia has the world's third largest deposits of vanadium resources, but right now we do not produce a single kilogram of processed vanadium. The mining companies looking to process this mineral on an industrial scale do not have the capital necessary to make that jump. This is where the Palaszczuk government is stepping in to invest and support a key new industry. This is what political and economic leadership looks like.

We know that workforce shortages are impacting our state. This is why our continued investment in skills and training, such as Skilling Queenslanders for Work, continues to support Queenslanders to upskill and prepare them for the jobs of the future. Last week I spent some time at the highly successful WestEC Trade Training Centre in Springfield. I am completely blown away by the success of this facility. There are now six schools working together to further the skills of their students. Some of these students are disengaged with general school learning and are finding their passion through a trade. They are doing this with TAFE Queensland and a range of fantastic industry partners, including Mater Education and Cummins. I am so proud that our government made a strong election commitment to expand the WestEC Trade Training Centre, investing more than \$2.25 million. I look forward to sharing the plans with our community in the near future.

Another key area where we are seeing incredible growth is in housing. Dwellings commencements are 40 per cent higher than they were before COVID and higher than the national increase. We are certainly seeing growth in electorates like mine. I regularly meet with local development companies. They have indicated that demand has never been stronger, even with the HomeBuilder scheme ending. Much of this demand has been led by the increase in interstate migration. More than 31,000 people moved to Queensland in 2020. I sometimes feel like they are all coming to Ipswich and Logan, but I know that many members are sharing the load across our state. Why are they here? It is because Queensland is seen as a safe place to live and work. As a government, we are cognisant of what this means for housing demand and affordability in Queensland. It is clearly something the member for Toowoomba North missed in his address. Our government's record \$2.9 billion investment in social and affordable housing is the largest concentrated investment in


Queensland's history. This includes our \$1.9 billion investment over four years, including 7,400 new builds through programs such as QuickStarts and the Help to Home initiative, which will produce 1,000 private housing outcomes through the private market in areas of high demand.

We are also doing things differently when it comes to social and affordable housing with our \$1 billion Housing Investment Fund. We are calling on developers, institutional investors, registered housing providers and eligible government entities to bring forward innovative proposals to add new social homes and additional affordable housing builds. The Queensland Treasurer has requested that I, as the Assistant Minister for Treasury, work closely with our team in Treasury on how we can pursue all opportunities to increase social and affordable housing in Queensland through this investment fund, particularly in addressing homelessness, diverse rental supply, housing choices for seniors and homes for large households.

Of course, we are doing this with the spectre of a decision by Scott Morrison and the LNP to walk away from the National Rental Affordability Scheme. This will leave more than 10,000 Queensland tenants paying more rent or having to find more affordable housing. As we give, the federal government takes away. By mid-2025 there will be no affordable housing under the NRAS program. This is absolutely deplorable. We do not hear anything from those opposite about this dreadful decision. Perhaps the member for Toowoomba North's concerns about affordability could begin being addressed by him speaking with his own federal LNP colleagues.

I am pleased, however, that federal Labor has announced a strong and solid plan for social and affordable housing in this country. An Albanese Labor government will create \$10 billion off-budget Housing Australia Future Fund. In a similar fashion to our Housing Investment Fund, over the first five years the investment returns will build around 20,000 social housing properties, with 4,000 of these allocated for women and children fleeing domestic and family violence and older women on low incomes, who we know are at risk of homelessness. There will be 10,000 affordable housing properties for frontline workers. Every person deserves to have a roof over their head. I am very happy that federal Labor has already committed to working with states on addressing this significant issue for our communities.

Our government's response to the pandemic, the resulting strength of Queensland's economic performance and our willingness to invest heavily—whether in new industries or important social infrastructure—means we are well positioned for the next phase of Queensland's economic future. I congratulate the Queensland Treasurer on the work he has done on the appropriation bills. I commend these bills to the House.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (3.54 pm): I am not surprised to find us kicking off the sitting calendar of 2022 by debating these bills to provide extra funding for six departments and the parliament. I do not think the Treasurer is, either. As I said when we debated the 2021 budget, this was a fairytale. Every fairytale should have a happy ending, and the Treasurer's script called for a surprise surplus just in time for the next election. One of the things the surplus relies upon is that the Labor government restrains its spending in order to achieve the target which was set by the Treasurer. As I wrote to my constituents at the time, this was 'highly unlikely' given the Labor government's perfect record of coming back to parliament for extra appropriations for unforeseen expenditure. I see the Treasurer is upholding the record. Here he is having to pass legislation to authorise money for unforeseen expenditure for six departments.

I was expecting to see a lot of smoke about the need to respond to the global pandemic—the old COVID-19 smokescreen, which Queenslanders are heartily sick of. I accept that both the Queensland Police Service and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services genuinely need to claim extra COVID-19 related expenditure—indeed, I congratulate those two departments on the great job they have done—but it is strange that the Treasurer was completely unable to foresee these COVID-19 duties and budget accordingly.

COVID-19 was the excuse he gave for handing down the budget so late. Nearly half of the financial year had already passed. Even having to forecast only seven months of the budget and even knowing COVID-19 had to be factored in, the Treasurer still could not get it right. Part of the reason for this is that Labor's first instinct is to hide unfortunate facts. In my speech to the House when the budget was handed down, I pointed out that the format of the budget papers had been totally changed. This made it difficult, if not impossible, to compare this Queensland budget to those of previous years, let alone compare Queensland's budget to those of other states and territories. It was designed to confuse. It was designed to hide.

Cosy secrecy is just the way the Labor government like to keep things. Annoyingly for them, the Queensland Auditor-General keeps pointing out things like the growing debt and the fact that we are borrowing to keep the lights on. There are other trusted forms of public report card on the Labor government's competence. The CommSec State of the States report ranks Queensland fifth out of six states for overall economic performance and the worst for economic growth.

The truth just has a way of coming out eventually. The thing about the truth is that it really does set you free—free to tackle the problems head-on. We really need the Treasurer to start being truthful. It is almost impossible to respond when you will not tell the truth. It is impossible when you will not consult outside the Labor elites of lawyers, academics and highly paid union officials. You end up not knowing what you do not know. Focus groups cannot tell you. The focus group itself becomes an echo chamber. When you hide things, you cannot solve the problem.

We start this parliamentary sitting year with most Queenslanders knowing that the Labor government has some serious problems with transparency and integrity. The need for these two appropriation bills only months after the Treasurer brought down his budget is part of this story, too. You cannot do accurate forecasts for the departments if public servants are afraid to tell the truth, have lost heart and cannot advise you in the interests of the state.

It does not surprise me that there are six departments with unforeseen expenditure barely three months after the budget was handed down. It does surprise me that in this bill there are two departments without unforeseen COVID-19 expenditure. Where are the Department of Education's COVID-19 costs and where is the funding request for Queensland Health in Appropriation Bill (No. 2)? The only budget increase they received this financial year was from the federal government to cover COVID-19 costs. Instead of support, the Queensland Treasurer imposed cuts—sorry, 'efficiency dividends'.

This bill should contain funding to help our hospital and health services urgently restart elective surgery while remaining on COVID-19 alert. Does the Treasurer make no attempt to fund this? I have constituents who are desperate for treatments that are delayed due to COVID-19, and all I hear is, 'We are slowly gearing up for elective surgery to restart.' We cannot take this at a stroll. The effect on people's health—indeed, their life expectancy—is a real and devastating issue.

Five months ago, one of my constituents was told by the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service that she has cervical cancer. She was told that a second appointment was needed to discuss what treatments may be available. That was last August. Five times that appointment has been cancelled or rescheduled. She still has not been seen to discuss her treatment options. Can you imagine the anxiety she and her husband are going through at the moment? She is a much loved and needed mother of two young daughters. She has previously had a cancerous lesion removed from her cervix. She should be a priority, but the hard truth is that she is not even a statistic on the waiting list yet. She is not on the waiting list for the waiting list. It is the Queensland hospital system that is letting her down and letting her young family down.

Another constituent suffered a serious spinal injury in a road accident just before Christmas. He was brought to the PA Hospital from Longreach and given emergency spinal surgery. He was then left for weeks in the orthopaedic ward because although there were beds available in the spinal unit there were not sufficient nurses to staff it. This does not approach the best practice that we need here in Queensland.

As the Treasurer brings these bills to the Queensland parliament, where is the request for the necessary extra funding for our hospitals to restart treating Queenslanders with conditions other than COVID-19? This is not just a matter of catching up and clearing the waiting lists. It has had serious impacts for surgeons, nurses and allied health graduates trying to complete their hospital training placements. The records will say that they did their required time, but they will not have the clinical experience. They will not be able to say, 'I've done 20 gallbladder operations under supervision so I'm confident I can do this operation.'


It is urgent that we get our health system out of its COVID-19 coma and back to work, but the Treasurer and the health minister seem oblivious. Therefore, I must assume that they are still holding the health and hospital services to the Treasurer's cuts—sorry, I correct that again; the Treasury's efficiency dividends. I have no hope of the Treasurer even answering this up-front given there is such a lack of transparency from this government. Despite the Clerk of the Parliament providing written advice that ministers must answer questions about any departmental budget matters, we still saw committee chairs acting as protectors for ministers. We still saw hiding and dodging.

The LNP has a policy to create a parliamentary budget office to try and bring some transparency to Queensland's budget process. Here we are debating this Appropriation Bill (No. 2) and we do not really know why some departments get top-up funding and some do not. We do not know how Labor

chooses its priorities, only that its priorities do not seem to align with all of the problems in Queensland. The Treasurer has announced a future fund for social housing and building hospitals, but it is based on fairytale valuations of other assets which he is selling himself. Not a single real dollar is involved.

So how long will we wait for work to start on my area's big-ticket item, the Blackwater Hospital campus upgrade? I am talking about a hospital that was built back in the 1960s under Utah when it operated the mines in Queensland. Blackwater has a population of over 5,000 and it has a hospital that probably would not cater for 100 people. Once we add the fly-in fly-outs and the drive-in drive-outs, the population of Blackwater expands to 12,000 people and yet the hospital is not sufficient. I ask the health minister and the Treasurer: where is the funding for the Blackwater Hospital that was promised in the last budget? We cannot find it. We cannot see it. The people of Blackwater need to have their hospital upgraded urgently. Blackwater is a region which provides billions and billions of dollars in economic generating activity for Queensland. Given the royalties that this government gets from coal out of the Bowen Basin and the Blackwater area, they deserve to have a proper hospital.

I say to those opposite: go to Blackwater and look at the hospital and then have a look at what Blackwater does for this economy to see if they deserve a better hospital. They do deserve a better hospital, so I call on the Minister for Health, the Treasurer and the Premier to please give us the funds that they promised to start construction on the Blackwater Hospital. It is imperative that we have that hospital started and I will continue to campaign, I will continue to lobby and I will continue to speak very loudly about this to make sure that the people of Blackwater get the hospital that they deserve. The same design for the hospital that was built in Blackall could easily be built in Blackwater. It will not cost a lot of money, but it will save lives, it will give confidence to the region and the people of Blackwater deserve it.

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (4.03 pm): I rise in support of the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2021 and the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) 2021. This is an annual process under the Financial Accountability Act 2009, as the majority of us are aware, to reconcile the departmental appropriations at the end of each financial year against the relevant budget projections. The unforeseen expenditure incurred by the Legislative Assembly and the Parliamentary Service was primarily due to additional departmental services, funding for costs associated with the 2020 state election and additional funding to support service delivery pressures.

It has been acknowledged in this chamber that while six departments had unforeseen expenditure another 17 departments had lapsed appropriations to the tune of \$1.4 billion. This is not reported in the bills but has been published in the Consolidated Fund Financial Report. Lapsed appropriations, I want to stress, are not cuts. They typically represent where funds for a program have not been spent in the year in which they were anticipated. Examples include the Commonwealth government funding adjustments to the North Queensland Restocking, Replanting and On-farm Infrastructure Grants scheme. Another example would be the Community Health and Hospitals Program along with other state programs and machinery-of-government changes.

While speaking of the appropriation bill and the state's finances, it is also important to take into account our state's economic growth in these most unique and challenging times out of which we appear to be emerging due to the sound and rational approach of the Palaszczuk government, of which I am very pleased to be a member. Queensland's economic growth in 2021 was faster than the national average. Queensland's economy grew by 6.1 per cent while Australia's economy grew by 3.9 per cent. Household consumption in Queensland grew by 2.9 per cent in the latest quarter—1½ times faster than that of the rest of the Commonwealth. Private investment in Queensland grew by 4.6 per cent while the national average grew by only 0.8 per cent. In terms of private investment, people only usually invest in places that are doing well or have a very bright future. Dwelling investment in Queensland also grew by 4.6 per cent while the national average stalled with 0.1 per cent growth.

One only has to look around Cairns to see how strong the building industry is there, and I dare say in other parts of the state where people cannot get anybody—any builder, chippies or plumbers—because they are absolutely flat out at the moment and are booming. As I travel around the state of Queensland I am told on a regular basis that this is not just happening in Cairns but is happening across the state. This is why we continued to invest in areas like TAFE. We continued to invest in skills areas. This is the appropriate allocation of capital to ensure that we are building careers and we are building a strong future.

Queensland's business investment grew by 4.9 per cent while nationally it grew by 0.8 per cent. Queensland's economy is 6.4 per cent larger than it was pre COVID; Australia's is just 0.1 per cent larger, so thank you, Mr Morrison. Queensland has added more jobs than any other state or territory since March 2020, with 124,300 more Queenslanders in jobs today than there were pre COVID. When


we take into account some of our biggest industries that employ so many, including tourism, this is a remarkable figure. Our government has overseen the addition of 376,800 jobs since 2015, more than 1,000 jobs every week. That is a positive thing not only for my region of Cairns but also for the state. Towards the end of last year we all would have seen year 12s leaving school and going out into the workforce. Knowing that there are skills being provided through TAFE and other skill-developing programs and knowing that there is need for their employment is such a positive thing to be able to acknowledge.

Queensland's unemployment rate has dropped to 4.4 per cent—its lowest rate since December 2008. It should come as no surprise to anyone in this chamber that Queensland is attracting more interstate migrants than any other jurisdiction in the Commonwealth. More than 31,000 people moved to Queensland in 2020 and 85,000 Australians from other states are expected to come to Queensland before June 2024, hence the need for our ongoing investment across the state in essential and job-creating infrastructure.

The value of Queensland's exports in 2021 was \$79.2 billion. That was up 16.5, or 26 per cent, on exports in 2020. These are the facts and they remain undisputed. We will continue to invest in this sector. As recently as last Friday in Cairns I joined the Treasurer on site to turn the first sod on construction of the Cairns Regional Trade Distribution Centre. These early works will create 30 local construction jobs, with a further 30 jobs to be supported once the facility is operational, including nine new roles. This is about ensuring we are providing the appropriate facilities for our agricultural and aquacultural sector to continue exports so we will not have to subsidise aircrafts flying into leisure destinations. This is also reflected in the \$200 million, the largest single war chest, which was put together by both the Palaszczuk government and four private airports in pursuit of getting those airlines here. It is the biggest investment in aviation that we have seen anywhere in the Commonwealth.

Finally, Queensland's tax settings remain competitive with the average Queenslander paying \$628 less than the average Australian and \$1,100 less than those in the state of New South Wales. All this has been achieved by a government that listens to the science and makes sound decisions based on that science, unlike those opposite who never understood the science and called for the borders to be opened 64 times before any solution had been arrived at. It was absolutely remarkable.

I thank the members of the Economic and Governance Committee, in particular its chair, for his articulate presentation this morning, and the deputy chair. I also acknowledge the secretariat for the work that they do. Our state's economic future is positive, it is strong and it is growing. These are the facts. They remain undisputed. The Palaszczuk government continues to invest in essential areas for all Queenslanders.

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (4.12 pm): I rise to address the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2021 which addresses unplanned supplementary appropriations for the last financial year. As we have seen across the duration of his tenure, the Treasurer is overspending and underdelivering and it is Queenslanders who are paying the price. His lack of leadership, inability to control a budget and a failure to plan for the future of Queensland has the small and family business sector in dire straits. Even considering the creative accounting approach that the inflated Titles Registry valuation embodies, Queensland's debt continues to grow and will soon reach \$130 billion. As we have seen time and time again in recent years, this Labor state government is borrowing to pay for recurrent operational expenditures, just as it is in this bill, not on infrastructure, not on investment to grow the state and most certainly not to support small and family businesses in their hour of need.

This government loves to spend Queenslanders' money, but it could not find the money to help thousands of Queensland small and family businesses who are the backbone of our state's economy, small and family business who, along with their staff, have borne the brunt of the fallout from COVID-19, small and family businesses who have been crying out for help from the state government so they could battle on until trade returns and they can support themselves.

It is great that international visitors are now able to return to Queensland, but there needs to be a tourism and small business sector here when they arrive and as it stands every day another small business closes its doors and Queenslanders are being laid off. Business confidence is plummeting every single day that the Premier does not release a support package. We must protect Queensland small and family businesses and the Queenslanders that they employ. The LNP have repeatedly put suggestions on the table, including targeted grants, payroll tax relief and sick leave cover, but the government has ignored those suggestions.

It is a slap in the face of every single Queensland small business that in their hour of need the Treasurer is still dipping his hand into their pockets making them pay their payroll tax for the privilege of keeping Queenslanders in a job. In the last quarter the state government's lack of support saw

business confidence crash in Queensland by 17 per cent. Business owners have no confidence in the Treasurer and his ability to manage the state budget. Sales and revenue were down last quarter despite what we have heard from those opposite and it is all written plain as day in the latest CCIQ Pulse survey information which is compiled directly from businesses across the state.

What was most concerning in the CCIQ Pulse survey is that 63 per cent of businesses and their staff have said that they are being impacted by mental health challenges. This is up significantly from the last quarter. This should have been ringing alarm bells for the state government, especially considering the current mental health crisis in Queensland. The concerns raised by these small businesses fell on deaf ears. Instead of listening to that cry for help and acting, the Treasurer has instead sought to discredit the Pulse survey just as he did when the CommSec State of the States report reported some inconvenient facts in years past. Rather than shoot the messenger the Treasurer should be listening and working with organisations like CCIQ and local chambers of commerce who are the voice of Queensland small and family businesses.

When the Premier's mixed messages told Queenslanders to stay at home in January, it was mum-and-dad retailers and small hospitality venues who paid the price. They were the ones who went without customers to pay the bills and they did not get any help from the state government either. Small businesses were forced to pay double just to keep their shops and cafes open: one payment for the workers who are in a job and a second payment to the staff who are forced to isolate at home. It was impossible for these businesses to keep their heads above water and many have told me that they were forced to take out second mortgages just to survive. Business owners poured their entire savings in just to keep their employees in a job while the Treasurer ignored them and kept his head in the sand.

This state government likes to pretend it cares about small and family businesses but its actions tell another story. It does not listen to small and family business owners and in their hour of need the Premier and her government turned their back on them. Indeed, it seems the Premier was unaware of the hurt that small and family businesses were dealing with until she visited a local takeaway restaurant in mid-January. It makes one wonder what the minister for small business was doing. She has been missing in action for the better part of a month, missing in action when small and family businesses have been in a fight for their life.

By contrast, my LNP colleagues and I have been travelling the state listening to small and family businesses. In Rockhampton, on the Gold Coast, in Bundaberg and in the Brisbane CBD the message from many small and family businesses has been the same: we are hurting now more than ever, more than in the lockdowns, and we need help to survive. That feedback has informed the suggestions that we have made to address the state government's failure to plan. Those small businesses needed support weeks ago. It is too late now for many who have already closed their doors and walked away from their dreams. Employees are out of a job. Many small and family business owners are left with nothing but a mountain of debt. Hundreds of jobs have been lost all because the Treasurer cannot plan and cannot manage a budget. Other states managed to support the small business sector, but in Queensland they were ignored. The government's failure to plan meant that the goalposts kept changing for small and family businesses and it certainly did not help when the only thing being delivered by the state government were mixed messages.

If the Treasurer did plan, he would understand that small and family businesses contribute greatly to Queensland's economy. Forty-three per cent of the private sector workforce are employed by small and family businesses. A stronger economy allows for more investment in other areas such as health, education and support for the most vulnerable. Small and family business underpin that economy. Queensland needs an economy for everyone and everyone includes small and family business.

Before I finish I also want to address the comments from those opposite with respect to skills and training in Queensland and the 'record investment' in skills and training. I might mention to those opposite that the majority, over 80 per cent, is funded by the federal government that they criticise day in, day out for failing to work with them but who has picked up the tab time and time again for the projects, policies and initiatives that this state is unable to fund and manage—projects like the Mooloolah River Interchange in my electorate on the Sunshine Coast, a project which is a state road that is being funded 50 per cent by the federal government simply because the state government cannot manage its finances. It is simply not good enough.

I note there is no additional funding in the bill for TAFE despite what we have heard from those opposite. I call on those opposite to work constructively with the federal government rather than play petty politics to advance their own party's political ambitions at the next federal election. It might be interesting to see if the tone changes should the outcome not be in the LNP's favour at the federal election. I wonder whether or not we will see the crowing that we saw before the last election at which

Bill Shorten was soundly defeated. I remember quite well when minister after minister stood up and extolled the virtues of Bill Shorten, who was going to be the prime minister, but we did not hear anything after the election. I will admit that I was surprised at the outcome too. It was a beautiful thing to see those opposite completely silenced. How good is Queensland?

Queenslanders deserve to be supported. Through the pandemic Queenslanders in the electorate of Currumbin have done it tougher than most as have those who live in the border regions in towns such as Goondiwindi and Inglewood. Right across the state Queenslanders have done it tough through the pandemic but, unfortunately, in many cases we have seen the government turn their back on them. They like to talk the big talk but they go missing in action. It is only when it becomes politically inconvenient or when it is on the front page of the newspaper or on the *Today* show or *Sunrise* that we finally see the Premier step up to the mark.


**Mr FURNER:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 236, relevance, in respect to the bills before the House. The member for Buderim is clearly irrelevant when it comes to his contribution to these bills.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mrs Gerber): Member for Buderim, I have allowed some leniency in relation to the long title of the bills. There are a lot of matters that can fall within the appropriation titles. You have the call and I ask you to continue your contribution.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I appreciate the guidance, particularly from the former senator who is protecting his federal colleagues. I acknowledge that there is \$447 million in these supplementary appropriations, some of which is funding additional expenditure in relation to QFES and the Queensland police's commitment to the COVID response. I commend QFES and the Queensland police for the work that they have done, in spite of this government, through the COVID pandemic.

Unfortunately, my local police consistently tell me that they do not have enough resources and that they need more police on the beat. The manifestation of that is simply that crime is out of control in many places in Queensland. It is even a problem in Buderim, which I admit is one of the better places if not the best place in Queensland. We do have crime problems just like Townsville and places such as Ferny Grove, where young thugs are holding communities to ransom because of a failure to invest in youth justice, a failure to resource the police adequately and a failure to provide the police with the tools that they need to keep our communities safe.

It is time for those opposite to stop talking the talk; they need to start walking the walk. They need to fund the police adequately. Unfortunately, hollow announcements about helicopters and drones will not cut it. We need more boots on the ground in Townsville, Cairns, the Sunshine Coast, the Gold Coast and Brisbane. Without that we will only see those problems escalate, and Queenslanders deserve better.

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (4.23 pm): It is certainly a pleasure to rise and follow the tour de force of nonsensical 'econo babble' from the member for Buderim. I look forward to his support when it comes to voting for these bills before the House.

I too rise in support of the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2021 and the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) 2021 because we are delivering a plan for Queensland's economic recovery as we emerge from the Omicron wave. From job creation to economic growth and retail sales, Queensland is leading the nation. Unforeseen expenditure, which is the subject of these bills, is expenditure from the Consolidated Fund above the amount approved through prior appropriation. Unforeseen expenditure can occur occasionally for any number of reasons, including natural disasters, weather events or emergent issues, new decisions and the implementation of government policies made during the year, a change in the timing of Commonwealth payments or accelerated project delivery, including pulling forward capital spending.

The Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) seeks supplementary appropriation for unforeseen expenditure incurred by the Legislative Assembly in the 2020-21 financial year of \$1,795,000. This unforeseen expenditure was primarily due to additional services, costs associated with the 2020 state election and additional service delivery.

The Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2021 seeks supplementary appropriation for unforeseen expenditure incurred in the 2020-21 financial year by six departments of \$447,456,000. The majority or 87.8 per cent of that expenditure arises from three departments. The Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs contributed \$114,247,000 due to the increased demand for out-of-home care services in the child protection system. The Department of Justice and Attorney-General contributed \$188,940,000. The Queensland Fire and Emergency Services contributed \$91,179,000, primarily for the COVID-19 response for quarantine accommodation costs, logistics and border control



activities, additional firefighters and aerial firefighting costs. This unforeseen expenditure is less than half the amount incurred in the 2019-20 financial year, representing just 0.74 per cent of total appropriations. That is below the LNP peak of unforeseen expenditure of 0.94 per cent of appropriations in 2013-14 and it is below the state average of the past decade, which is 1.88 per cent.

While there has been unforeseen expenditure totalling \$449,251,000, another 17 departments had underspends totalling \$1,432,802,000. That is not reported in the bills currently before the House, but it has been published in the Consolidated Fund Financial Report. These instances are typically represented when funds for a program have not been spent in the year in which it was anticipated they would be spent. The net impact is that the total appropriation in 2020-21 is almost \$1 billion less than is reported in the 2020-21 budget.

That means that Queensland's economic recovery continues to lead the nation out of the pandemic. It underscores the economic benefits and jobs growth that come with our strong health response. We have avoided the long lockdowns that have occurred in other states and our economy has gone from strength to strength since the budget was delivered last June. That fact is borne out in the recent 2021-22 budget update. On almost every metric, Queensland is either outperforming the national average or is the best state in its own right. Revenues are higher and our deficit and debt are lower than had been forecast. Our economic growth is expected to strengthen further to 3.25 per cent in this financial year, which is stronger than the original forecast of 2.75 per cent.

Year average employment growth is forecast to strengthen to 4.5 per cent, which is well above the three per cent forecast originally. That will be the strongest employment growth in 15 years. The deficit for 2021-22 is expected to be \$1.492 billion or thereabouts, which is less than half the \$3.485 billion forecast at the budget. Our budget is in a stronger position in each subsequent year of the forward estimates compared to the 2021-22 budget, with a return to surplus still forecast in 2024-25. Net debt is expected to be \$7.2 billion lower than was forecast.

In 2021, our economic growth was faster than the national average. Our economy grew by 6.1 per cent while Australia's economy grew by 3.9 per cent. Household consumption in Queensland grew by 2.9 per cent in the last quarter, which was one-and-a-half times faster than the rest of Australia. Private investment in our state grew by 4.6 per cent, while the national average grew by just 0.8 per cent. Business investment in Queensland grew by 4.9 per cent, compared with 0.8 per cent nationally. Our economy is 6.4 per cent larger than it was pre-COVID whereas the national economy is just 0.1 per cent larger.


We have added more jobs than any other state or territory since March 2020, with 124,300 more Queenslanders in jobs today than there were pre COVID. January labour force data from the ABS underlines the strength of the Palaszczuk government's economic recovery plan for Queensland. We have recorded the highest growth in employment in Australia and the largest fall in unemployment of any state. Our unemployment rate is now at its lowest level since December 2008, dropping by 0.3 per cent to just 4.4 per cent. We continued to defy expectations of an Omicron downturn, creating 17,400 jobs in January 2022. Australia would have gone backwards without Queensland, given employment increased by just 12,900 across the nation. The participation rate rose by 0.2 per cent to 66.4 per cent, above the national average. This is thanks to our world-leading health response which allowed our economy to stay open until Queenslanders had sufficient access to vaccination.

Since we were first elected, the Palaszczuk government has seen the creation of more than 1,000 jobs, on average, every single week for seven years. That is 376,800 new jobs under Labor. We continue to follow the path we have charted to recovery, ensuring Queensland is in the best possible position for the rest of 2022 and beyond.

Locally, we have so many highlights. Neogen, a world-leading food safety giant, is consolidating its Australian operations from Victoria to our local community in Bundamba and building an \$11 million genomic centre that will help primary producers grow and breed the best produce and livestock. This means more local jobs and a workforce of about 50 which will grow to more than 75 over the coming years. We have another 250 local jobs being supported at the biggest Australia Post parcel facility in the country in our local community at Redbank. It is just one business in our rapidly growing Redbank Motorway Estate that right now is providing jobs to over 2,000 people.

As my colleague the member for Jordan mentioned, Ipswich will become home to Australia's first hydrogen fuel cell manufacturing facility. Lavo hydrogen technology will build a \$15 million facility in Springfield, backed by our Invested in Queensland program. We are also investing in local manufacturing, with Australian Water Engineers at Riverview receiving a \$100,000 grant under our Made in Queensland program to secure new equipment that enables more work to be done locally instead of overseas.

In conclusion, this bill continues to deliver on our plan for Queensland's safe and strong economic recovery. We are leading the nation as we emerge from the Omicron wave. Our economy is growing quickly. Jobs are up. Business investment is up. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (4.33 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate of appropriation bills (No. 2). As so many of the speakers on this side of the House have already alluded, clearly this bill is before the House because we have a Treasurer addicted to overspending and underplanning. Let us talk about his planning with the titles office. I am sure everyone in this House can remember the bogus, inflated—

**Mr Janetzki:** Miraculous.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I take that interjection of the shadow Treasurer—the miraculous figure that was put to the titles office.

**An opposition member:** A miracle.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I take that interjection. It was a miracle. I am quite sure that is what many commentators called it, because it was just plucked out of the air—\$4.2 billion to \$7.8 billion.

**Mr Janetzki** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I will continue to take those interjections by the shadow Treasurer. When it comes to budgets and appropriation bills, it is extremely important to get your facts right. Many members opposite have read Treasury's speaking points and used their little notes. They have not done their own research, but they have deliberately and continually stood up in this chamber and talked about how we are here today because the government is doing such a wonderful job. That is why Queensland has the second worst unemployment rate in mainland Australia. Those opposite can carry on about it being so great, but it is Queensland—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Lui): Order!

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. We have also heard those opposite talking straight off the speaking points and saying that these appropriation bills need to come to this House because of unforeseen expenses around the election. Let us revisit that election. In the middle of the election the Treasurer said, 'We're only going to—'

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Yes, I am more than happy to talk about it. He said that this is only going to increase—

**Mr Power:** But this is not true.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member for Logan will cease his interjections.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I am happy to take the member for Logan's interjections, whilst he continues carrying on, because it really does help my case. It was the Treasurer of Queensland who stood before Queenslanders with the now Premier and said, 'We are only going to increase debt in this state by \$4 billion.' They went to the election and not one month later—about four weeks—that \$4 billion miraculously increased seven times and ended up at \$28 billion!

Why should the people of Queensland trust the Palaszczuk government when it comes to anything to do with figures, budgets, appropriations or anything? Give us a break! That is why the people of my electorate and people across Queensland—even in those incompetent Labor members' seats—are saying, 'If it is \$28 billion extra, why is more money not being spent in our patch?' Where does that extra debt go? Borrowings are being spent on operational expenses. For those opposite, 'operational expenses' basically means money spent to keep the lights on and not on infrastructure investment to grow the state. Two-thirds of Queensland's new debt is being used to cover day-to-day operational expenses—not capital investment. It is certainly not capital investment such as flood gauges on Benara Creek in my patch. If they had been installed, maybe that 14-year-old girl would still be alive.

**Government members:** Shame!

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Really? There is a 14-year-old girl still missing in my electorate. If those opposite want to be inconsiderate, rude and ignorant, please keep going. I take offence at that interjection. That is exactly what we get from a third-term Labor government that is arrogant. The hubris from those opposite! There is no greater insult to the families who risked their own lives and their children's lives, trying to save people in those flooded creeks. I will give the member for Maryborough

a little bit of credit for keeping his head down right now, because he knows how distressed my community still is. I will say it again: if the government wants to increase its borrowings seven times, why can my community not expect some infrastructure projects like flood gauges on Benara Creek?

Why has the funding for the GS Bond Bridge in the previous year miraculously disappeared? That is funding of \$12.387 million for a bridge that is much needed in my patch so B-doubles can go across that bridge and mums and dads in their caravans and the school bus that go across that bridge can do it safely. Where is that \$12.387 million? It has disappeared. It has completely gone. I hear members opposite like the member for Cairns talk about how wonderful the government is for creating incredible economic growth. Why are they not managing their budget properly given all the extra revenue coming as a result of that unprecedented economic growth?


**Mr Harper:** 4.4 per cent unemployment.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** The second worst in the nation. The rest of the nation, except for one state, is doing better. I am quite sure that interjection is from the same member. I could not have planned that. He just walked straight into that.

This is typical of a Labor government that fails to plan. We have six departments that are over budget. I note that that includes the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water which is over by about \$28 million. I will go back and have a look, but I am quite sure that in estimates we heard that it was roughly that amount of money that was going to be spent in the member for Gladstone's electorate. One would think that if he is going to go over budget by that much and spend that much in his own electorate to try to make sure that the local mayor gets elected as the federal member that he would get his figures right. I do not know why I would expect that. That is why we will continue to back Col Boyce as the federal member for Flynn. He will be fantastic in a returned Morrison-Joyce government. We know that the budget of the Minister for Water, the member for Gladstone, blew out. I would like to look into whether that extra funding flowed into the Gladstone electorate.

I also note that there has been increased expenditure by the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Whilst I welcome extra funds going into that much needed department, it is disappointing to say the least that it does not flow through to the people on the front line who need it most. The people on the front line have the high case loads. I know that the child protection workers in the South Burnett area work so hard. They are overrun with work. If there is increased departmental expenditure let us hope it goes to those on the front line and not just to administrative waste. That will be subject to the estimate process.

It is disappointing that with all these cost overruns we have not seen more expenditure in areas such as health, and mental health in particular.

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (4.42 pm): Every year some MPs are surprised by this bill and every year I am surprised that they are surprised. It is an annual process and it should not come as a shock. I was surprised to hear the member for Nanango banging on about properly funding projects and properly costing projects. We all remember her Bruce Highway funding and the Bradfield scheme fake funding which did not even last until the end of the election campaign before it was revealed how little there was for that. There were a couple of half-funded promises in my area, including the half funding of major road projects. The electorate clearly saw through that.

The economic policies of this government are helping our great state power forward. We have nation-leading interstate migration. We have nation-leading economic growth. We have nation-leading housing starts. We have nation-leading retail spending. We are the first of the major economies in Australia with a path back to surplus.

I believe there are three main reasons for the economic success that the state is experiencing. They are: we entered the pandemic in a strong position; the Premier and her team made the right calls at the right times during the heat of the pandemic; and we have a strong economic recovery plan to drive forward Queensland. We are leading the nation's recovery out of COVID-19. Our strong economic recovery has been built on our strong health response. That health response has allowed our economy to stay open until Queenslanders had sufficient access to vaccinations.

Another 17,000 Queenslanders found work in January—defying expectations of a decrease due to Omicron. Among the states, only Queensland and Western Australia recorded increases in employment in January. I was pleased to hear the Premier's announcement today regarding masks which we can do because of our management of the pandemic. Unlike states like New South Wales and Victoria, we have not had capacity restrictions for months. We have been able to get on with it.

Since COVID reached Queensland, our state has created over 124,000 jobs—more than any other state or territory. As I mentioned earlier, we are welcoming more interstate migrants than any other jurisdiction. We are responding to that growth with our \$50 billion infrastructure guarantee providing Queenslanders with the hospitals, schools, police stations, fire stations, ambulance stations and community facilities that they rightfully expect.

Our state's economy is growing. We have an annual economic growth rate of 6.1 per cent—well above Australia's 3.9 per cent GDP growth rate. Pre COVID, Queensland Labor governments were delivering surplus after surplus and we are back on track to get there again. We will be the first of the big economies to get back there. The LNP federally have not delivered a surplus since four Liberal prime ministers ago—Morrison, nope; Turnbull with Morrison as treasurer, nope; Abbott as prime minister and Joe Hockey, remember him, as treasurer, nope. In Queensland, of course the Newman government never delivered a budget surplus despite promising to do so.

The Appropriation Bill seeks approval of supplementary appropriations for unforeseen expenditure incurred by six departments in the 2020-21 financial year. The majority of the unforeseen expenditure arises from three departments. The increase from the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs is due to increased demand for out of care services in the child protection system and timing adjustments surrounding land transactions. The increases from the Department of Justice and Attorney-General are due to additional funding to meet the state's share of the Queensland flood class action settlement.

For Queensland Fire and Emergency Services the \$91 million is primarily for the COVID-19 response for quarantine accommodation costs, logistics and border control activities, additional firefighters and aerial firefighting costs. I note that for QFES, it looks like on a couple of fronts we are picking up the tab for the Prime Minister's failings yet again. We know he does not hold a hose and we know he refuses to back a dedicated aerial firefighting fleet. He of course leaves hotel quarantine completely to the states to manage and then attacks us at every step over initiatives such as Wellcamp, despite the federal government funding Howard Springs in the Northern Territory, a facility in Victoria and Pinkenba. Maybe before the 2032 Olympics we will see a sod turning at Pinkenba. Maybe it can be an Olympic event helping build Pinkenba. They might be able to get it done in two weeks, but I would not hold my breath.

The reasons for unforeseen expenditure can include additional, proactive decisions to increase spending on a new initiative, additional Commonwealth funding that needs to be either spent or passed on by the state, pull forwards in spending associated with programs being delivered ahead of expectations or a change in underlying factors. Unforeseen expenditure often results from the pull forward of funding from future years. In these instances it simply reflects changes in timing.

One example of a pull forward of funding in my area is the Linkfield Road overpass duplication. We all remember that Prime Minister Morrison and the local members for Petrie and Dickson stood on this site in 2018 and promised \$100 million for this project. Then six months later, at the 2019 federal budget, there was no money in their forward estimates for this project. We would have to wait until 2026 for the funding to start arriving. In late 2019 we campaigned successfully to get the federal government to bring forward their funding so that construction could start earlier, in 2023, which they reluctantly agreed to. Now we have the federal LNP members out there campaigning against their own agreed time lines which we got them to bring forward. The gall of this federal government is never ending and the community is sick of it. This is a perfect example of funding profile changes that get reflected in the process of this bill every year. I know the Prime Minister has seen the light this week to the detriment of his retinas. I only wish he saw the light on Linkfield Road way back in 2019.

I thank the committee and the chair of the committee for their consideration of these bills. I commend the bills to the House.



**Dr MacMAHON** (South Brisbane—Grn) (4.48 pm): In rising to speak to these appropriation bills, I start by saying we were expecting these bills last year. It seems like the government is even more relaxed this year about getting its house in order. The Queensland Greens will be supporting these bills because we believe it is the government's job to fund services for everyday people.

The first appropriation of \$1.795 million for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service relates to the costs of running the 2020 state election funding, funding to relieve service delivery pressures and replacing the library management system. Given the unforeseen challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to fund our public institutions to do their work, the Queensland Greens fully support this.

Appropriation Bill (No. 2) seeks to rubberstamp some unforeseen expenditure across six departments, adding up to \$447 million. Nearly 90 per cent of that expenditure arose from the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services. Given the government's emphasis on law and order and at times overpolicing, I am not surprised to see these overspends, but \$450 million is a lot of money. The vote on this bill is simply a formality and \$450 million is small in the context of a state budget. We are spending five hours debating this instead of some of the biggest issues facing our state.

The issue that really jumps out to me is why is there political will to move this money around at the stroke of a pen with half a day's debate when we are constantly told we do not have enough money to properly fund our public services? There is no doubt, for example, that Queensland is in a housing crisis. This is well documented. After the uncertainty of COVID-19, it has quickly become clear that house prices in Queensland are soaring, as are rents. Inequality and existing social pressures have deepened. The number of applications on the social housing waiting list is unacceptably high. I have come across far too many Queenslanders who are in a desperate housing situation or facing increasing household debt.

The Queensland Audit Office is doing a very welcome audit into the delivery of social housing in Queensland. We are hoping this audit will shine a light on all of the questions begging to be answered about the government's social housing strategy. The government states it will build 3,600 new social homes over four years with the \$40 million it intends to make from the dividends from the Housing Investment Fund. This in turn is meant to be funded from the overinflated transfer of the titles office. We have zero details about how this fund will work or whether this return is tracking to be delivered.

Let us contrast those commitments with the amount being moved around in this bill—this \$450 million is more than 10 times the yearly dividend from the Housing Investment Fund of just \$40 million. By the government's own logic, we could fund 10 times the amount of social homes, about 9,000 a year—that is 36,000 over the forward estimates. This will go a long way to bringing down the social housing waiting list in a meaningful way, with nearly 50,000 people who are waiting on that list. This is a government with the political will to move money around on overspends for out-of-home care and the justice system. Why not move around the same amount of money to fix the housing crisis?

Let us look at public education. Public education should be free but Queensland families are paying millions of dollars every year in school service fees and extra costs for things like uniforms, books and excursions. We have some of the most underfunded state schools in the country, and it is parents, teachers and students who pay the cost. Over the last decade or so state funding per public school student has decreased by \$128, while funding for private and Catholic schools has increased by \$220 and \$246 per student respectively. While we have private schools like Citipointe Christian College taking huge amounts of government funding to discriminate against trans and queer kids, we have a problem.


Queensland Labor and the federal LNP are in lock-step in maintaining this unequal education funding. It is common sense that everyone in Australia should be able to access an excellent education regardless of where they live or their background, but we need to talk about fully funding our public education system. The Greens have been talking about fully funding our state schools to bring Queensland's share of the needs based schooling resources standard to the required 80 per cent. I have been consistently talking about a plan for this since being elected, and it is clear the government has no plan. We are currently at 69.2 per cent of the SRS, with a goal to get to 75 per cent by 2032. That would still leave us at only 95 per cent funded state schools, with private and Catholic schools well in excess of 100 per cent. If we can move money around so easily, let us move some money around for public education. Why does this parliament have no political will to fund our public education system but we have the political will to do these appropriations?

Let us look at health. The state of our health system is something we have been talking about for a while. My office has been hearing from healthcare workers on the front line raising the alarm about our public health system. We have been hearing from paramedics who said that with population growth there has been no increase in funding. Mental health, in particular, remains severely underfunded. A nurse wrote to us about the lack of hospital capacity, saying that they and their colleagues are facing things like 'ambulance ramping ... no beds to offload patients into, patients that require monitoring are being offloaded early which is unsafe'. An emergency department admin staff said, 'I've worked in ED for 10 years and while the number of patients has doubled over that time, there has been no expanding of the space. There is always a delayed response to increases in patient numbers.' A public allied health worker said that over the COVID-19 crisis, 'We have been asked to do even more with even less, while managing the stress of COVID-19.'

Reporting this year has quoted GPs saying ambulances were pulling into their GP clinics to have patients assessed because hospitals were overwhelmed. Organisations like the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union and the Australian Medication Association Queensland have been wondering how the system will cope. We still do not have an update on when elective surgeries will pick back up.

Already this year we have seen acute workforce shortages across the spectrum of Queensland Health services from general practice to hospitals to residential aged care. Workers are stressed and exhausted. The Nurses and Midwives' Union have been calling for clinical staff to get an allowance to recognise the immense stress that the staff have been put under while keeping us safe. This is something I urge the government to pick up. The truth is our social support systems cannot cope if we do not properly fund them. Just as this government seems comfortable in moving around \$450 million to fix up its accounting, we want to see a proper debate about what it would take to properly fund our housing, health and education systems.

I also wanted to comment on the discussion today about Queensland's employment rates. We still have one of the lowest rates of employment in the country. We also have a relatively high rate of underemployment—seven per cent. This is people who do not have enough hours to get the money they need to pay their rent, to pay their bills, to pay for transport costs, to pay for their school lunches for their kids. In my electorate we are seeing small businesses who are struggling, who are closing their doors, who are putting off staff. In the absence of substantial support for small businesses or federal support in the form of doubling supports like JobSeeker, what is our community going to do? Every per cent of unemployment or underemployment is thousands of families who are struggling. As we have heard today from so many people, the pandemic is not yet over and people do not have the support they need.

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (4.57 pm): If the Greens did not want the debate to go so long then they should not contribute to the debate. They are the party of renewable perplexion. I rise to support the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2021, which of course is the approval of unforeseen expenditure in 2020-21. Approximately \$449 million of unforeseen expenditure is attached to this bill, with approximately \$447 million incurred across six departments.

The Palaszczuk government is the government of responsible spending and strong budget delivery. The Palaszczuk government has delivered a strong health response to COVID-19 that has delivered a strong economic recovery plan. We have delivered in this term of parliament two strong budgets already that are delivering for Queenslanders. We are delivering for Queenslanders through a range of different programs and investments in infrastructure. We have seen the investment of the continuation of the Back to Work program and how that is changing lives not only in the south-east corner but especially in regional parts of Queensland. We have seen Skilling Queenslanders for Work and how much that program delivers in the regions.

Recently I was at Impact Community Services where I spoke with Nathan Spruce, who manages Skilling Queenslanders for Work through that wonderful organisation. He said that in the time of the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program, in the time that the Palaszczuk government has funded their programs, they have seen a minimum of over 600 Bundy locals go through their program and get Bundy jobs—a minimum of over 600. How fantastic is that! That is what good governments do: they invest in jobs for Queenslanders all across Queensland.

We are also seeing funding into programs to invest in manufacturing, including food processing. This is a great time to speak about Farmfresh Fine Foods in Bundaberg. Many of you may not know that when you go to a particular restaurant chain which is all across Australia you are eating zucchini chips, sweet potato chips and potato chips from Bundaberg. The Palaszczuk government supports businesses that have that dream, that push, who want to thrive and grow and create jobs in their regional community. It is a fantastic credit to the Gerry family for what they have done with Farmfresh Fine Foods.

This government invests in tourism innovation and it continues to do so. Last week it was wonderful to stand with the minister at Mon Repos, which is a great legacy of the Palaszczuk government, and announce a further commitment to more money to get Queenslanders out and about across the state and getting those south of us up here into Queensland into parts such as Bundaberg, Hervey Bay, the Gold Coast, Cairns and all across this wonderful state of ours.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SMITH:** They do not like it over there. They do not like hearing about how we continue to invest in trade training and skills. I know that the pre-apprenticeship programs have been fantastic. Right now in Bundaberg we have two classes. A 13-student class of construction is going through their 10 weeks of pre-apprenticeship, training at TAFE through EastCoast Apprenticeships and then they will

spend three weeks out on the job. The boilermakers are almost there already. There are 15 of them. That means that 22-year-olds, 23-year-olds and 30-year-olds are able to study at TAFE every single day and receive a wage. How good is that? That is what Labor governments do: they back in people to study so they can change their lives. Also, when you think about it, when those young construction workers get out there they will be building our social housing and affordable housing. They will change the lives of others in their communities because of what this Palaszczuk Labor government has invested in them.

When we talk about investment in education, Bundaberg State High School has a new \$10 million building that is ready to go, there are students in there now, and over \$500,000 in infrastructure to grow Bundaberg North State High School, making sure there are learning opportunities for everyone across Queensland. That is what this Palaszczuk Labor government does.

There is record investment in housing, more investment into Queensland as well, and the data shows it. Queensland's economy is 6.4 per cent larger than it was pre COVID. Queensland added more jobs than any other state or territory since March 2020; 124,300 more Queenslanders are in jobs today than they were pre COVID. This is the legacy of the Palaszczuk Labor government during a global pandemic that has crippled economies across the world. Since 2015 the Palaszczuk government has a record of 376,800 additional jobs. That is more than 1,000 a week since coming into government, and of course the seven-year anniversary was only recently celebrated. Well done to those members of the 2015 Palaszczuk government. It is a strong Labor government, a strong Labor budget, and that delivers a strong Queensland. That is what strong Labor governments do. The unemployment rate is at its lowest since December 2008 at 4.4 per cent.

I believe that the Treasurer had a press conference on Friday and he gave us some comparisons about 2008. There was no Instagram; the iPhone had only been out for about for six months; Beijing had the Olympics, but it was the summer Olympics. The Treasurer did forget to mention that in 2008 I was only a fresh-faced 18 year old. I know that some people might argue I am still fresh-faced, and I will relinquish that argument. I am okay with that—I will not table any images of me as an 18-year-old—but over on the other side you do not see fresh faces. You see ashen faces. You see sickly whiter-shade-of-pale faces because they are constantly reminded by Queenslanders that they do not trust the LNP because they know that the LNP will cut, sack and sell. That is what they do.

Come budget time, those pale faces start to get a little bit lighter. There is a little bit of warmth in them. That is because they look at the member for Toowoomba South and they go, 'Oh, what are we going to do?' Then they look at the Treasurer standing over there talking about the budget that will deliver for Queenslanders and they say, 'Thank goodness that bloke is in charge of the budget.' Thank goodness that the member for Woodridge is in charge of the budget. Thank goodness it is a Labor budget that is being delivered in the regions. Thanks goodness for a Labor budget that employs nurses, not sacks them; that employs doctors; that employs teachers and teacher aides; that does not threaten to privatise teacher aides like every single LNP or conservative government going back to the Bjelke-Petersen government. The Borbidge government tried to do it. The Newman government tried to do it. The Crisafulli government or, I do not know, the member for Whitsunday government—who knows what it might be one day? At least it is what they want. We do not need to worry about the opposition: we need to worry about what the next opposition will be. That is all right; we will leave that shadow for around the halls of the Annexe.

Thank goodness the Palaszczuk government brought the trains back to Queensland—Maryborough, not Mumbai! Thank you for that. The Palaszczuk government is building trains in regional Queensland. Thank goodness for the hospitals across regional Queensland, including the new hospital at Kingaroy and the seven satellite hospitals across South-East Queensland. Thank goodness for the COVID-19 business relief package and the tourism industry and innovation support that businesses and tourism operators in my community rely on so much, especially when they needed that support during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.


This government stimulates employment. This government makes sure that those tourism hotspots can once again bounce back, whether it be Cairns, the Gold Coast, the Whitsundays, Hervey Bay or even Bundaberg, which is the greatest untapped tourism resource out there. It is the greatest secret that is no longer a secret. Make sure you all book your tickets next year for Christmas holidays.

Thank goodness that the Palaszczuk government can broker a deal with the federal government, because it was the federal government that left the state LNP and their election commitments high and dry. You would have thought that the federal government would have wanted to support the LNP during the 2020 state election, but they had a look at what they proposed. They had a look at the figures that came out late and that were bungled. They went, 'We can't support that,' and they jumped in the plane

and Scotty got out of there as quickly as he could. Thank goodness for the Palaszczuk Labor government making sure that we are investing in regional Queensland. We know that if the LNP ever got their hands on the budget again the hospital doors would open and the health workers would be marched out. Even worse. We might even see an example of what happened in Bundaberg in 2013. After the floods devastated that community, homeless health workers who were living in tents at Salter Oval—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SMITH:** I take that interjection. No, I was not there, but they were there. They were there. They were in the tents. They were in the tents, and they got sacked when they were homeless because of a flood. That is why the LNP can never, ever be trusted again by Queenslanders. That is why they have no integrity. That is why it is the Palaszczuk Labor government that is building a stronger Queensland.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (5.08 pm): I too rise to make a contribution on behalf of my electors in Southern Downs on the two budget bills in cognate. I make a point particularly with the budget bills always to emphasise the impacts and the opportunities in my own electorate of Southern Downs. I know that is my sovereign purpose as a member representing those people. When I look at the additional expenditures which are being sought on this occasion it immediately brings me to issues in my electorate which do need attention.

When I see additional funding for youth justice, police and so forth, I wonder whether the priorities are right. I do not think they are. I think that additional spending, whilst it may be necessary in detail in this case, will not do half the good that bringing back the offence of breach of bail for juvenile offenders will. When I speak about that, I think I am exercising the authentic voice of someone in the town of Goondiwindi, Warwick or other towns and cities around our state of Queensland. I speak for people like Chris and Gail Henry, who are the very hardworking proprietors of the 5 Star Supermarket in Goondiwindi, who on three occasions have had the front of their shop smashed into by a stolen vehicle. In the most recent one, like the others, tens of thousands of dollars of damage has been done, trade has been lost and stock has been stolen—although on this occasion I believe that the offenders stole lollies, chips and cigarettes, which points to the origin of this crime.

I think about Mrs Aileen Norman, who has told me on three occasions that she has had her house robbed, her keys stolen and her car taken and either burnt or placed with a growing number of abandoned and dumped vehicles in the Macintyre River. Mrs Norman is not a young lady. She lives on her own. On the most recent occasion, the keys for her car were under her pillow. She thought that at least if she did that her car would not be stolen. Sure enough, while she was asleep, they took the keys from under her pillow. You can imagine the trepidation with which Mrs Norman faces the darkness every night when she switches her light off because of the repeat youth offenders in towns like Goondiwindi who commit the same offences over and over again. There is no offence for breach of bail, so it does not matter if they go before a magistrate—just like the major-generals in Cromwell's day would say, that 'everywhere vice abounds' and the magistrates are all asleep. That is what the people in Goondiwindi tell me—that the same offenders, night after night, are doing the same thing over and over again.

I hear people opposite tell me that we need to have a budget for rehabilitation, for getting vulnerable youths out of temptation and out of the environment in which they become susceptible to becoming criminals. I agree with that but—and this is a big 'but'—those people in places like Goondiwindi and Warwick who tell me that they are sick and tired of the same offenders doing the same thing night after night and being let off over and over again are entitled to be protected from those offenders. It is simply not good enough to say that the good folk in places like Goondiwindi should have to tolerate the crime over and over again until the social causes which have given rise to it are addressed. That is effectively what Labor says. The additional funding for police and youth justice in this budget is missing the point for people like Aileen Norman and Chris and Gail Henry in Goondiwindi. They want to see the streets safe at night. Labor has continued to fail us on that front. I see little benefit in the additional funding that the government is seeking on that point.

We see additional funding for the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services. I sincerely wish that some of those funds will be used to compensate and fix the property of Mrs Lauren Goss, who is a constituent of mine in Wallangarra. I have spoken in this House before about her case and I believe I have tabled documents concerning it, but I will jog the memory of the House. Bulldozers went onto her property after the big fires in Stanthorpe about two years ago to bulldoze a fire trail. This was done at the behest of the department of environment and it became a lunar landscape. It was the most appalling abuse of an individual constituent by a government that I have seen in my time in politics. The



bulldozers went in, they trampled her fruit trees, they went through fences and they cut contours which served the dams on her property which were important for her stock. It cut a swathe that could be seen from outer space up the side of her property which adjoins Girraween National Park.

Obviously, she was most concerned about this and she and I have been attempting at length to get some settlement from the Queensland government for the damage they have done to her property. We knew that when the rains came there would be a real problem, and indeed that is exactly what has happened. Her house, her domestic block on the property, was inundated because of the changes to the water flows which occurred as a result of that bulldozer activity. I think it shines a remarkable sidelight on the nature of the internal politics of the government that it was the department of environment that insisted this fire break had to be made yet it is the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services who has to deal with the carnage. I have been working on this for years and I want to see something done about it. I urge those ministers listening to have a word with the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services about this case. There is plenty of material on file and plenty of correspondence which has gone their way which will give them an indication of what needs to be done.

More broadly, I hear members opposite crowing about the unemployment rate—saying, ‘We’ve delivered these jobs.’ I have a lesson for the Labor Party here. Governments do not create jobs; the private sector does and I would say that the private sector has to a large extent done so in spite of the activities of the Labor government. You do not have to be a cafe owner or the proprietor of a caravan park to know that times have been very tough lately. The additional debt the state incurs and their proclivity for imposing extra regulation on them makes life hard for small businesses, and they are the ones who employ people.

It is small business in this state and this country which employ the majority of people. People who work hard and invest their savings go into debt to create a business, to employ themselves, to make a living for themselves, to employ people so they can have a living as well—so that all concerned can pay taxes which pay for politicians, police, hospitals and so forth. I think it is disingenuous for the Labor Party, with their regressive economic policies, to constantly come into this House and claim credit for any increase in the amount of employment in our state.

I heard members of the House talk about housing. We need to remember that it is the actions of the government which have made the business of investing in rental properties less attractive. If you talk to any real estate agent in an area where there are lots of rental properties, they will tell you that their rental rolls have seen an exodus of good people who no longer want to rent their property because the scales have been tipped too far in favour of tenants—because tenants are now allowed to make alterations to the property, they can bring in pets and they cannot be asked to leave at the end of a lease. Members opposite know that these are the effects of interventions on the rental market which make the business of renting a house too risky for people to want to do. As a result, we do not have enough houses in the housing market right now to house everyone. To hear that the government is blaming the federal government for that is totally disingenuous.

I heard the Treasurer talk about Fitzgerald. I think it is very unfortunate that the government, which has had such alarming revelations about its absence of integrity in recent months, should be bringing that name into this House. By brandishing the Fitzgerald report in this House, I believe the Treasurer has disrespected the legacy of Fitzgerald. I am quite a student of that particular report, and I can say that there are many instances in that report which point to the behaviours of this current government now—activities which shield from public scrutiny wrongdoing, which politicise the Public Service and which deny Queenslanders who pay for the government information about what has been going on. I urge members opposite to leave out talking about the Fitzgerald inquiry and the Fitzgerald report because at the moment they are not living up to the standards that Commissioner Fitzgerald had put down.

I will say one last thing and it is about the debt. I heard the member for Nanango speak in very good terms before about the \$4 billion debt we were supposed to have before the 2020 election and then the \$28 billion debt that emerged afterwards.

**Mr Krause:** Increase in debt.

**Mr LISTER:** This is the increase in debt. I take the interjection from my honourable friend the member for Scenic Rim. He is a very clever fellow. That debt is a millstone around the neck of every Queenslanders. It is going to mean that there will be over \$100 billion of debt and climbing to keep the lights on imposed upon my kids, my grandkids and their grandkids. It is wrong to leave a poorer standard of living to your successor generation.



**Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement) (5.18 pm): I rise to support the appropriation bills. The appropriation bills seek parliamentary approval of the supplementary appropriation for unforeseen expenditure. As we heard from the member for Aspley and others, this is an annual process but a process I would argue that could be more important when responding to the economic effects of a global pandemic.

Queensland is withstanding the worst of the latest COVID-19 wave thanks to our high vaccination rate and measured health response. Our COVID-19 economic recovery plan is working, with more Queenslanders in jobs now than ever before. Since coming to office, the Palaszczuk government has helped create over 376,000 jobs, with our unemployment rate at 4.4 per cent—which is the lowest in 13 years. I acknowledge the words of the member for Southern Downs around who creates these jobs. The environment that is created by governments helps to create the environment where jobs are created. The confidence from the response of this government to the health crisis has laid the groundwork for continued jobs growth, led by great work being done in the private sector.

There is no question that our response to the health crisis has made that possible. If you look at any other part of the country, other than Western Australia, and if you look at any other part of the globe, it has been those places with the best health response that have provided the environment where economic growth can continue, and we have not seen the recessive elements in the economy that we have seen in North America and Europe in particular and what we believe to be the case in parts of Northern Asia as well, in China, although we may not have a very clear understanding of the statistics.

There is no question that our response to the situation has meant that we have seen economic growth in 2021 higher than the national average—Queensland's economy grew by 6.1 per cent, while Australia's economy grew by 3.9 per cent. We saw household consumption in Queensland grow by 2.9 per cent in the latest quarter. This is 1.5 times faster than the rest of Australia.

Queensland is also attracting more interstate migrants than any other jurisdiction. Many of these are small business people who are starting businesses that are then going on to employ people, and they are very welcome. More than 31,000 people moved to Queensland in 2020, and 85,000 Australians from other states are expected to come to Queensland by the time we get to June 2024.

Queensland's economy is performing so strongly, I say, because of how well the Palaszczuk government has handled the health response to the global pandemic. Nearly 90 per cent of Queenslanders were vaccinated before COVID got into Queensland in any serious numbers. Because of Queensland's strong health response we managed to avoid the harsh lockdowns the southern states had to endure, and that has allowed our economy to thrive.

The Palaszczuk government has provided targeted support measures to help the hardest hit areas of our economy, like the tourism industry. The Palaszczuk government's support for the tourism, events and hospitality sectors has assisted the industry since the onset of the global pandemic, with over \$1.1 billion provided in economic recovery funding and support, which started during that period of unforeseen expenditure covered by these bills. Queensland's tourism regions hit hardest have been a key focus for the Palaszczuk government, with significant COVID support and recovery investment across these regions including tropical North Queensland, the Whitsundays, Brisbane and the Gold Coast.

The Palaszczuk government has also now partnered with the private sector in a nation-leading deal that will see a joint \$200 million investment to secure more direct international flights to Queensland, predicted to deliver more than 5.3 million airline seats per year, generating almost \$4 billion for the Queensland economy.

As part of the more than \$1.1 billion support, we have seen—and I will run through them quickly—the Tourism and Hospitality Sector Hardship Program deliver more than \$130 million in grants to over 3,540 businesses; the COVID-19 Business Support Grants program deliver over \$72 million in grants to over 7,000 eligible small, medium and large tourism related businesses and not-for-profit organisations; the \$47.75 million Tourism and Hospitality Sector COVID-19 Lockdown Support Package that continues to provide much needed cash flow support in the form of rebates, fee and payroll tax relief; phase 1 of the \$8 million Great Queensland Getaway campaign that sold out in 10 days, generating over \$11.3 million of tourism experience bookings; and the \$7.5 million Work in Paradise program that supported 2,462 workers to take up a job in regional Queensland.

The tourism and hospitality jobs website has more than 2,460 registered users and 1,084 jobs advertised right now across tourism and hospitality in Queensland. We have also seen the first version of the Aviation Recovery Fund that supported 35 new or existing services into or around Queensland, delivering approximately 537,000 seats which are estimated to support 1,641 jobs and see \$199.2 million of overnight visitor expenditure in our economy.

Twenty-two infrastructure projects were funded from the \$25 million Growing Tourism Infrastructure Fund; 12 major tourism operators and 17 outback tourism businesses received funding through the \$25 million for Queensland Tourism Icons Program; 8,887 tourism related businesses received the Small Business COVID-19 Adaptation Grant to a sum of some \$79.5 million; and 105 marine tourism vessel operators received approximately \$1.6 million funding from the COVID-19 Marine Tourism Assistance Scheme Round 2 across nine local government areas in Queensland.

With the opening of international borders, there are positive signs for tourism. There are increases in visitor demand, with increased booking activity for airlines, hotels and operators, and domestic and international aviation routes are recommencing. These positive signs and economic activity in the sector will be further capitalised on through Tourism and Events Queensland's recently launched second phase of the Great Queensland Getaway.


The Palaszczuk government has put the appropriate economic supports in place to battle the global pandemic and Queensland can emerge leading the nation in economic growth. This places our tourism, events and hospitality sectors in the best position to recover faster than other states because, through our action and through the right settings, we have kept alive so many of those businesses that the member for Southern Downs was lauding. The Queensland tourism industry has much to reclaim with the opening of borders and is well positioned to build back better, grow into the future and reclaim our position as a global destination of choice.

I did also note during this debate a number of members opposite making reference to debt and bemoaning the impacts of debt. I understand that we need to keep that in check—we need to be conscious of fiscal management—and this government and this Treasurer are doing a great job.

In comparison, over his time as federal treasurer and Prime Minister Scott Morrison has doubled federal government debt—doubled—with very large numbers to start with. Let's be clear: he has doubled it. Australians paying for the Morrison government's mistakes with vaccines and quarantine is the result of this. Over this last couple of years we have seen the extraordinary mistakes and missteps of a federal government not with its eyes on the game but on anything but, and we have seen extraordinary missteps in relation to vaccines and quarantine. What we see represented in the appropriations required by these bills are areas where the states, including Queensland, have had to pick up the slack in this area. I think every thinking Australian knows and understands that we have seen the states, in particular Queensland, having to pick up the slack of a failed federal government.

This is all highly reflected in part by the unforeseen costs to Queensland that are in these appropriation bills. I think it is highly ironic that we have those opposite talking out, playing up and trying to point the finger over issues around debt when over the next few months they will be cosying up to and cheering on the re-election of a Morrison federal government. That is their intent. What they are doing is condemning Australia and Australians to further mismanagement, to further mishandling of not only our economy but also, as we have seen so strongly over the last couple of years, the way in which we respond to great crises like the global pandemic.

I note those interesting comments and contributions to this debate, but I overwhelmingly know that we will see this House support these appropriation bills.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (5.28 pm): It is a bit rich of the minister for tourism to claim all the credit for keeping tourism businesses alive in Queensland when he knows that it was the Morrison government, through its historic JobKeeper package, that kept all businesses alive throughout the country—all businesses, not just in Queensland but across the nation as well.

**Mr Hinchliffe** interjected.

**Mr KRAUSE:** Your leader, Mr Albanese, in the federal government, will never be able to say that Scott Morrison has done the wrong thing when it comes to JobKeeper because he kept people, with their employers, connected to businesses so that they did not fall over, and when the pandemic restrictions came off they could go back to business. In comparison, the Queensland government did—

**Mr Mander:** Nothing.

**Mr KRAUSE:** Yes, pretty much, in comparison to the federal government. The feds did all the heavy lifting. For the minister to claim that he kept it alive was just too rich. I had to respond to that point.

This appropriation bill calls for the approval of some \$449.25 million in unforeseen and supplemental expenditure. The LNP is not opposing the bill. I do not know what practical option there would be to oppose the bill—the money has already been spent—but there does need to be commentary made and issues highlighted with that expenditure, including some ridiculous comments from ministers opposite.

When you look at the amount of unforeseen and supplemental expenditure, it is \$449.25 million. If we put that in the context of the overall budget it may not seem like a lot, but it is a significant amount of money. What business in Queensland could afford to run their budget every year, year in, year out, like the Labor government does here in Queensland where unforeseen and supplemental expenditure is quite significant? If businesses did that they would go broke. Yet this government has a history of significant overspends and they call on the taxpayer time and time again to plug those gaps. In comparison with the overspends throughout these last few years, the support this government has been providing to small and family businesses has been minuscule.

Debate, on motion of Mr Krause, adjourned.

## ENVIRONMENTAL AND OTHER LEGISLATION (REVERSAL OF GREAT BARRIER REEF PROTECTION MEASURES) AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 21 April 2021 (see p. 1041).

### Second Reading



**Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (5.30 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I rise to speak to the Environmental and Other Legislation (Reversal of Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) Amendment Bill 2021. This is a bill that has been put together with a policy objective to: repeal all amendments made by the Environmental Protection Act 1994 and the Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Act 1988 by the state government in their Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2019.

Mr Speaker, you might ask why have I put this bill together? I grew up in North Queensland where my father ran a dive boat and enjoyed operating a tourism business. Before walking into this parliament I operated a tourism business on the Great Barrier Reef and the fringe reefs of the Great Barrier Reef. I also grew up on a cane farm and I am embedded in North Queensland. I have worked in a sugarmill and I understand the people whom I represent. What the KAP does is listen to the people we represent. We talk to the people on the ground floor. We go out and not only sink our feet into the dirt but jump into the Pacific Ocean and the Great Barrier Reef and have a good look at what is going on out there. We have been doing it for a long time.

The reason I have put this together is that the KAP does not only talk the talk, but we walk the walk. During the election campaign in 2020 I made a promise that I would do everything in my power to help farmers in my area and to repeal the legislation imposed in 2019 by the state Labor government. Federal senators were saying that the KAP would do nothing and could do nothing for the people of Queensland when it came to the agriculture sector. Here we are today doing the right thing by those people who supported us. We are not only talking the talk, we are about to walk the walk.

It is not just about the concerns of those in the industry—and, like I said, this is not just the cane-cutting industry or the agricultural and grazing industry. This takes into account the concerns of those who work in the sugarmills across North Queensland who are reliant on a certain tonnage going through those sugarmills every year to employ not only the workers but also those union-paying people who are fairly heavily embedded in the Labor Party who support mill workers. The concerns highlighted by the industry regarding the act include the undermining of the existing growers' efforts and the imposition of Big Brother style supervision on anyone operating in the six reef catchment areas.

Before I get into the detail of the bill I want to talk about the committee process. Firstly, I want to share my disappointment that, even though this is a reversal bill, there are a number of provisions in the bill that seek to tweak the legislation to not only make it better and fairer for farmers but also aid the integrity of reef science and the way policy is made in this state. Once again I was very disappointed that hearings were only held in Brisbane. I will say once again I was very impressed with the people who gave evidence. I want to thank AIMS for giving their evidence on the day as well as farmers in their practical and private capacity. We also had departmental staff from the Department of Environment and

Science, National Environmental Law Association, Kalamia Cane Growers, Burdekin Canegrowers—and I thank them both for standing up for their grower base. I thank Dr Peter Ridd for making his submission, for being an absolute hero for reef science and for being a whistleblower. His integrity should be held intact. Everyone should welcome people who want to stick their hand up, not bury them. I also want to thank Pioneer Cane Growers and the Green Shirts for their contribution as well as AgForce for being one of the first agricultural member based organisations to come out and support the KAP's bill.

I was disappointed, though, with some of the questions from government members during the committee hearings. It felt like they were trying to pressure some of the reef scientists and also policy advisers into saying that what we were seeking to do is a government's right for the reef et cetera. It was a very passionate committee hearing, but at the same time I do understand where this government sits on this matter. At the end of the day, it is their legislation so I would not expect anything less.


I was a little bit upset and concerned, especially for growers in the Herbert district and across the six reef catchment areas, that we are seeing the statement of reservation come through from the members for Southport and Oodgeroo. I understand where they stand on this. They are not embedded in North Queensland; they are not embedded in these regional centres that really depend on this. I understand there must be a division and that the LNP is trying to ride two horses in representing South-East Queensland and also standing up for what the National Party used to stand for. Like I say, I am a little concerned by that. I think after reading that, a lot of people will understand where the LNP will probably sit in terms of voting on this bill.

There are some amendments that I believe the member for Bonney will introduce during consideration in detail if we get to that point. I understand they will be about preventing farmers who are accredited under the recognised accreditation programs from being prosecuted under the Environmental Protection Act, provided, of course, their conduct does not contravene their recognised accreditation program. I am concerned by that because this is a group of people, a party, who stood here and said, 'We're going to stand up for farmers and we voted against the nasty Labor Party's legislation in 2019. We will stand shoulder to shoulder with farmers,' but then given an opportunity to first be a part of the consultation process—and before the last state election I contacted the member for Nanango and asked her to give us some feedback on our draft amendment bill—there was radio silence. Then we see this. Like I said, the line in the sand becomes obvious in terms of who is actually standing up for farmers and listening to what growers want.

Everyone I talk to talks about BMP approval. That sounds really simple to achieve, but it is not. I remind people that BMP accreditation is above and beyond what the state government legislation calls for. It is proving that you are going above and beyond. The LNP say, 'We're happy for that to be the industry standard,' which is of grave concern. Many farmers have called for that legislation not to be in place in the first place. AIMS's own report says there is record coral cover. Peter Ridd called that out and said that the report said there was record coral growth. The Australian Associated Press in turn called him out and said he was wrong, that it was near historic high coral growth, so let's be clear on that.

There is 100 times more naturally occurring nutrient in the Great Barrier Reef or even in the inner reefs than any inorganic dissolved nitrogen. It is almost immeasurable. We have to ask: what is the significance of inorganic nitrogen that is flowing down our river systems? It is almost null and void.

I will stick by some of the comments made by AIMS that everything makes a difference. Of course; that is science. You cannot put a drop of salt in a glass of water and expect there not to be any salt in there, but it is at such a minute level that it is not making any difference. We can actually measure uranium in our drinking water, but it has no effect on our health. Every eight hours the tidal currents in the Great Barrier Reef flush more water through the Great Barrier Reef than anywhere else. That is why it is the most pristine water you can find. It flushes that water out at the rate of all of the water that runs through our river systems in a whole year. As I said, coral core sampling shows that we started agriculture with cattle in 1870 and sugar cane in 1920 and fertiliser started being applied in 1950, yet there is no reduction in coral rate growth.

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (5.40 pm): I rise to speak against the Environmental and Other Legislation (Reversal of Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) Amendment Bill. Our Great Barrier Reef is the jewel in Queensland's tourism crown and one of the most diverse ecosystems on earth, and those of us with the privilege of sitting in this chamber have a duty to protect that icon. This bill will violate that duty, undoing the important progress we are making for future generations.

The Health and Environment Committee—and I acknowledge all of the members who were on that—made one recommendation, and that was that this bill not be passed. There are three very key problems with this bill: one, it is founded on false claims about science and the impacts to farmers; two, it will prevent us from getting close to the reef water quality targets; and, three, and most importantly, at this time in our history the reef regulations that this bill seeks to overturn form a critical component of the joint response to the World Heritage Committee to keep the Great Barrier Reef off the in-danger list. I will start there.

Later this year the World Heritage Committee will consider the status of our reef. We know that water quality is the second greatest risk to the reef after climate change. The international community is watching us. This is not the time to lower our standards. This is the time for us to step up. The reef's World Heritage status is a significant tourism drawcard. This was made clear by the Queensland Tourism Industry Council's submission, which said that the reef—

... has an 'economic, social, and icon asset value of \$56 billion, supports [approximately] 64,000 jobs, and contributes \$6.4 billion to the Australian economy'. As such, it is critical that measures are put in place to ensure its ongoing health and curtail the runoff of sediment and pesticides. QTIC stresses the vital and urgent need for effective action to mitigate these risks. We support the unamended Bill and its commitment to improving the quality of water entering the Great Barrier Reef via compulsory minimum regulatory standards in addition to clear benchmarks and identifiable long-term targets.

The reef regulations have been front and centre of submissions made by the Commonwealth government—the colleagues of those opposite—to the World Heritage Committee, including, and I table: the *State party report on the state of conservation of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (Australia) 2019*; the *Reef 2050 long-term sustainability plan 2021-2025*; the *Reef 2050 water quality improvement plan 2017-2022*; and the most recent *State party report on the state of conservation for Australia's Great Barrier Reef 2022*, which was only submitted this last month. The Commonwealth government has made eight references to our regulations, including a whole-page feature and a reference that has been translated into French, and I have tabled those for the benefit of the House.

*Tabled paper:* Australian Government, Department of the Environment and Energy: Report, dated 1 December 2019, titled 'State Party report on the state of conservation of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (Australia)' [171].

*Tabled paper:* Australian Government and Queensland Government: Report, undated, titled 'Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan 2021-2025' [170].

*Tabled paper:* Australian Government and Queensland Government: Report titled 'Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan 2017-2022' [169].

*Tabled paper:* Australian Government: Report, dated February 2022, titled 'State Party report on the state of conservation for Australia's Great Barrier Reef' [168].

That is the position of the federal LNP government there in black and white—and in French. These regulations are imperative to protecting the reef and the jobs that rely on it. This was reaffirmed again in federal estimates last year by Senator Jane Hume, who was appearing for the environment minister, Sussan Ley, who said—

The minister has been very clear that she supports the Queensland regulations.

She further said—

There is no intention to scale back those regulations.

Let me turn to the provisions of this bill. This bill seeks to dilute the strong progress the Queensland government has made to date. It would bring back environmental risk management plans for sugarcane farmers and cattle grazing on large properties. This reintroduction is not even supported by the agricultural industry, which repeatedly requests that the government stop asking for more paperwork. The bill would also reduce regulations to three of the six catchments, creating inequity across regions. It would decrease penalties for those who are doing the wrong thing. This bill also seeks to establish an independent regulator but only for the agricultural industry and, confusingly at the same time, also seeks to confer more power on the minister, contradicting the entire idea of an independent regulator in the first place. It is likely the bill seeks to both politicise decision-making and then slow agencies down with an office for alternative facts—both bad for the reef and creating uncertainty for industry.

We are currently investigating and consulting on a potential independent environmental protection agency and this could operate much more broadly, as was our election commitment. As such, I do not commend this narrow proposal that has not been consulted on with the Queensland community. Through the implementation of the reef regulations, we have certainly sought to work in good faith and partnership with the agricultural sector. The government has provided \$30 million for industry-led best management practice programs since establishment, with extension and innovation

trials to help farmers deliver precision farming that not only improves reef water quality but also improves productivity and profitability of their farms. Regulated practice standards underpin these programs and are based on industry accepted practices and know-how.

On-farm trials have demonstrated that they at the very least, and most often, improve a farm's productivity and profitability. In fact, a 2021 Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences survey of Australian sugarcane farms found that the average financial performance of a sugarcane farm was better in 2020-21 compared to 2013-14. I also take this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts and progress made by Queensland farmers so far. We now have 694 fully accredited growers and a further 1,604 growers engaged in BMP programs, up from only 40 growers when we formed government, less than one per cent. The LNP's statement of reservation asks for different treatment for BMP accredited farms. We already do that. It also criticised us that farmers have not taken up the reef rebate scheme, and I will say it again: we are reviewing that program and I can assure the House that that money will be spent on assisting growers to meet minimum standards.


Finally, I want to turn to the science. The explanatory notes and introductory speech for this bill raise a series of questions about the science underpinning the reef regulations. This House should not be deceived by cherry-picked statements from favoured witnesses which conveniently ignore the testimony of other eminent experts in water quality and coral. The 2017 Scientific Consensus Statement confirmed that poor water quality continues to be the key threat to the reef's health, second only to climate change. It also reconfirms that the main source of nutrient and sediment pollution is cumulative run-off from agricultural land use.

The consensus statement was produced by a multidisciplinary group of 48 scientists with expertise in Great Barrier Reef water quality science and management led by TropWATER at James Cook University with oversight from the Reef Water Quality Independent Science Panel. The consensus statement is robust and comprehensive, referencing over 3,000 authors of 1,300 published peer reviewed papers from 400 different research organisations across 50 countries. To reject the weight of evidence in favour of a couple of dissenting voices is extraordinary and, quite frankly, unacceptable.

There is a lot at stake with this bill. We must demonstrate to the World Heritage Committee that Queensland is committed to meeting our reef water quality 2050 targets. We have heard the clear position of the federal government, but my question is what will those opposite do? We know the member for Bonney is desperate to build his green credentials, but is that really in keeping with some of his colleagues over there? We know a number of them are not happy. What will the member for Callide do? What will the member for Gregory do? What will the member for Nanango do? They have had some very vocal views on this. Can the Leader of the Opposition keep control of the Nats and the cosplay progressives?

The reef would already be listed in danger if it was up to the state LNP. The Palaszczuk government inherited a basket case of reef management in 2015. The Newman government took the axe to Labor's sensible vegetation management laws and relied on BMPs with less than a one per cent adoption rate while sacking or moving 20 compliance staff, stalled its fisheries reforms and drew global concern over dredge spoil dumping.

More recently those opposite have waxed and waned on the regulations, voting against strengthening them last term. It depends on what day of the week it is as to what the LNP's position is on climate, on the reef, on a whole range of environmental issues. Our position has always been very clear: we will do everything in our power to protect the Great Barrier Reef. I oppose the reversal bill.

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (5.49 pm): I will do my best to get through some of the technical issues, but I would like to talk about the politics here. I will pick up on some of the things that were said by the minister. I am very strongly of the view that this is driven by politics more than it is genuine outcomes. I understand people have the belief that there is a problem with the reef. I respect that attitude. However, that respect is never reciprocated.

To me Peter Ridd is a hero. This debate is not about Peter Ridd. Despite what anyone might think about his competency—and I think one would be pretty brave to bring that into question given his experience and level of expertise—all he has ever asked for is an independent audit of the science. That was his main point. It was not to say, 'I am right and they are wrong', but to say, 'Can we at least have an independent audit of the science?' That is what he was crucified for. A lot of people in this place conform to a party position, which keeps them in their job. That is not very brave. Peter Ridd was ousted for saying, 'I don't think this is right.' He was thrown out of his 30-year career for taking a stand on principle and we are laughing at him. I ask everyone to show some respect for someone who has integrity in science. Whether you agree with him or not is another issue, but show some respect.

We are talking here about an issue where politics is ingrained into a scientific position. I have been through the growth of this issue. I remember when the reef became a popular issue in Townsville. There was an industry built around it. I love the reef, as we all do. I have been out on it many times snorkelling and scuba diving. I never looked at the science much, never cared much about it, because it was not a big problem. It started becoming a problem. It always troubled me that a ground truth from people who were not political all said, 'I don't know what is going on. Sure, there are parts that are bleached, but there are other parts that are blooming and I do not really see it. I can't ground truth what the scientists are telling me.' I will not hang my argument on that either. That alerted me that there could be some problems.

I am sure many people in this chamber do not mix with people on the reef as much as we do in the north. It stands to reason that we would put a little bit more weight in that. Then you start asking questions around the water that runs out of these rivers which are called reef waters, so in the definition from the start the science is distorted. When a scientist says the reef waters are polluted, that is talking about the rivers as well. Of course they are. There is stuff running into the rivers, but does that water make it out to the reef? That is a logical question to ask. We should be challenging scientists on this as best we can.

In relation to that water making it out to the reef, there is literally no apparatus that can measure the amount of nitrogen that is getting out there. That is a fact. Please stand up and prove me wrong, but there is nothing that can detect the amount of nitrogen that is making its way out to the reef. There is 100 times more organic nitrogen floating around out there. That is well established. We can establish that more coral has grown ever since fertiliser and agriculture came into being. That is definitive science. Where there is no definitive science is around any of this stuff making it out to the reef. Scientific reports state reef waters are polluted. Reef waters include the rivers upstream as well. Every eight hours as much water flows in and out of the reef due to the tides and currents than all the river flows for a whole year. There is not an apparatus strong enough to measure any nitrogen. There are other things like phosphorous in the rivers. If there are any quantities, there is no discernible impact.

It is not just Peter Ridd saying this, but under oath in the Senate inquiry Dr Hardesty said he could not say that there is any link between the water quality and the calcification of coral. There are some chinks forming in the armour. It starts with one isolated scientist—one brave person, like we are seeing in this integrity crisis that is erupting—and then the chinks start to form and suddenly they are not the minority, idiots and ignorant; there is some truth to what they are saying. Please be respectful of the alternative arguments and have a decent debate on this.

Moreton Bay has coral. We are saying there is coral dying everywhere. You can throw a rock on some coral reefs off the port. With millions of people here and pollution coming out of the river there is coral growing off the port. The average distance out to the reef is 50 kilometres. It is up to 200 kilometres. To say that the pesticides and fertilisers from these farmers is doing this damage is a bit of a stretch and it is very hard to see how that works, but it is very convenient for these industries built around this position and the scientists who make a living off it. Their position works off the precautionary principle. How convenient.

We have to prove that there is definitely no impact at all from any of this activity, which is impossible. We cannot prove that the vaccines do not harm people. We cannot prove most things in science with absolute certainty. Until we can do that everything is on the table. Guess who pays? The farmers, a small voting bloc that does not count for much in the parliament. Let us pick on them. We are not picking on the towns and cities where nitrogen and phosphorous is coming out of sewage treatment plants into reef catchments. We are not worried about them even though we have some great biosolutions. We are not worried about the \$4 billion sugar industry. All the members who represent sugar seats better be listening because this is serious. Look at the production records that were tabled—and I will table them again—from the Burdekin region. There has been a steady decline since 2016.

*Tabled paper:* Graph, undated, titled 'Sugar production—Burdekin region' [172].

BMPs were introduced in 2010. The soil retains the fertiliser but by six years it starts depleting and then production records in the Burdekin drop off a cliff. Projecting that further with these reef regulations that are coming in now, we need to start making other plans for these mills. I really hope you do. That is a very serious set of figures. Do not keep these people hanging on. Be very honest about this. If you want to make that decision, fine, but understand the consequences of what you are doing to these mill workers and all those downstream jobs. This is a killer for the industry. Make no bones about it. Farmers were brave at the start, but it has all been muddled up now because money is flowing through these different programs that are being used strategically. It has muddled the waters.




People will start to look for buyouts. Do not say we are going to adopt BMPs and that is the answer. You have to look at the real science. Is there even an impact? It does not take a lot of scratching the surface to realise there is none. If there is, there are better ways to do it.

Canegrowers have stated that a 30 per cent reduction in nitrogen use would lead to a drop in cane production of five to 7.5 tonnes per hectare each year—that is a staggering 2.3 billion tonnes of sugar cane across the Queensland sugar industry, a loss of \$110 million in earnings per year. You better find another way to make that money, by the way. Find another industry that is going to replicate it, because you are telling everyone around the world the reef is dying. That defies what AIMS is saying. As the member for Hinchinbrook said, they stopped giving us data in 2016 so you have to go looking for it. When Peter Ridd said it was at a record high, that gets fact checked by the scientists and they say, 'It is not a record; it could just be near the record.'

If you listened to the media and all the scientists in the last 10 years you would think the reef is just about dead. If you listen to David Attenborough and UNESCO, it is dead and it is endangered. Is it? That contradicts what we are seeing now with record coral cover—or let us say near record cover to be accurate. If it is near record coral cover, what are we talking about? We are shutting down a \$4 billion sugar industry because there could be a problem that we cannot really establish because there is record coral cover. What other more important metric could there be than record coral cover?

If there is a problem, does it deteriorate from the inside and hollow out and then all collapse in one heap? I do not think so. If there was a gradual decline you would be seeing it. It is not there, so I think we are well within our rights to question the science that is being fed to us. That is why there should be an office of scientific quality assurance. This is much bigger than the reef. We should have faith in our institutions and our scientists. They should be able to have a rigorous debate without being ostracised, without being called ignorant and have people laugh at them. We should be able to have a mature debate about this and argue it on the facts. We are presenting facts; argue them back. That is how this is supposed to work, not to just laugh and say, 'That's silly. Oh, that's Peter Ridd.' That is an immature way to address this issue. The people of Queensland deserve more than that.

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (5.59 pm): I rise to speak on the Environmental and Other Legislation (Reversal of Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) Amendment Bill 2021. From the outset I will say that I will not be supporting this private member's bill. I, like many others, have complete confidence in the scientific evidence used to inform the existing legislation protecting the Great Barrier Reef.

Let us talk about the reef for a moment. It is the world's largest coral reef ecosystem. It stretches 2,300 kilometres from the Torres Strait in the north to Bundaberg in the south and covers 350,000 square kilometres. It comprises more than 2,900 individual coral reefs. It supports 60,000 jobs and contributes approximately \$6 billion to the Australian and Queensland economies. It has a diversity of fish, corals and many other species. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people consider the reef to be of special significance. More than 70 traditional owner groups have long continuing relationships with the reef and its catchment, stretching back some 60,000 years.

The reef is under pressure from multiple threats, including climate change, poor water quality from land based run-off and the impacts from coastal development. While the greatest threat to the health of the reef is climate change, deteriorating water quality has been identified as a key threat that needs to be addressed, particularly in relation to excess nutrients, fine sediments and pesticides from agricultural run-off and that of other industries. Nutrients, notably nitrogen and phosphorous, that come from fertilisers used on land have been found to increase coral-eating crown of thorns starfish outbreaks, macroalgae abundance and algal blooms, which can take over and reduce coral diversity and reduce the light available for corals and seagrasses. Excess nutrients can also increase coral bleaching.

Unfortunately, while many farmers—and we heard from the minister that some 694 are accredited and another 1,600 are engaged—are working hard to reduce their impact on the water quality of the reef, recent monitoring and reporting shows that regulation is needed to help Queensland meet its commitments by reducing nutrient and sediment loads entering the reef catchments by 2025. If this bill were passed the existing legislation would be weakened, putting at risk the health and resilience of one of Australia's most iconic natural wonders.

On behalf of the committee, I thank all the organisations and individuals who made written submissions on the bill and appeared at the committee's public hearings. I thank my fellow committee members and the Parliamentary Service for their contributions throughout. The committee received a briefing from the member for Hinchinbrook on 11 June 2021. We also heard from a range of stakeholders at public hearings conducted in June and September in Brisbane, including the

Department of Environment and Science, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's Chief Scientist and environmental stakeholders including the Australian Marine Conservation Society, the Australian Institute of Marine Science, the National Environmental Law Association and individual conservationists. We also heard from agricultural and livestock stakeholders including AgForce and bodies representing canegrowers. I wish to commend the Bundaberg Canegrowers group for the implementation of their Six Easy Steps initiative, which I thought was commendable work. They do a good job.

The policy objective of the bill is to repeal the amendments introduced by the amendment act to restore the regulatory framework that existed prior to its enactment. It proposes to revert to the previous definition of an agricultural 'environmentally relevant activity' or ERA. Under the bill, an agricultural ERA would comprise commercial sugarcane growing or cattle grazing carried out on an agricultural property of more than 2,000 hectares and carried out on an agricultural property in the reef catchment of the Wet Tropics, Mackay-Whitsunday or Burdekin.

At the public hearing the member for Hinchinbrook advised that consultation involved talking to 'local growers, talking to the people who live in my electorate, as well as growers across neighbouring electorates who have to work and deal with this legislation and these regulations'. The member for Hinchinbrook advised that consultation on the bill had also been undertaken with tourism operators and scientists in the field. However, no stakeholder names were provided except for that of Dr Peter Ridd.

As we have heard, there was some criticism from the member about the committee not consulting with farmers. I turn to the former inquiry of the Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Bill 2019. As part of that process, some 230 submissions and 1,500 form submissions were received. That committee received written briefings and travelled to Cairns, Townsville, Mackay and Bundaberg. General support for the bill was provided by lots of groups, such as those I have already mentioned. In addition, a number of stakeholders from outside Australia also supported the bill.


Both the Queensland and Australian governments have committed to protecting the Great Barrier Reef. The Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan is the Australian and Queensland governments overarching framework for protecting and managing the reef. Both governments have committed more than \$2 billion over 10 years to protect the reef, which is an unprecedented level of investment into improving water quality. The Reef 2050 plan is a joint commitment of both governments and seeks to improve the quality of water flowing from catchments adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef.

The Reef 2050 plan is underpinned by comprehensive peer reviewed research—the *2017 Scientific consensus statement: land use impacts on Great Barrier Reef water quality and ecosystem condition*—and is supported by robust monitoring and evaluation programs such as the Paddock to Reef Integrated Monitoring, Modelling and Reporting Program, the Paddock to Reef Program. The *2017 Scientific consensus statement* for the Great Barrier Reef is a review of the significant advances in scientific knowledge of water quality issues in the reef to arrive at a consensus on the current understanding of the system. The Paddock to Reef Program provides a framework for evaluating and reporting progress towards the Reef 2050 plan targets through the report cards that the minister tables. The program is jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland governments and unites more than 20 industry bodies, government agencies, natural resource management bodies, landholders and research organisations that are working together to measure and report on water quality factors that impact reef health.

To assist with meeting water targets and reducing nutrient and sediment pollution, the Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce recommended the implementation of staged regulation throughout the reef regions. The task force recommended a reinvigorated regulatory approach as a mix of tools to accelerate progress towards meeting the targets to help preserve the high values held in the reef and increase the resilience of the reef to other pressures such as the impacts of climate change.

To wrap up, after concluding work on this bill I was flying back to Townsville and spent two hours talking with a third-generation farmer from the Hinchinbrook electorate. He is well known for his pineapples, cane and cattle. We turned to the topic. After talking about how he managed to look after his farms, which are very diverse in nature, he told me that most farmers are doing the right thing and are complying with regulations, but some are set in their ways and will never change their practices. I get it that we should not have to take a big-stick approach, but it is because of those farmers who will not change that we need to continue to regulate the industry. I do commend those farmers who do the right thing. As I have said, I commend and acknowledge the work of the Bundaberg Canegrowers group with their Six Easy Steps workshops that inform local growers of soil and nutrient testing. It is a good and commendable program.

I am satisfied that the science underpinning existing legislation is robust. In closing, I welcome the ministerial requirement for a review of the effectiveness of the reef protection regulations in reducing nutrient and sediment loads in the Great Barrier Reef catchment, with the first review commencing in December 2022 and to be completed within a year. I commend the minister for her work in protecting the reef and listening to the science. That is what we should do: we are the caretakers of the Great Barrier Reef and it is important that we listen to the science and continue to do the right thing. As I said at the start, I will not be supporting the private member's bill.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (6.09 pm): I rise to support the Environmental and Other Legislation (Reversal of Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) Amendment Bill 2021 and to congratulate the member for Hinchinbrook on his passion for representing farmers. As the bill rightfully points out, key concerns highlighted by the industry regarding the act include its undermining of existing efforts by growers to improve water quality, imposing Big Brother style supervision over everyday farming decisions and crippling the cane industry's ability to expand. Growers are forced to provide an environmental impact statement if they want to crop an existing part of their farm they have already cropped in past years. The government has now given itself the power to demand information from any adviser or even any company working with farmers.

Growers in the agriculture industry are of the strong view that the act is based on flawed reef science which has not been proven appropriately, checked or replicated. The KAP bill seeks to reduce the maximum penalty for the offence committed under the Environmental Protection Act from over \$220,000 back to the \$13,000 it was prior to the Labor government's amendments in 2009 and to introduce a number of protections for farmers from future regulatory changes to nutrient application. The bill also seeks to legislate an enforceable undertaking for a first offence as opposed to a financial penalty for a breach of section 78 of the Environmental Protection Act in relation to fertiliser application.

I really believe that this government must stop demonising our farmers and, instead, work with them to keep our strong agriculture industry alive. The value of the agriculture industry in Queensland is over \$22 billion annually. The industry directly employs 84,000 Queenslanders, and 40,000 Queensland businesses are directly related to the industry. The agriculture industry in Queensland is one of the biggest and most valuable, yet the government is hell-bent on destroying farming operations in this state by implementing unnecessary regulation after regulation based on flawed science which makes it almost impossible to effectively manage and run a farming operation.

Generational farming operators are at risk, as youth no longer see a future in agriculture because of the unnecessary onus, regulations and interference by consecutive state governments. People are walking away from their farms because they no longer see the light at the end of the tunnel. The function of government is supposed to be one of supporting our industries, reducing regulation and encouraging growth. However, this government would rather put up signs stating that Queensland is 'closed for business' and 'do not to take up farming as we will be importing all our produce in the near future'.


Governments have a bad history of demonising landowners. You can guarantee that 12 months before every election there will be a bill brought before the House related to vegetation management or reef run-off. In 1999, under the Beattie government, I was there when thousands of landowners protested and marched over the removal of their vegetation-clearing rights. In 2004 the Beattie government removed freeholding rights. In 2000 the government introduced wild rivers legislation to remove sustainable management of our river catchment systems, but that was blocked by Indigenous leaders in the cape. That was a great thing. In 2009 the Bligh government introduced environment risk management plans that imposed a \$75,000 fine if you did not fill out forms properly, and if you did not fill out the forms there would be a jail sentence. This is legislation that was brought to the House. Landowners and farmers were so angry that they stormed the Premier's office in Townsville. After another few incidents where they privatised our assets, the Bligh government was kicked out and Labor was reduced to seven seats.

In 2013 the Newman government put farmers offside by giving mining companies unjust exploration and development rights over agricultural land. They were kicked out in 2015. In 2016 the Labor government introduced laws that reversed the onus of proof such that landowners were guilty before being proven innocent if they cleared their land. In other words, murderers were dealt with more leniently than landowners. This was blocked during the hung parliament, but in 2019 these draconian laws were introduced. This bill is all about reversing this and bringing some form of balance back to the farming industry.

I have highlighted all the trends. This is not about protection of the Great Barrier Reef; it is about making it appear to the south-east corner that the government is doing something. In fact, they know little about what is going on in the Great Barrier Reef. The member for Traeger referred to demonising

Professor Ridd. I recall a particular moment when reef scientists looked at all this bleaching of the coral reef in North Queensland and said that it was because of climate change and reef run-off. Professor Ridd had photos of the coral from 60 years ago and was able to expose the facts about that bleaching. It was about 14 or 15 feet underground but, over the years, all the sand from the south-east had washed up and built up such that the coral had pushed to the surface and was burnt from the sun. It had nothing to do with coral bleaching; it was because of what had occurred over the years. Professor Ridd was demonised because of that.

There is another way we can do this. Since 2019 I have been a huge supporter and advocate of the Russell River Catchment Sustainability Plan. I have had a number of meetings with the minister seeking government support and funding for this plan. What makes it unique is that we have traditional owners, cane farmers, community groups, scientists and conservationists all working together to improve water quality outcomes in river systems flowing in the Great Barrier Reef catchment. We have gone nowhere on this in terms of getting government support. This is the way to go about it: all of the catchment groups working with government and with the Indigenous people to get an outcome. We do not need a massive big stick, a \$250,000 fine or regulations that make it difficult for growers to participate in farming. I commend the member for Hinchinbrook on his initiative and I commend this bill to the House.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (6.17 pm): Like everyone in this House, I love the Great Barrier Reef and the great work that our agriculture sector does for Queensland. I point out that the member for Hill has been referencing one scientist and disregarding any of the consensus statement, which was contributed to by 3,000 authors and had 1,300 peer reviewed documents. I know where I will put it in my stakes. I will back that report, not the report from one scientist that just provides documentation they want to take note of. We also heard the member for Hill dispute a lot of other information, particularly around COVID. Perhaps we might need to start calling him the 'member for faked facts'.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Order! Member for Lytton, I remind you to refer to members by their appropriate title at all times.

**Mr KATTER:** I rise on a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. I take offence to that comment.

**Ms PEASE:** I withdraw it.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Lytton, thank you for your withdrawal. I reiterate my warning to refer to members by their appropriate title.

**Ms PEASE:** Thank you. As we all know, the Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral ecosystem. It extends 2,300 kilometres along Queensland's coastline, from the strait in the north to Bundaberg in the south, and covers an area of approximately 350,000 square kilometres, comprising more than 2,900 individual coral reefs which represent 10 per cent of the world's coral reef areas.

The Great Barrier Reef is home to a diversity of species, including 1,625 types of fish, 600 types of coral, 100 species of jellyfish, 3,000 types of molluscs, 30 species of whales and dolphins and 133 varieties of sharks and rays. Anyone who has had the opportunity to visit the reef would say what a beautiful part of the world it is and are we not lucky to have it here in Queensland. It is important to note that it supports 64,000 jobs in Queensland and contributes approximately \$6.4 billion to the Australian and Queensland economies. It is important to our First Nations people. They consider the Great Barrier Reef to be of special significance and more than 70 traditional owner groups have long, continuing relationships with the Great Barrier Reef and its catchment, stretching back over 60,000 years.

The Great Barrier Reef is under pressure from multiple, cumulative threats including: climate change; poor water quality from land based run-off; impacts from coastal development; and direct human use such as illegal fishing and bycatch. While the greatest threat to the health of the Great Barrier Reef is climate change, deteriorating water quality has been identified as a key threat which needs to be addressed, particularly in relation to excess nutrients, fine sediments and pesticides from agricultural run-off and other industries.

Nutrients, notably nitrogen and phosphorus, which come from fertiliser used on land, have been found to increase coral eating crown-of-thorns starfish outbreaks, macroalgae abundance and algal blooms which can take over and reduce coral diversity and reduce light available for corals and seagrasses. Excess nutrients can also increase coral bleaching susceptibility and coral disease. Excess amounts of fine sediments washed into the sea from grazing activities or stream bank erosion, have been found to increase turbidity and decrease water clarity, which in turn reduces the amount of light that reaches seagrasses and coral, stunting their growth. Once sediment settles, it can also have

detrimental effects on the early life stages of corals, even smothering coral and seagrasses in more extreme conditions. Sediment can also carry nutrients into the Great Barrier Reef environment. Pesticides, which are not normally found in the natural reef ecosystems, are carried in river run-off and have been detected in the Great Barrier Reef ecosystems at concentrations high enough to affect organisms. They may take months or, sadly, even years to break down.

In 2019, the Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Amendment Act was introduced to strengthen Great Barrier Reef protection measures to improve the quality of water entering the Great Barrier Reef. This amendment act applied reef protection regulations to a broader range of agricultural activities that released nutrient and sediments into the Great Barrier Reef catchments, across a broader catchment area.

However, the policy objective of this bill that we are talking about tonight, the Environmental and Other Legislation (Reversal of Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) Amendment Bill 2021, is to repeal the amendments introduced by the amendment act. In his introductory speech, the member for Hinchinbrook claimed that the 2019 amendment act undermined the efforts by growers to improve water quality and imposed Big Brother style supervision over everyday farming decisions and effectively hobbled the industry's ability to expand and that increased red and green tape.


Unfortunately, whilst some progress was being made by farmers to establish and maintain good land management practices, including via the adoption of voluntary initiatives—and I commend all of those farmers who undertook those voluntary practices—unfortunately, as we have heard, not everyone took them up. That is why we introduced the regulations. Regulation was necessary to accelerate uptake of these practices to improve this precious part of our natural history, improve reef water quality and meet reef water quality targets. Further, the agricultural environmentally relevant activity standards—minimum practice standards—mirror practices accepted by industry as best management practice and are already used by many farmers, but not by all. That is the issue here. Not everyone was taking them up. I take a moment to acknowledge the great work of the many agricultural workers who have tried to do the right thing. We have been able to work well with them. I acknowledge their great work.

I take a moment too to thank my fellow committee members for their great work and acknowledge the great work of the secretariat, and in particular Jacqui, who is not on our committee at the moment for health reasons. I send a big shout-out to her and thank her for her great work in looking after the Health and Environment Committee. I let her know that we will continue her good work.

It is important that we oppose this bill. The reason for that is that we want to maintain the reef in its current capacity. It is an important time in history. Everyone in this House wants to be on the right side of history. I have had the opportunity to visit the Great Barrier Reef and I want my great-grandkids to be able to go and see it. In my position as an elected representative—I can be criticised for being from South-East Queensland, but my father's family are from Tully and Innisfail so I know how important the environment is—I do not want to be on the wrong side of history. I want to be known for standing up for protecting the Great Barrier Reef. I will do everything in my power to ensure that we do. I am sure everyone in the agricultural sector wants that too.

Woolworths, for example, has a great initiative called the Freshcare program. They have made a commitment to only purchasing products from banana growers who are following the regulations. If big business can undertake that and if big business is prepared to make that statement surely everyone in this House can do that as well. I call on all members to vote this bill down. It is nonsensical and dangerous for our future. It is dangerous for the Great Barrier Reef. It is dangerous for the future of our children, their children and their children. I do not support this bill.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Before I call the member for Bonney, member for Hinchinbrook I caution you about your interjections not being taken. They are bordering on disorderly.

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (6.26 pm): From the outset, I make it clear that the Liberal National Party will not be supporting this bill, but we will be moving an amendment. It is unusual because it omits the entire Katter bill but seeks to make a simple but significant change to the reef regulations. We want to remove the ability of the government to impose huge penalties on farmers who are doing the right thing. Farmers who are accredited under a best practice accreditation program recognised by the government and who comply with the requirements of that program should not face the threat of massive fines—currently a maximum of \$228,000—within the reef regulations. They should be treated as genuine partners in achieving environmental outcomes. The government currently recognises best management programs, BMP programs, as matching the standards they want these farmers to reach

so this amendment makes sense and reduces the burden of regulation. It makes good business sense for growers too. BMP leads to better yields with lower costs and ensures our Queensland producers keep up to date with the desires of the market.

While we agree changes are needed, we do not believe this bill is the way to achieve them, but we welcome the opportunity to debate this important issue. I will start by outlining the problems I see with the bill before us and then I will talk about what we think would get the balance right and show farmers they are partners in protecting the Great Barrier Reef. This can be achieved. We can have a more efficient, more productive agricultural sector at the same time as doing all we can to improve water quality in our most significant and largest collection of ecosystems.

Most of the explanatory notes of this bill selectively quote experts to cast doubt over the accepted science of the Great Barrier Reef. I am not going to get into a debate on that though. In fact, none of us should be getting into a debate on scientific consensus. This chamber is not the place where that is determined. Science is not a matter of opinion. It is about reaching the most likely consensus based on the available evidence.

To my knowledge, none of us in this parliament are experts on the Great Barrier Reef, but it is our job to listen to those experts and then determine what the best policy response is to deal with the issues they raise. Governments from both sides of the House have supported the scientific consensus statement. That includes in 2013 when the member for Glass House was an excellent environment minister—a member who also pioneered the BMPs which are working to protect the reef. We support the statement being produced by a vast array of experts and, importantly, being independently reviewed by scientists outside of those fields.

The last statement from five years ago was written by 48 leading scientists on a panel—these were biologists, ecologists, economists and social scientists—all from our top universities and the excellent Australian Institute of Marine Science. They determined the consensus of over 1,600 reports which was then reviewed by the Reef Water Quality Independent Science Panel. This process is the best way of determining the current state of Queensland's most significant natural asset, and the findings it has made have been increasingly concerning.

A new Scientific Consensus Statement is being put together this year and I would urge both the state and federal governments to do more to be transparent and open about how it is being put together. Give more detail on how it is compiled. Take people on the journey with you to give everyone confidence in what is being put together. All valid research must be taken into account to ensure its credibility. Please do not just put these details on a difficult to find government website. Promote the fact that this new statement is being put together. Talk about the process to the general public in a way that they will understand. This is essential to people knowing what the challenges to reef health are and why we need to have a policy response to deal with them.

The weight of scientific evidence outlined over many years and in several statements is why we have concerns about this particular proposal for an independent regulator. This bill gives this independent regulator very broad powers, stating in section 444X that they have the power to do 'anything necessary or convenient to be done in the performance of the independent regulator's functions'. If that regulator is guided by the dire scenario in the Scientific Consensus Statement and in many other assessments of the reef—and the bill says they must have a science or agriculture background—there is a likelihood they could crack down harder on farmers. If the intent of this bill was to decrease the regulatory burden on farmers, there is nothing outlined within it to ensure the proposed regulator would do just that.

The bill also talks about restoring the maximum penalties for various offences to 100 penalty units. I understand the intent of this but I believe our amendment is a much neater way of achieving what this is trying to; hence its omission of the bill before us. Fundamentally this bill has been brought forward because of the way our producers were treated when these regulations were first introduced. Farmers were treated as the enemy, as environmental vandals, recklessly releasing chemicals onto our reef. That caricature is so far from the reality I have seen as I have travelled around our state. Framing growers like this does not achieve the outcome I believe everyone in this chamber wants—to make sure the Great Barrier Reef can survive the challenges of climate change by relieving the water quality pressures on it so it is still a beautiful, vibrant, environmental attraction for generations to come.

The vast majority of farmers take careful, thoughtful and effective care of their land. They are looking for solutions to reduce their impact and to make their farms as efficient as possible. They innovate, they collaborate and they source solutions from around the world. Where a farmer is taking this approach they do not deserve to be penalised or treated as anything less than a genuine environmental partner.

The LNP's amendment, which I will table for the record of the House, will reduce the risk of penalties on farmers provided they are accredited under a recognised program and complying with the program. This is a much simpler way to remove the threat of these huge penalties from farmers and it will further incentivise best management practice.

*Tabled paper:* Environmental and Other Legislation (Reversal of Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) Amendment Bill 2021, amendments to be moved by Mr Sam O'Connor MP [173].

*Tabled paper:* Environmental and Other Legislation (Reversal of Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) Amendment Bill 2021, explanatory notes to Mr Sam O'Connor's amendments [174].

*Tabled paper:* Environmental and Other Legislation (Reversal of Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) Amendment Bill 2021, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Mr Sam O'Connor's amendments [175].

The only protections provided in the bill before us against committing an offence are related to employees. The bill exempts employers from any penalties if their employee did not follow their instructions. In my view that is too narrow. They do not deserve to be penalised if they are doing everything right. It is much simpler to keep the single offence in the current Environmental Protection Act and to simply provide an exemption to accredited producers.

Best practice programs are industry led. They are put together by experts and they deliver better whole-of-farm outcomes. Not only is there less run-off but higher yields and a more sustainable product which is attractive to companies seeking to increase their environmental credentials. When it comes to sugar, the big companies want to sell those sustainability credentials. Coca-Cola only sources sugar from companies who meet the Bonsucro standards. This type of market pressure is only going to increase, so even from an economic point of view farmers will be pushed to prove their sustainability.


One of the current programs the department recognises is Smartcane BMP. Smartcane satisfies the Bonsucro standard and has grown in its coverage substantially since its inception in 2014. The department even recognises them as having 'standards that are consistent with, or better than, the minimum practice agricultural standards under section 318YB of the Act'.

While the minister tried to undersell them in answer to a recent question on notice, claiming that they only represent four per cent of growers, Smartcane-accredited growers cover 37 per cent of the Queensland cane area and for those who have been benchmarked for BMP practices it is 83 per cent. At present though their funding past 30 June is not guaranteed. I urge Labor not to cut this support. I urge the minister to renew the funding in the upcoming budget and I would suggest at least a threefold increase from \$1.48 million to \$4.5 million. A good way to find that money would be in the almost \$10 million they did not spend which was the only funding they had attached to the original reef regulations.

There is also AgForce's AgCarE program. They receive some funding through the Land Restoration Fund at present but again could do with this being increased and formal recognition of the good work they do. We need more of these industry-led solutions whether they be specific to different regions or to give farmers different approaches so that it can suit the context they are working in. We want to encourage and incentivise farmers to do the best for their surrounds in the most appropriate way for their farm and empower them rather than punish them.

Some of the only funding the government put towards the initial reef regulations was that \$10 million to the farming and reef catchment rebates and we recently found out that they had spent less than \$4,000—an outrageous failure to deliver. The state funding contribution towards Sugar Research Australia should also be increased. That is how you are going to deliver better environmental outcomes—through science; through innovation; through evidence based, industry-led best practice; working with farmers as partners, not demonising them and making them the enemy in the fight to save the reef.

We have seen the federal government step up to provide substantial funding in this area—\$580 million to improve water quality. The state government needs to step up too. As a good start, I would strongly encourage the environment minister to actually visit a cane farm or two, as I have done in my extensive travel since serving in this role. We do not support the bill but our amendment is sensible. It is a simple change but it would go a long way towards removing a significant fear many farmers have.

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (6.37 pm): I rise to speak against the Environmental and Other Legislation (Reversal of Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) Amendment Bill. The Health and Environment Committee rejected this bill out of hand, and anyone in this House who cares about our environment, our precious Great Barrier Reef or the 64,000 Queenslanders whose livelihoods depend on it must also reject it.

I will say one thing for this bill: at least it does what it claims on the tin. As the Australian Institute of Marine Sciences told the committee, the name of this bill says it all. In the current warming climate, who could possibly support a bill called the 'Reversal of Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures'? This bill is utterly tone deaf. It is out of touch with the science and the environmental aspirations of Queenslanders. It is out of touch with our tourism industry as we emerge from the global pandemic, with its especially brutal economic impacts on tourism jobs in the Far North. It is out of touch with Queensland's place in history as the host state of the 2032 Olympic Games.

Throughout the committee hearings, the member for Hinchinbrook was not able to elicit any evidence whatsoever demonstrating that this legislation is needed, that it has a scientific basis or would be anything other than disastrous for the reef and our tourism sector. The member for Hinchinbrook said he is deeply embedded in North Queensland. Now I do not want to consider that claim too closely, but he also claimed to speak as a former tourism operator, and with this bill he is selling the tourism sector of the north straight down the river. The member for Hinchinbrook and now the member for Traeger enthused about their love for the reef, but all the warm and fuzzy talk about spear fishing and boating will not protect the Great Barrier Reef. Let me be very clear: this bill has absolutely no scientific basis.

**Mr Dametto** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Order! Member for Hinchinbrook, your interjections are not being taken.

**Ms KING:** The member for Hinchinbrook claimed over and over again during our committee hearings that 'there should be independent review of the science'. The members for Traeger and Hill have questioned the science in the course of this debate. The answer over and over from eminent scientific voices was 'there already is independent review of the science, and that is the scientific community's peer review process'.

The Scientific Consensus Statement on which our reef regulations are based has been covered at length by members speaking before me, so I will not go into it in more detail. It confirms the major impact of agricultural run-off on our reef and was described to the committee as one of the best processes in the world. The member for Hinchinbrook brought this bill based on the fringe views of just one or two cherry-picked scientists. Trump-like, he continues to advocate for the acceptance of alternative facts.

Just as we have seen the KAP complain about the best scientifically-based responses to COVID, now the member for Hinchinbrook is cherry-picking his science. He bought into the Green Shirts' claims that the science underlying our reef regulation should be subject to antagonistic scrutiny, but in fact he is just antagonistic to facts and science. As the National Environmental Law Association stated to the committee, the best available peer reviewed science tells us our reef regulations are needed to mitigate the impacts of climate change on our reef.

This bill would undermine Queensland's strong economic recovery, which has emerged from the government's strong health response. Great Barrier Reef tourism is valued at \$6.4 billion per year and supports those 64,000 direct and indirect jobs. Especially since Cyclone Debbie and the bleaching events that followed, reef recovery has been slow, and many tourism operators told our committee that they have had to put off diving and snorkelling activities that pay their bills. The Whitsundays community in particular told us that our effective reef regulations to ensure water quality are part of the recipe for a healthy reef and a healthy regional economy. Slashing those strong reef regulations would be disastrous for tourism operators and those 64,000 workers who rely on the World Heritage status of the reef. With the World Heritage status of the reef already under consideration, this bill would be a sledgehammer to the confidence of the World Heritage Committee about Queensland's commitment to protecting our reef.

We heard from well-respected Whitsundays conservationist Tony Fontes, who noted that the bill attempts to downgrade regulations and goes against every plan to protect the Great Barrier Reef. Those conservationists and scientists who contributed to our committee process gave clear evidence that what happens on land impacts the water. Inshore reefs matter, and they bear the brunt of the land based run-off that these regulations are in place to minimise.

In my contributions I also want to acknowledge the work of many canegrowers in implementing the industry-developed best practice principles that form the basis of our reef regulations. The Bundaberg Canegrowers and others made it clear that they take a best practice approach to fertiliser usage that meets and exceeds the requirements of the regulations. Our reef regulations are based on the Six Easy Steps framework that was developed by growers themselves to minimise unnecessary



nutrient use and maximise productivity. We also heard from growers in the Burnett-Mary region that they meet the regulatory framework by over 98.8 per cent and that their best practice approach is top of the class. While our government has worked hard side by side with growers to increase the uptake of voluntary measures, including funding to the tune of \$275 million, the science clearly shows that agriculture remains a major source of water pollution and more progress is needed.

I want to turn to the LNP and the sad little tightrope walk we saw from the member for Bonney. Honestly, who would want to be responsible for the shadow environment portfolio under the LNP? The member for Bonney spends all his time taking photos with baby turtles because based on his party room everything else is off limits. He cannot talk about tree clearing, and he does not dare talk about climate change in those terms because of the rumbles of dissent from the Nationals on the backbench. For all his greenwashing, now the member for Bonney is trying to placate his backbench further with these amendments, dog whistling to the anti-science community and talking down our reef regulations. I agree with the member for Hinchinbrook that the LNP is desperately trying to ride two horses.

**An opposition member** interjected.


**Ms KING:** I take that interjection because I know what BMP is, having sat on the committee. Whether it is the member for Callide rejecting net zero or the former leader of the opposition desperately promising to wind back emissions targets as a last-ditch election commitment, the LNP are all over the place when it comes to protecting the reef. The member for Hinchinbrook says the LNP are not standing up for farmers, but in seeking loopholes to our strong reef regulations we heard the member for Bonney certainly not standing up for our tourism sector and those 64,000 small business owners and workers who rely on the Great Barrier Reef for their living.

In conclusion, this is a bad bill. It is a non-solution looking for a problem. It has been shoddily pasted together from alternative facts and cherrypicked science. This hopelessly flawed bill would harm our reef and it would undermine our strong economic response, which has been hard fought by Queenslanders. It would damage our tourism industry and risk the jobs of 64,000 people. I want to acknowledge my fellow committee members and the hard work of the chair particularly former secretary Jacqui Dewar.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Order, member for Pumicestone! Pause the clock. The member for Traeger, the member for Hill, the member for Hinchinbrook and the member for Burleigh will cease quarrelling.

**Ms KING:** In conclusion, if members value our reef, if they value our tourism sector and our economic recovery, I urge them to vote against this bill.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (6.45 pm): I rise to speak on the Environmental and Other Legislation (Reversal of Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) Amendment Bill 2021. I also rise to support the LNP's amendment to the bill. I advise the House that, in accordance with my register of interests, I am a land holder who will be impacted by the bill.

This bill has its genesis in a myriad regressive issues with the current legislation, which shifts blame onto farmers and farming communities. Farmers already conduct their businesses in an environment where they must manage and deal with factors outside their control such as drought, weather events, low commodity prices, pasture dieback, the impact of diseases and invasive pests and weeds, international vagaries, currency markets and trade conflicts.

The state government fails to provide a consideration of these factors. The state government fails to consider the cumulative effect of other concurrent policies and potential conflicts with other legislation. Instead, it imposes the administrative burdens of onerous recordkeeping and prescriptive and inflexible regulations, requiring changes to farming practices that are unsustainable. It has created an environment of significant compliance and production costs which create an unacceptable risk of loss of productivity, income and viability. Queensland Canegrowers Organisation said—

We do not support and have not supported any use of regulations for farming practices for a number of reasons: they are a very blunt instrument, they tend to disempower growers, and they assume farming can be done through rigid rules, whereas farming has to be a very flexible process.

Almost everyone wants to protect the reef, just as they want to protect the environment. Few people deliberately set out to be environmental vandals. Farmers do not want to destroy or degrade their land or the reef. They should not be demonised. They should not be made to carry the burden by a government which fails to recognise the good work they do because it is too busy dancing to the drum

of environmental activists. Farmers are rightfully concerned about ALP policy, which has overreached. Labor has done this too often. Farmers are fearful of the government using legislation and regulation for pure political purposes.

Wherever I travel in the state as the shadow minister for agriculture it is clear that farmers and primary producers take seriously their responsibility as custodians of the land, ecosystems and biodiversity. They know they must care for it now and for future generations. Land is one of their primary assets, which is why the management of erosion and sediment run-off is a top priority. It's in their interests to be good land managers because the best managers are the profitable ones.

There is no doubt that farmers have improved farming practices in the last 20 years. As a farmer, I am well aware that we have to go through lots of accreditation processes such as drought management plans, the use of chemicals and vaccines, signed statutory declarations for the sale of livestock and produce, and a range of other industry practices. Farmers can manage if they are given the protections, the support and the ability to get on with the job. This bill is not the best way to achieve the best outcomes for farmers. This bill risks a decade of environmental and technical advancement in best practice. The LNP understands the perception of these regulations and wants to support industry-led best practice.

Canegrowers' Smartcane BMP is just one of these programs. It goes beyond reef regulations and generates better overall outcomes. AgForce is also leading the way. Its AgCarE Program provides low-cost medium-risk options for carbon abatement, drought mitigation, improved biodiversity and sustainable long-term landscape management and business resilience. Even the department recognises these as highly successful programs. In an answer to a question on notice late last year the department said—

Smartcane BMP and Freshcare Environmental Program were granted recognition on the basis that they have the standards that are consistent with, or better than, the minimum practice agricultural standards under section 318YB of the Act. Producers who are accredited under these programs are deemed to have met the minimum practice agricultural standards through an industry supported pathway.

I repeat: the programs were consistent with or better than the minimum standards.

The LNP amendment recognises that farmers are the best managers if they are given the protections, the support and the ability to get on with the job. Our amendment seeks to unite farmers and landholders with commonsense solutions. It will encourage the uptake of best practice programs and the protections they provide. Our amendment is a much simpler way to remove the threat of huge penalties and further incentivise best management practice.

The LNP's amendment changes this by inserting a new clause 8A which amends section 82—which is the offence to contravene agricultural ERA standard—to stipulate that subsection (2) does not apply if the person is accredited under a recognised accreditation program for the agricultural ERA provided that their conduct does not contravene their BMP program, even if they contravene the reef regulations. This removes the threat of the substantial penalties that come with the reef regulations—which is up to 1,665 penalty units—and will therefore incentivise the uptake of BMP.

The LNP amendment will provide the protections that farmers need and deliver the results needed for the reef. This amendment will recognise in legislation that if you have signed up you should be exempt from prosecution. Several stakeholders support that an industry-led approach would be more appropriate than the current regulatory framework, claiming it is more likely to foster innovation. The Queensland Farmers' Federation said—

We consider regulation is a high cost, simplistic instrument that supports minimum standards of compliance, and does not encourage or foster a culture of long-lasting practice change. By contrast, voluntary industry-led farm management systems (such as BMP programs) and other water quality improvement projects have proven to be enablers of such cultural changes.

Canegrowers said that they support voluntary change and indicated that—

Voluntary programs are the only effective means of working with growers for real progress that takes account of the extreme variability in our farming systems.

Far North Queensland sugarcane farmer Mario Quagliata also agreed with a voluntary approach and stated that he has already adopted for a number of years BMP farming methods, such as—

... laser levelling my paddocks, using trash blanketing, and installing wetlands to reduce erosion and I am SmartCane BMP accredited. I have also installed a bioreactor as a joint project with the MIP government appointed group to gather data.

Mario noted that numerous farmers in his region have also taken up similar practices, such as Landcare measures under the Smartcane BMP banner, while the Kalamia Cane Growers Organisation submitted that Smartcane BMP is an example of an agricultural industry itself setting the standard

for BMP. The QFF said there was a 'significant underinvestment in voluntary and industry-led programs to date when considered against the cost of achieving the water quality targets that governments have set'.

The LNP believes that Smartcane BMP funding should be tripled. The federal government has just increased its reef funding by \$1 billion, taking it to \$3 billion. That is three times as much as the state contribution on the reef. Around \$580 million of that new funding is going towards improving water quality. If the broader community is to benefit from the imposition of additional regulations and obligations, then taxpayers need to give meaningful assistance. Farmers need the same support from government. Unfortunately, the government's record shows it is good at rhetoric but not good at meaningful support. Farmers need recognition, not lip-service. The QFF said the state government should 'increase investment in industry programs to a more realistic level considering the water quality targets it has set' and 'the government work more closely with agricultural industries operating in the Reef catchments to get the stewardship and market incentive mix right for farm businesses to speed up the progress towards the water quality targets under voluntary approaches'. If the government is genuine, there needs to be a practical and workable solution, not a political one, and it needs to provide meaningful funding. I urge support of the LNP amendment.



**Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (6.54 pm): I rise to strongly oppose the bill that is before the House, the Environmental and Other Legislation (Reversal of Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) Amendment Bill 2021. As the member for Townsville I feel it is important to speak on this bill, as the Great Barrier Reef is right on the city's doorstep. In fact, we have two islands that boast that they live on the Great Barrier Reef—that is, Maggie Island and Palm Island. This bill from the Katter's Australian Party seeks to dismantle the important protections this government has put in place to protect one of our greatest assets. The Great Barrier Reef is one of the major drawcards of Townsville and it is important to both tourists and locals alike.

Mr Deputy Speaker Kelly, you have been to Townsville—you are a Townsville boy—and you know that Magnetic Island is the jewel in Townsville's tourism crown. We need to protect it and we need to protect the reef itself. This is not about demonising North Queensland farmers or the sugar industry; it is about protecting our natural assets like the Great Barrier Reef which everyone wants to do, including our farmers. I would have expected the member for Hinchinbrook to understand that.

As a government we back our primary producers, the Great Barrier Reef and the jobs they support. Despite what the KAP is claiming, you can have your cake and eat it too. We know the Great Barrier Reef supports around 64,000 jobs and injects more than \$6.4 billion into our economy. That is why we are working with the industry to reduce pollution on the reef and help producers make their farms more sustainable and more profitable.

This bill before the House completely ignores important scientific facts. I disagree with the member for Bonney because he continued to say that we are painting farmers as villains. That is incorrect. As we all know, there are some great farmers out there doing some outstanding work with some huge improvements, there are farmers down the other end who are not prepared to do anything, and there are farmers in the middle who are making some changes as we go along. There are farmers on this huge continuum, and that is what this is about. It is about recognising those farmers who are doing the great work but also working out what we need to do to bring those other farmers along to make sure we can have our cake and eat it too.

The current reef protection regulations were introduced in response to the recommendations of the Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce and the best available consensus reef science at the time. Work has been done by a range of well-respected scientists in this space, including many in Townsville from James Cook University and that outstanding institution, the Australian Institute of Marine Science. They are experts in their field and it is important that we listen to the experts when it comes to looking after the Great Barrier Reef and looking after our agricultural sector, which continues to be a traditional strength of our economy.

We know Queensland farmers also want the best for their environment and the land they operate on, which is why the Palaszczuk government continues to support the industry. For more than a decade the government has actively supported and invested in the agricultural sector to increase the voluntary uptake of improved farming practices. Between 2009 and 2021 more than \$156 million was invested to support the agricultural industry to improve water quality and productivity through industry-led best management practice programs, science and on-ground programs. As a government we are also investing in helping sugarcane farmers upskill by learning about better nutrient management.

I am an old Burdekin boy but I grew up in Brisbane. Many of my family are canefarmers. My brother-in-law is a canefarmer but it does not make me a canefarming expert. My experience comes from holidays when I jumped on the back of a tractor and rammed sugar down the chute so we could plant it. Those days are long gone, thankfully. They are now planting by billets, which is much quicker. It demonstrates that over time things have changed and farmers have changed their practices. What we need to do is continue to change behaviours.

The government has helped 80 sugarcane farmers with this work, which has resulted in stopping about 12,000 kilograms of dissolved inorganic nitrogen running off into the reef. We appreciate the important contribution made by farmers to our economy and we continue to support them as they continue to evolve their practices, like they always have and always will. If this bill was passed, Queensland would go backwards when it comes to looking after the environment and the Great Barrier Reef. Reversing the reef protection regulations would undermine the Palaszczuk government's efforts to improve reef water quality.


Looking after the Great Barrier Reef is incredibly important. Our current reef regulations are integral to looking after the reef. This legislation is not what it seems to be, and that is why we will be opposing it.

Debate, on motion of Mr Stewart, adjourned.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): I should point out that I was a Magnetic Island fellow as well as Townsville.

## ADJOURNMENT

### Cairns and Mareeba, Youth Crime

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (7.00 pm): Twice in the last two weeks I have visited Cairns as well as the neighbouring community of Mareeba in response to calls from residents and business owners in those communities about the youth crime issues and the fact that they are not being heard. These communities are having their hearts and souls ripped out. In Cairns last Friday at a crime rally, I told the residents and business owners who turned up that I would take their voice to the Queensland parliament, that I would stand up in here this week and outline their concerns, speak on their behalf and demand that the Premier, the police minister and the youth justice minister go to Cairns and do something about the crime problem that exists in that community. Where was the member for Cairns last Friday at the crime rally? He said, 'My days are organised two to three weeks ahead.' He was a no-show. I think that is an absolute disgrace.

The member for Cook moving her office to Cairns and the member for Cairns not even bothering to turn up at a crime rally in that community speaks volumes about just how interested they are in that community to address what has become an epidemic. Is it any wonder they are saying enough is enough? Is it any wonder they are launching a petition, which I was pleased to sponsor on behalf of the Cairns community, calling for a full and open inquiry into Far North Queensland child safety and youth justice issues, to review the youth justice laws, to look at the department of child safety, but, more importantly, to act as a forum for victims of crime to have their voices heard? In all of this it is the victims who are not being heard and it is the victims who are suffering.


Mareeba is a community under siege. The graffiti and the vandalism down the main street of Mareeba has to be seen to be believed. Cairns business owners who have been the subject of multiple break and enters and residents who have had their vehicles stolen have said, 'No more!' Mrs Carswell at that rally was exactly right when she said—

We should not be afraid to go to sleep at night in our own home. It's time for this government to act on youth crime and to act on that fear.

I could not agree more with Mrs Carswell. The time has come for action. We need a commitment from this government to go to those communities, to go to North Queensland—to Cairns, to Mareeba, to Townsville—and do something about this youth crime epidemic.

*(Time expired)*

### Redcliffe Electorate

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (7.03 pm): Eight years ago today the people of Redcliffe had their say. It is an immense honour to be an elected member of parliament representing your community, and I once again thank the people of Redcliffe for putting

their faith in me to represent them for the past eight years in the Queensland parliament. To all my branch members and supporters who came out to support me in the community, including at election time, I say thank you, and I thank them for their ongoing support.

Since the election of the Palaszczuk government, we have continued to restore frontline services and invest in the services that matter such as health, education, roads and community programs which benefit locals. While time does not permit me to mention all the wonderful things that have occurred in the Redcliffe electorate, I do welcome recent funding to our community for road infrastructure upgrades. This includes \$22 million of joint federal and state funding to upgrade the Redcliffe Road and Victoria Avenue intersection and the Elizabeth Avenue intersection and pedestrian crossing at Clontarf. Road safety is something we should all take seriously and I welcome this investment in our community.

There has been a raft of commentary regarding the future of Suttons Beach Pavilion. I agree with criticism that the council had not consulted the community on this issue properly. I am glad this is changing. This facility is owned and managed by the Moreton Bay Regional Council, and the future of the facility will ultimately be a decision of the council and the elected officials who serve within it; however, the decision should be guided by the community. As the member for Redcliffe and a local resident, I support the calls of the community who want to see our history and this building preserved. I welcome the willingness of the council to have a survey about this matter—it closes on 11 March—and their commitment to work with the community regarding the next steps after receiving the results from the survey and invasive testing of the building.

Redcliffe is a destination for many. Whether you are making a sea change or visiting for the day, the Redcliffe Peninsula is the place to be. I am pleased to hear that Redcliffe will be the home of the NRLW grand final in 2022 which will deliver more than \$1 million for Moreton Bay region businesses. The Moreton Daily Stadium is going from strength to strength and soon will be the home of the Dolphins as they embark on their NRL debut.

I have always said that our community is more than just a collection of suburbs; it is about our people. We have many amazing people, volunteers and community groups across the Redcliffe Peninsula who get up each and every day to support our community. To all of our local businesses, those mum-and-dad business owners who get up each day to keep the doors open, to run their business and to support local employment as well, I say thank you. I want to pay tribute to our volunteers and thank them for their tireless work. It is their selfless service which makes our community the best electorate in Queensland.

### Bundaberg East Flood Levee



**Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (7.06 pm): Flood-proofing of Bundaberg is vital. It is important we get it right. It is time for all levels of government to come back to the table to get it right. Unfortunately, residents are extremely disappointed over the consultation process and constant delays with this project. It is evidenced by more than 5,000 signatures on a petition that is asking for a review of the original proposed flood mitigation, which I will table. I want to congratulate the Bundaberg Flood Protection Group. They simply state that the citizens of Bundaberg call on the state government and the Bundaberg Regional Council to review the Bundaberg East flood levee proposal and implement better protections.

*Tabled paper:* Nonconforming petition regarding the Bundaberg Regional Council East Bundaberg flood levee and flood protection measures to the Burnett River [\[176\]](#).

Clearly, the government has failed in its responsibility to communicate to all stakeholders and residents. Of the 5,000 signatures, 50 per cent claim to know very little or nothing about the proposed Bundaberg East flood levee, the wall's location or the effects. While the Bundaberg East levee would provide good mitigation options for those living in Central and East Bundaberg, there are numerous other options that should be not ruled out entirely.

The Bundaberg Flood Protection Group has been advocating for flood mitigation on a staged basis. This means that a 2013 sized event would have resulted in an eight-metre AHD flood at Targo Street gauge. One option is to restore the river as close as possible to its original state. The flood protection group investigation suggests that flood levels created by a simple rain event like 2013 could be a metre lower if we got on with the job.


The issues of Millaquin Bend have been talked about—and the people in Bundaberg will know what I am talking about—but we need to get on with the job to make sure consultation includes all the community and not leaving the vacuum that currently exists.

We were all promised a 10-year action plan in 2017. With poor consultation and a lack of options, we have now a single-minded view that does not include all of the people in Bundaberg in that decision-making process. On behalf of those 5,000 signatories, I think it is only reasonable that we come back to the table. I ask the government to reinvent or have the consultation processes that started a couple of years ago but remember that flood-proofing is a serious issue in Bundaberg. If handled correctly, we could save many lives and many properties. We need the best solution that is properly researched, investigated and discussed and for the options to be given at least some respect when they are being considered.

The government's bandaid approach to regional Queensland and this particular project has to stop. I say to all levels of government—this is not a shot at any one level: stop playing politics with our region, stop wasting taxpayers' money and stop the cover-ups on this project. We all deserve better in this space.

Again, as a reminder, in 2017 we were promised boots on the ground and a 10-year action plan. There is not long to go. More importantly, you cannot continue to leave the people of Bundaberg in a vacuum, particularly with something so serious. Every time it rains in Bundaberg, people still get really frightened and really apprehensive about what that means. We have an opportunity to get this right. I acknowledge the government's announcements prior to the 2020 election, but they have to talk to the feds and we have to get it done.

### Macalister Electorate, Schools

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (7.09 pm): I rise to speak tonight about our Macalister schools. Before I do so, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our schools and our teachers for the flexibility and adaptability they displayed when we delayed the start of school for two weeks. Like many parents—I myself have three school-age students—I was really looking forward to the return-to-school date. I do understand and I absolutely appreciate the need to put the safety of our children first. I had my kids in here at parliament when the announcement was made. My daughter was quite pleased to thank the education minister for the delay of two weeks; I was not. I am pleased to see that students have returned to schools in our Macalister area.

While our kids were at home, our schools in Macalister were a hive of activity. At the end of last year I updated the House on the work in my election commitment to update the outdoor learning centres at Windaroo State School. The kids there are currently using them on a daily basis. I also updated the House on the progress of the \$1 million to reroof some of our older classrooms at Mount Warren Park State School. I can advise the House that all that work has now been completed and it is like a breath of fresh air through our Mount Warren Park State School.


Our Carbrook State School administration building is in the throes of its last bit of finishing work inside. I can tell honourable members that the staff at the school were extremely pleased to know they were going to get a new administration building, particularly when I said I would give them a new coffee machine for the meal room. They seemed to be extremely happy with that, and I will brew the first coffee batch for them.

The delay actually allowed the Edens Landing State School refurbishment to get the kick along it needed. That was a \$1 million commitment in last year's budget to upgrade an entire education block. I can advise the House that it is officially opening this week. I wish the school well.

I have also been notified that, in relation to two of our biggest commitments in the Macalister electorate, a new hall for Beenleigh State High School and a new learning block for Beenleigh Special School, the design work is now complete and we are now at the approval stage. The community of Macalister will see that building work commence within the next couple of months.

I would like to thank everyone in the school community for their patience. I would like to thank all the parents for their patience as well. Thank you very much to our Macalister school communities for being understanding. Thank you to those Macalister families who went out and made sure their kids were jabbed before the start of school.

### Nanango Electorate, Weather Event

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (7.12 pm): On the night of 7 January this year communities in the northern section of my Nanango electorate were hit by the full force of ex-Tropical Cyclone Seth. In the darkness of that night, fast-moving major floodwaters consumed Woolooga, Kilkivan, Tansey, Goomeri and Boobyjan. By the early morning of 8 January the region was realising that a flood greater than the 2013 flood was upon them.

Landholders in this area have suffered terrible damage including loss of livestock, equipment and crops. Tragically, 14-year-old girl Krystal Cain, who had been travelling in a car with her dad through the Boobyjan area, was swept away and lost her life. Her father, Lenny, was rescued the following morning. Many more people travelling on that night were caught by the quick-rising floodwaters. Another father and his daughter spent two nights clinging to a tree at Boobyjan and two families spent a night in a small tinny tied to a power pole at Woolooga.

I want to take this opportunity to mention many local landholders who helped rescue these people. I thank Ken and Julie Thompson, Tom and Nichole Gould and their children, Dan and Gemma Van Itallie, Chris and Phil Stanford and the Stanton family. Their stories of bravery are remarkable and their efforts have not gone unnoticed. One couple who was rescued by the Gould family wrote to me the following—

I just wanted to express our gratitude to your wonderful community for coming to our rescue during the recent floods. We were fortunate to have been rescued by a local family ... using their tractor. They provided us with a safe place to stay until we were flown out ... by Lifeflight. With limited fuel, food and water and no power they generously shared their limited supplies with us.

May I also thank the police and emergency services, who worked so hard in the days after the flood in the search for Krystal Cain. The area was described by police as a war zone. I especially want to give a shout-out to our local police officer Dave Gillies; he is a hero. Conditions were extremely difficult and unfortunately Krystal has not been found. She is now listed as a missing person and my heart goes out to her family for the loss they have suffered. May she rest in peace.

This is the third flood in 11 years for this community. An extraordinary amount of water flowed into this catchment, with 946 millimetres falling within 48 hours. I say thank you to the member for Gympie, Tony Perrett, and his wife, Michele, who kept those communities along the Boonara Creek updated with rainfall totals from their property, which is located at the headwaters. Without that informal bush telegraph, there would have been no way for those landholders downstream to know that this 11.4 metre wall of water was on its way. That is because there are no flood warning gauges on that Boonara system, and I will have more to say about that.

### **Coronavirus, Aged Care; Batterham, Mr C**



**Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (7.15 pm): This year we have seen many vulnerable aged-care residents in Queensland abandoned by the federal government and their failed vaccine rollout. In my own electorate this failure has resulted in the tragic loss of lives. At Jeta Gardens in Bethania at least 15 residents have passed away due to COVID-19. It should never have come to this.

My heart goes out to the families of all aged-care residents who have lost their lives. Many have reached out to my office still searching for answers. I also want to acknowledge the remaining residents who have seen a decline in their quality of living. Many have been placed in lockdown, isolated from loved ones and not able to access the care they need due to staffing pressures.


Finally, I want to thank the incredibly hardworking staff who have been working overtime to care for their patients. I want to thank each and every one of them for the incredible work they do keeping some of our community's most vulnerable people safe. However, I say again: this should never have happened. Residents should have had their booster shots. This should have been the federal government's top priority.

The Morrison government has had months to plan the booster rollout in aged care. They have failed. These are our most vulnerable community members and it is not good enough that they were not vaccinated when they were supposed to be. Families have been left in the dark not knowing if their loved ones have been vaccinated, let alone received a booster. We have had a royal commission into aged care and still we have not seen action. It is an absolute failure.

Finally, while I am on my feet I want to pass on my condolences to the family of Colin Batterham. I have previously mentioned Colin and his neighbour Rebecca in this place. I met them three years ago when Colin's landlord forced him and his fellow neighbours to sign tenancy agreements riddled with errors as well as pay for inedible food in their retirement village. When Colin spoke out about this, his landlord threatened him with eviction, but Colin stood strong and fought his landlord. Most importantly, we had a huge win for our community and these residents.

Sadly, Colin passed away earlier this month, on 3 February. I want to pass on my condolences to his family, friends and neighbours. Colin's courage had real impact. I am really proud to have known him and to have fought for him. Supporting those most vulnerable in our community is absolutely what Labor is all about and Colin knew that. Rest in peace, Colin.

### Coolum Surf Club


 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (7.18 pm): I want to take this opportunity this evening to put on the record my appreciation for a fantastic community club in my electorate being the Coolum Surf Club. Mr Deputy Speaker, I know it is a club you would be familiar with due to your close family connections to my electorate. It was only a couple of years ago that I stood here and spoke about the centenary anniversary and celebration of the Coolum Surf Club, which started just over a hundred years ago back when there were no bitumen roads at Coolum and when there was only a handful of families living in the area. From that early start—those humble beginnings—last year the Coolum Surf Club was awarded the best surf-lifesaving club in Queensland.

Late last year I had the pleasure and was honoured to attend a number of retirement functions at the surf club for a number of key board and committee members of the Supporters Club, particularly people who have been pivotal in turning the club around. John Ellingson, the immediate past president who just retired from the committee late last year, had been on the board for 18 years. He is well known in the electorate and is a community champion who serves on the board of a lot of other community groups as well. He was ably assisted by Garry Green, the treasurer of the club for over 10 years, and Gary Barben, the secretary for over 10 years also. Due to age and longevity, all three of them have dedicated their adult life to the surf-lifesaving movement after 18 years, 10 years and 10 years respectively on the board of the Coolum Surf Club. When they joined the committee of the Coolum Surf Club 10-plus years ago the club was not travelling that well, but they surely have turned it around. Now there are over 500 active volunteer members of the surf club, and the Supporters Club that they have created donates over \$1 million every year back to the surf club.

Not only that, when I spoke to these guys at their individual retirement functions last year they told me that the best part of the job was the Community Benefit Fund that they had established while they were on the board at the Coolum Surf Club. Every year for the last eight or nine years that Community Benefit Fund has given out around \$50,000 every year to our local community groups like Meals on Wheels, the Salvation Army, St Vinnies, Coolum HeARTS and others that I am sure, if you do not mind me saying, Mr Deputy Speaker Kelly, your mum has a close connection to. The Coolum surf lifesaving club has supported those groups as well, so these career surf-lifesavers who have dedicated over a decade of their time to turn Coolum Surf Club around has meant that our broader community has benefited and so have all of the residents and visitors who visit Coolum. In saying that, I want to give a quick shout-out to the new incoming committee members—President of the Supporters Club Ernie Burrows, Treasurer Lee Francey and Secretary Shane Urban, who is also a well known community member. I wish them all of the best moving forward.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): She has volunteered for three out of those four groups you mentioned. If you are looking for a great place for a chicken parmi, the Coolum Surf Club is the place to be.

### Citipointe Christian College

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (7.21 pm): As everyone in this place knows, I am deeply passionate about education, having spent almost 25 years as a teacher and a principal. I am very much aware that one of the biggest decisions a parent will ever make is deciding where to send their child to school. There is an enormous level of trust placed on teachers and principals to ensure children not only receive a high-quality education but are cared for, nurtured and, above all, kept safe. I have felt that burden—the burden of that trust—deeply and strive to honour it. This is why I was so disturbed when parents from Citipointe Christian College, a school in my electorate, contacted me with deep concerns about a new contract that it was asking parents to sign. The document included a statement of faith that not only describes homosexuality as a sin but puts it alongside bestiality, incest and paedophilia. It also includes a lengthy paragraph on why the school expects children to identify with the gender God bestowed on them. The message here was clear: LGBTIQ+ students are to be seen by the school community as an abomination in the eyes of God.


Families seeking a Christian education should not have to contend with discrimination based on their child's gender or sexuality. Citipointe's actions were a violation of the trust that our community and, in particular, parents place in our schools. Imagine how it must feel for those gay or transgender



students at this school dealing with the consequences of these statements from the school leadership. As the local elected member and a practising Christian, I continue to worry deeply about these students, many of whom may not have come out to their parents and peers. We know the rates of self-harm among gay and transgender young people are already too high and I hate to think of the long-term consequences of this school's actions. Thankfully the school has now withdrawn that contract and I have reached out to the leadership team in the past couple of weeks and will continue to make myself available as an experienced educator and leader to support any efforts to heal the divide that this has created in the school community.

I trust that this unfortunate episode has made it clear to all that Queenslanders overwhelmingly reject any attempt to discriminate against children—any children, including LGBTIQ+ children. Further, a majority of parents who are unaware of their child's sexuality—perhaps because they are only prep age or younger—or of any gender confusion that their young person or young child may have under no circumstances want their children exposed to such bigotry. A school's job is to educate, not to discriminate.


### Gregory Electorate

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (7.24 pm): I congratulate the member for Mansfield on her adjournment speech and absolutely agree with her. I want to take the opportunity of congratulating all of the citizens of Gregory who won Australia Day awards on Australia Day this year. Many of the 10 local government areas in Gregory were unable to hold ceremonies in person this year. That was disappointing but in no way detracts from the honours done. These awards are citizen nominated and selected, so all of the nominees should feel honoured. It reflects the high esteem they enjoy in their communities. With such a big electorate, there are too many worthy winners and nominees to list, but I do offer my sincere appreciation for everything they do. Volunteers are the backbone of life in Gregory and they also make our home towns so special.

On a similar but sadder theme, I want to pay tribute to some pioneers on the Central Highlands who have passed away over the parliamentary break. In November we lost Mr Barry Brown of Emerald. His loss is deeply felt by Eva, Karen and Matthew as well as the wider Emerald community. Barry and Eva ran an extremely successful business called Gem Ford Motors in Emerald and were generous sponsors of many local causes. Barry was also a valued member of Lions, Rotary and the RSL. In 1993 Barry became a director of the Emerald Co-Operative Society Ltd and in 2003 became chairman. Under Barry's leadership, the co-op established an extensive community giving program to help important non-for-profit groups on the Central Highlands. Over about 18 years Barry's board has given away over \$632,000. The co-op is owned by the people of Emerald—and I declare that I also am a shareholder, like thousands and thousands of people on the Central Highlands; it is not worth that much money—which Barry Brown is loved for, and he was never afraid to reinvest in it. As a new director, Barry helped oversee the building of the new premises of the co-op and during his time signed off on a million dollar garden centre, solar panels, air conditioning and store upgrades worth 2½ times the cost of the new building.

Our Emerald community is also grieving the loss of Mr David Buust. David is a well-known figure in Emerald and is fondly remembered for his generous help to many local groups in times of need. Another person who passed away was John Braitling—a very good family friend and well recognised in the Brahman breeding and CQ horse racing industries. Bob Andersen also recently passed. Bob was a pioneer in the cotton industry and a person very much involved in the bowls club. Last but not least I want to mark the passing this week of Mr John Maguire, aged 86. In many ways the Maguire family is the absolute essence of the Emerald community. John and his wife, Fay, were staunch members of St Patrick's Parish and deeply involved in the community. John was the father of Tim, Peter—many members would know Peter, better known as Maggot Maguire, the former mayor of the Emerald and Central Highlands shire councils—Michael and Donna. Just quietly, John will be deeply missed by his large family and the wider Emerald community.

### Tilley, Ms G

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (7.27 pm): Last week the world became a poorer place with the tragic passing of Gina Tilley: beautiful human being inside and out; friend to all she met and knew, and most particularly those who needed her help the most; precious colleague to the staff of Kevin Rudd's Griffith electorate office and to Kevin and his family; precious colleague to the staff and volunteers of Micah Projects; appreciated by the many, many people, some of them the most vulnerable of the

vulnerable, with whose lives her work brought her into contact and about whose welfare and wellbeing she was so passionate; and her most important role of all—devoted and adoring mum of Afrique, to whom we send every ounce of love and support.

Tomorrow there will be a service for Gina and I am so sorry I will not be able to be there because we will be in parliament. However, I wanted to honour her in this place because she was so important to so many people in my local patch, not the least of which were the thousands of constituents and community organisations she helped through her role in Kevin's electorate office but also the many she helped to honour as she did through events like the Griffith Australia Day awards.

In addition to the formidable work Kevin did in his own right as the federal member for Griffith, he and Councillor Shayne Sutton and I worked closely as a local team and it was our staff, including Gina, who backed us up on that. Our staff were constantly in touch, whether it was to solve a local issue, to coordinate what we were doing with local Anzac Day services, to support the Morningside or Bulimba festivals or so many other things that keep a community going. Gina was a key part of everything that happened. So quite aside from how much I just really liked her, she was important to me as well. I asked Kevin if he would like me to include something from him tonight, and this is what he said—

Gina was always dedicated to the well-being of others, she worked tirelessly for local constituents on their biggest and smallest concerns and she did so willingly and happily because by nature she was a deeply caring soul.

Karyn Walsh from Micah Projects when I asked said—

Please acknowledge the generosity of spirit Gina showed in both your electorate and through Micah Projects.

Gina was passionate about people having access to political representation through local Members. So many people benefited from her breaking down those barriers.

Finally, I include something from Fleur Foster, her very dear friend—

Gina was a fierce woman. A force to be reckoned with. Always prepared to tuck in your white privilege if it was showing. Quick to reprimand and then educate ... With a wicked sense of humour and amazing knowledge of art and literature. She loved unconditionally.

That is just a little bit to know about Gina Tilley. She will be so missed. Vale, Gina.

The House adjourned at 7.30 pm.

## ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyce, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Camm, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Katter, Kelly, King A, King S, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, MacMahon, Madden, Mander, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, O'Connor, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Skelton, Smith, Stevens, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Watts, Weir, Whiting