



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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Phone (07) 3553 6344

## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

### Wednesday, 30 March 2022

Subject	Page
<b>SPEAKER'S STATEMENT</b> .....	<b>723</b>
Absence of Member .....	723
<b>SPEAKER'S RULING</b> .....	<b>723</b>
Same Question Rule, Amendment Out of Order.....	723
<b>SPEAKER'S STATEMENT</b> .....	<b>723</b>
School Group Tours.....	723
<b>MOTION OF CONDOLENCE</b> .....	<b>723</b>
Fouras, Hon. D, AM .....	723
<b>TABLED PAPERS</b> .....	<b>729</b>
<b>MINISTERIAL PAPER</b> .....	<b>730</b>
Revocation of Protected Areas.....	730
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Revocation of state areas: Proposal under sections 29, 30 and 32 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and a brief explanation of the proposal, relating to the Ringtail State Forest, Yurol State Forest, Castle Tower National Park, Mount Coolum National Park and Tewantin National Park .....	730
<b>NOTICE OF MOTION</b> .....	<b>730</b>
Revocation of Protected Areas.....	730
<b>MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS</b> .....	<b>731</b>
Federal Budget .....	731
Weather Event .....	731
Queensland Flood Appeal .....	732
Frucor Suntory .....	732
<b>SPEAKER'S STATEMENT</b> .....	<b>732</b>
Warne, Mr SK.....	732

# Table of Contents – Wednesday, 30 March 2022

<b>MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS</b>	<b>733</b>
Federal Budget	733
Federal Budget	733
Frucon Suntory	734
Federal Budget, Education	734
Federal Budget, Health	735
Federal Budget, Roads and Transport	736
Federal Budget, Women	737
Federal Budget, Training and Skills	737
Federal Budget, Renewable Energy	738
<b>PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMITTEE</b>	<b>739</b>
Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner, Report	739
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner: Report of the work and activities of the Crime and Corruption Commission under chapter 11 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, dated 25 November 2021	739
<b>NOTICE OF MOTION</b>	<b>739</b>
Sunshine Coast, Rail Infrastructure	739
<b>QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE</b>	<b>739</b>
Minister for Public Works and Procurement	739
Minister for Public Works and Procurement	740
Health System, Funding	740
Hickman, Mr A	741
Regional Queensland, Disaster Preparedness	741
Palaszczuk Labor Government Ministers, Email Accounts	741
Federal Budget, Disaster Preparedness	742
Palaszczuk Labor Government Ministers, Email Accounts	743
Speaker's Ruling, Question Out of Order	743
Health System, Funding	743
Trad, Ms J	744
Federal Budget, Health	744
Crime and Corruption Commission, Chairperson	745
Federal Budget, Education and Workers	745
Star Entertainment, Casino Licence	746
Federal Budget, Roads and Transport	746
National Parks, Stray Cattle	747
Federal Budget, Water Infrastructure	747
Crime and Corruption Commission, Chairperson	748
Fundraisers, Regulation	748
Forensic and Scientific Services	749
Federal Budget, Energy	749
Whistleblowers	749
Federal Budget, Environment	750
Palaszczuk Labor Government Ministers, Email Accounts	750
Federal Budget, Housing	750
<b>PUBLIC HEALTH AND OTHER LEGISLATION (EXTENSION OF EXPIRING PROVISIONS) AMENDMENT BILL</b>	<b>751</b>
Second Reading	751
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Submission No. 962, dated 4 March 2022, by the President, Queensland Council for Civil Liberties, Mr Michael Cope, to the Community Support and Services Committee's inquiry into the Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2022	760
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Submission No. 970, dated 4 March 2022, by the Queensland Human Rights Commission, to the Community Support and Services Committee's inquiry into the Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2022	760
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Email, dated 16 March 2022, from the Hill Electorate Office regarding an article from the <i>Courier-Mail</i> titled 'Dr Nick Coatsworth reacts to Pfizer's claim most people will need four doses of the Covid vaccine'	761
<b>MINISTERIAL STATEMENT</b>	<b>763</b>
Further Answer to Question, Queensland Crime and Corruption Commission, Chairperson	763
<b>PUBLIC HEALTH AND OTHER LEGISLATION (EXTENSION OF EXPIRING PROVISIONS) AMENDMENT BILL</b>	<b>763</b>
Second Reading	763
<b>MOTIONS</b>	<b>783</b>
Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders	783
Division: Question put—That the motion be agreed to	783
Resolved in the affirmative	783
Federal Budget	783
Division: Question put—That the motion be agreed to	795
Resolved in the affirmative	795
Sunshine Coast, Rail Infrastructure	795
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Extract from Commonwealth Budget papers 2022-23, Part 2: Payment Measures, page 129, titled 'Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications: Infrastructure investment-Queensland'	795
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Extract from Connecting SEQ 2013: An Integrated Regional Transport Plan for South East Queensland, pages 1, 47 and 129, regarding delivering an integrated transport network	796
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Extract from Infrastructure Australia, titled 'Project business case evaluation summary: North Coast Connect'	800

Division: Question put—That the amendment be agreed to .....	807
Resolved in the affirmative.....	807
Division: Question put—That the motion, as amended, be agreed to .....	807
Resolved in the affirmative.....	807
<b>ADJOURNMENT .....</b>	<b>808</b>
<b>Coomera Electorate, Events .....</b>	<b>808</b>
<b>Bundamba Electorate, Infrastructure .....</b>	<b>808</b>
<b>Common Ground.....</b>	<b>809</b>
<b>Live Music Industry.....</b>	<b>809</b>
<b>Federal Budget, Sunshine Coast.....</b>	<b>810</b>
<b>Algester Electorate, Community Organisations .....</b>	<b>811</b>
<b>National Parks, Stray Cattle.....</b>	<b>811</b>
<b>Health System, Investment .....</b>	<b>812</b>
<b>Great Barrier Reef.....</b>	<b>812</b>
<b>Organ Donation, Gift of Life Walk.....</b>	<b>813</b>
<b>ATTENDANCE .....</b>	<b>814</b>

## WEDNESDAY, 30 MARCH 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

#### Absence of Member



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have received advice from the member for Oodgeroo, Dr Mark Robinson MP, who was absent on 17 March, that he will also be absent from sittings of the House on 29, 30 and possibly 31 March 2022. The member's notification complies with standing order 263A.

### SPEAKER'S RULING

#### Same Question Rule, Amendment Out of Order



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, the opposition has circulated amendments proposed to be moved to the Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2022. Opposition amendment No. 2 seeks to amend the Public Health Act 2005 to insert a new section in relation to the publication of information on the department's website following a public health direction by the Chief Health Officer.

I note that an amendment of the same substance was moved and negatived to the Public Health and Other Legislation (Further Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2021, which was passed in the same session of this parliament. Standing order 150 provides that no amendment shall be moved which is substantially the same as one already negatived by the House. Therefore, I rule opposition amendment No. 2 out of order.

I note that other amendments circulated are similar to amendments circulated to another bill. However, as leave was required and not given, in respect of those previously circulated amendments the same question rule does not apply.

### SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

#### School Group Tours



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Highlands Christian College in the electorate of Toowoomba South, Citipointe Christian College in the electorate of Mansfield and Earnshaw State College in the electorate of Nudgee.

### MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

#### Fouras, Hon. D, AM



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.33 am): I move—

1. That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to this state by the late Hon. Demetrios Fouras AM, a former member and Speaker of the parliament of Queensland.
2. That Mr Speaker be requested to convey to the family of the deceased gentleman the above resolution, together with an expression of the sympathy and sorrow of the members of the parliament of Queensland, in the loss that they have sustained.

The Hon. Demetrios Fouras AM—best known as Jim—was born in Greece, the birthplace of democracy, on 8 March 1938. Jim immigrated to Australia at the age of 10 and attended the Southport School on the Gold Coast. He went on to attain a Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Economics degree at the University of Queensland. Jim worked as a chemist, and later as a marketing economist, for the department of primary industries.

I understand that Jim also gained a reputation as an expert on superannuation and in the 1970s was a member of the State Public Service Superannuation Board. Jim was a good sportsman, he was a surf lifesaver and he played Rugby Union for the University of Queensland and Rugby League for Souths.


In the mid-1960s, Jim joined the Labor Party and became active in his branch. Following the 1974 state election, Jim was encouraged by the then leader of the opposition, Tom Burns, to seek preselection for South Brisbane. South Brisbane had historically been a Labor seat, but the Liberals' Colin Lamont won it in 1974. Jim took back the seat for the ALP in the 1977 election, becoming the first Greek-born member of an Australian parliament. He won the seat again in 1980 and 1983.

In 1986, an electoral redistribution merged the neighbouring electorate of Kurilpa into South Brisbane. Anne Warner gained ALP preselection for the redrawn seat and Jim left the parliament at the election in November 1986. He then began working for Australia's Human Rights Commission, but it was not long before politics came calling again and Jim was encouraged by the ALP to seek preselection for Ashgrove. Jim won Ashgrove from the Liberals' Alan Sherlock in December 1989 on the coat-tails of Wayne Goss's historic victory. Jim held Ashgrove at five more elections before retiring in 2006.

Jim served in many parliamentary and political party roles. During his first stint, he was a member of the committee of subordinate legislation. From 1977 to 1986 he was an opposition spokesperson in portfolios including welfare services, treasury, industry, small business, youth and ethnic affairs. In his second stint, Jim was Speaker of this House from February 1990 to April 1996. Jim also served as deputy speaker from 2000 to 2006.

After retiring from parliament, I understand that Jim devoted time to charitable pursuits. He also contributed to committee inquiries into parliamentary related matters. In 2001, Jim was awarded the Centenary Medal in recognition of his contribution to Australian society and to government. In 2014, Jim was made a member of the Order of Australia for significant service to the parliament of Queensland and as an advocate for homeless youth and social justice. He was awarded life membership of the great Australian Labor Party in 2007.

Jim was an energetic and passionate person, as these awards recognised. His family can be absolutely proud of his life. I note the presence in the gallery today of his partner, Tanya Ferrington, and Tanya's friends Deborah, Susan and Kerry. The Hon. Demetrios Fouras AM passed away on 12 November, aged 83. A funeral service to celebrate his life was held at the Greek Orthodox Church of St George, South Brisbane on 29 November. I place on record the government's thanks for the years of service that Jim gave to the institutions of our democracy and to the Queensland community. On behalf of the government I take this opportunity to extend my sympathy, and that of this House, to Jim's family and to all of his friends.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.37 am): Today, the House acknowledges the life and service of one of its most distinguished servants, Demetrios 'Jim' Fouras. Since 1859, this House has seen 37 individuals serve as Speaker—two have served on two occasions. They have all done so with varying degrees of success but many have walked a fine line between their responsibilities to this House and, where applicable, their responsibilities to their party. The measure of their success is how, even after the passing of the years, they are remembered. Some were never able to shake off the constraints of political partisanship, while others were more willing and able to embrace the challenging role of being a bipartisan Speaker in an environment that is driven by political partisanship. Jim Fouras can be placed in the second category. He forged for himself a reputation as a defender of the House and its members and as one who sought to uphold the supremacy of the parliament itself.

Jim served as Speaker of this House for just over six years and then served for an additional 6½ years as deputy speaker. Few could have imagined at the time of his birth in a small village in rural Greece in 1938 that he would rise to the position of Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland.

His story speaks to his tenacity, perseverance and will to succeed. Jim was at the forefront of the postwar migration wave from Europe that brought so many people to Australia. Writing in the *Daily Telegraph* in 2015 he described his arrival in postwar Australia—


When the war was over, Greece experienced a protracted civil war. My father volunteered to fight against the communists who later took over our village. By 1949, the civil war was still raging. Against my mother's wishes, my older brother and I were sent to Australia to be cared for by my father's uncle, who owned Theodore's Cafe in Southport. I was only 10.

He attended TSS and graduated from the University of Queensland in science and economics before working in the DPI. Jim joined the ALP in 1966, which was a time of developing social and political change in Australia. Against this background he made his foray into politics in 1977, winning back the traditional Labor seat of South Brisbane from the Liberal Party.

It is interesting to note that from his election in that year he served in four shadow ministerial roles, including shadow Treasurer, over the next nine years. During this time he aligned himself with the reform group within the ALP, seeking to bring about internal change to improve the party's electoral prospects. It was in 1986 that he faced a setback, losing preselection to his colleague Anne Warner, whose seat of Kurilpa had been abolished in the 1985 redistribution. Out of the House, Jim furthered his interests in the welfare of migrants by working on various projects through the Anglican Church and on homelessness through the Human Rights Commission's Burdekin report. In 1989 Jim was elected to the seat of Ashgrove, joining 27 other ALP members elected for the first time in supporting the incoming Goss government. His return to the House saw him elevated to the position of Speaker, a role he held until Labor lost office in 1996. As John Wanna wrote in the *Australian Journal of Politics and History* in his review of 1995—

The powerbrokers in the party neglected to discuss the change with Jim, who was not about to vacate the position. He dug in and continued in that role with great service.

The appointment was short lived, as the Goss government was defeated in 1996, but Jim continued to serve as the member for Ashgrove for a further 10 years, during which time he served as deputy speaker. Throughout his time in parliament Jim was a champion of the parliament and its members. He believed in what parliament could achieve. Jim was proud of his Greek heritage and held a deep commitment to family. He was a proud supporter of Australia's migrant community and a believer in the importance of social justice. He served his community, his party and the parliament with great distinction. Today the opposition joins the Premier in offering our deepest condolences to his partner, Tanya Ferrington, and his family and thanks them for allowing the people of Queensland to share some time with Jim.

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (9.41 am): I rise to contribute to the condolence motion for Demetrios 'Jim' Fouras. I met Jim initially two years ago during my campaign for this seat, which was formerly the seat of Ashgrove which Jim held from 1989 until his retirement from politics in 2006. My initial impression of Jim was this little old Greek guy who was just so incredibly energetic and enthusiastic and optimistic. He valued his relationship with his family, his neighbours, his community, his Greek community and his political allies and acquaintances. His ability to recall people's names, their lives and their stories was really quite remarkable. Jim was 81 when I met him and I feel like I should be saying that I wish I had of known him in his prime, but quite frankly Jim and his energy in his prime would have been absolutely terrifying if his energy in his 80s was anything to go by!

Jim was an integral part of my campaign. Apart from the former member for Cooper, Kate Jones, I would say that Jim was my most vocal advocate on the campaign. Following my endorsement, I went to coffee with Jim at a local cafe. It was supposed to be an hour tops meeting, but it probably took 30 minutes before we even managed to sit down because Jim knew everybody. He would walk around the cafe and stop at every table to have a chat and I learnt at that first engagement that there was no such thing as a quick meeting with Jim.

Jim was quoted as saying the most important considerations that people have when they go into the voting booth is who you are, what you have done and why you want to run. Jim took a real and genuine interest in these areas with me. He was particularly interested in my motivations for running and, by the end of our meeting, he had promised to come back out of retirement to campaign for me, and he did.

Of course now I realise that Jim was never really in retirement—he was always up to something—but he really took it on as his mission to have me elected. He hand wrote letters of support, he letterboxed, he came out with me at street stalls in the mornings. He attended every single day with me on pre-poll. He never fatigued. I actually wonder if there was a cohort of people who voted for me simply so that Jim would let them go and get on with the rest of their day. He was so persuasive. His ability to

strike up a conversation with anyone of any age and to find a point of connection was unlike anything I have seen before and may never see again. Jim would talk often about love and that you had to love people to be in this role, and he was right. You cannot fake that stuff. He did love people, whether he agreed with them or not. He had an authentic care for others and their rights and interests.

As the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition have outlined this morning, Jim has an impressive story. He was born in Kalavryta in Greece where he lived through the German invasion during the Second World War. We did not speak much about that time, but one story that he has shared is being in the bathroom when he witnessed his neighbour's house struck by an aerial bomb. His mother grabbed him, half naked, and the rest of the children and fled into the hills. When they returned later that day, Jim described how there was nothing left—no house, no people. The livestock had all perished.

I understand it was shortly after that that Jim's father directed that Jim and his older brother would migrate to Australia. Jim's mother did not want them to go. She allegedly tried everything to stop her husband, including trying to have him arrested, but in that place and in those times the husband made all the decisions and Jim and his brother accordingly migrated to Queensland in 1948 when Jim was just 10 years of age. I never asked Jim outright, but I am sure that this is where his care and empathy towards refugees originated—watching his mother and father make this impossible decision to send the children away so that they could be safe and to have a better life. It is the most selfless act that I can think of and I pray I never have to make it.

Like many migrants at the time, he did not speak a lot of English and it was imperative that he could get across the English language and then catch up to his peers academically. His determination saw him succeed through school and in his sporting endeavours and community service. He boarded at the Southport School for eight years and initially obtained a Bachelor of Science from the University of Queensland. His interest in politics, however, led him to return to UQ to study in the evenings to obtain a Bachelor of Economics.

History would demonstrate that politics was part of Jim's DNA. His father had a strong focus on collectivism and social justice, his brother became a parliamentarian in Greece, his sister a political journalist. Jim also accredited his uncle with helping to form some of his early and lasting socialist views. However, it was following the decimation of the Labor Party at the 1966 federal election that Jim decided to join the party. He and two friends walked into the ALP office the very next day and joined up. This was against the backdrop of the Vietnam War, which was a topic that Jim was very outspoken about. Jim believed that only a Labor government would speak up for the human rights of both our people and those needing foreign aid and decided in that context to become politically active.

Little did he know then that 11 years later he would be encouraged to run for and win the seat of South Brisbane—a seat well in the heart of the Greek community—which he held until 1986. Jim was proud of his Greek heritage and proud he was the first Greek elected into the Queensland parliament. He did share with me some of his experiences in Queensland at that time as a migrant such as the need to anglicise his name and the struggles with speaking his language. He shared one story about speaking Greek on a tram in Brisbane with an older gentleman and another fellow approached and told him to speak English. Jim responded by saying, 'I could. I'd speak it better than you I think, my friend.' He was never afraid of standing up for his culture. He has been quoted as speaking out against assimilation policies. 'Greek is more than souvlakis,' he would say. 'It's about our language.'

The need for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to be culturally safe and to practise their cultural and spiritual beliefs was something really important to Jim. During his preselection Jim encountered his fair share of discrimination, with people telling him they would not vote for a migrant. Jim did not think he would be endorsed. However, his popularity gained through active campaigning and doorknocking made him a popular choice. He loved the old-school politicking and believed that doorknocking and getting out and having those personal conversations with people was the most important thing to focus on. He regularly told me the stories of his preselection and how that approach won him 50 per cent of the votes in a four-person race. He shared with me the importance of standing by your convictions and that not everyone will agree with your opinions but you still have to have one, and he would remind me that there are no votes in sitting on the fence.


In 1989 Jim campaigned for and won the seat of Ashgrove, which he held until he retired in 2006, and following his election was elected Speaker of the House—a position I know he was chuffed with and one he took seriously. I know, Mr Speaker, you will be elaborating on that this morning. In 2014 Jim became a member of the Order of Australia for his significant service to the parliament of Queensland as an advocate for homeless youth and social justice and to the community. This reflected

both his successes as a parliamentarian and his efforts in the community. He was actively involved in community and sporting groups, holding board positions including a position on the State Service Superannuation Board and his work as a Human Rights Commissioner investigating homelessness in Australia.

I want to acknowledge Jim's loved ones who are here with us today—his wife, Tanya, and friends Deborah, Susan and Kerry. I know the remainder of his family who could not be here, including his stepdaughter Natasha and son-in-law David, are watching online. Jim was a great man. I heard him describe his dad as someone who could fill a room. I obviously did not meet Jim's father, but certainly Jim himself had that quality. You could feel Jim walk into the room; you could hear him too, hey Tanya? He certainly was not backwards in coming forwards.

He was a man who believed strongly in collectivism, in unionism; he was egalitarian and deeply passionate about the equal distribution of wealth in society. In fact, those who attended his funeral and wake would have watched a beautiful video that was shot shortly before Jim's death. In the video Jim was interviewed for a school project by his young neighbour Will Glastonbury and in that video he reiterates the two future challenges for society is the distribution of wealth and climate change, which I think is spot on.

Jim was Mr Ashgrove and he is and will be missed by all of us. He spoke Greek very well—I did not hear him, but he told me he spoke it really well—and I do not, but I will say yassas, goodbye, and vale, Jim Fouras.

 **Dr MacMAHON** (South Brisbane—Grn) (9.50 am): I would like to share my condolences on the passing of Demetrios 'Jim' Fouras and pass on my sympathies to his family on behalf of the people of South Brisbane and on behalf of the Queensland Greens. I never got to meet Jim Fouras, but his immense legacy runs like a thread through my life. I grew up in the seat of Ashgrove where Mr Fouras was the member from 1989 to 2006 and I now proudly represent the seat of South Brisbane where Mr Fouras was the member from 1977 to 1986.

Mr Fouras's time in politics was vast and he devoted his energy to housing, youth homelessness, development and planning and immigration, taking a keen interest in the impacts of Expo 88 and the welfare of the community. He spoke passionately about the need to care for vulnerable children and children in out-of-home care. Between 1986 and 1989 he served as a senior consultant to the federal government's Human Rights Commission inquiry into homeless children. He was quoted talking about people on welfare, single mothers and pensioners and the need for community housing.

On Expo 88 Jim was a proponent of accountability and transparency as the city prepared for the iconic Expo under the Joh Bjelke-Petersen administration. Jim said during a parliamentary debate in August 1983—

I wish to deal now with the Expo proposals that are seriously affecting my electorate. I am extremely concerned about a number of the points covered by the Expo decision.


...

If these projects are to cost the people money, the Government should come clean about it. It should say how it will compensate those people who will lose. This Expo proposal has been shrouded in secrecy.

I want to share some words from Mr Fouras's valedictory speech which captures his love for South Brisbane and the people there. He said—

Mr Speaker, as it is my last day of service in this Parliament I would take the opportunity to say a few words. It has been a wonderful experience representing the people of South Brisbane over the last nine years. The electorate of South Brisbane is the most cosmopolitan electorate in the whole of Queensland. It consists of people who are vibrant and vital and they are the friendliest people in this whole State. I have been privileged to serve them.

I think that legacy continues in South Brisbane thanks to the incredible work of Jim Fouras. Vale, Jim Fouras.

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (9.52 am): May I join by adding my condolences to the Fouras family, his wife, Tanya, his friends Debra, Susan and Kerry who join us here today, and the remainder of his family who cannot be with us. I had the great privilege of Jim being my local member growing up. In Ashgrove, Jim was constant presence in our community. He was a hard worker and had a generous approach.

My parents always voted nothing but Labor and Jim was on the right side of that and off to a good start in our house, but my family's connection with Jim came from the almost lifelong friendship that they share with Brian and Judy Timms. Judy was Jim's electorate officer during his time in the



Ashgrove electorate. I am often left to ponder on the embellishment of my parents' escapades so, not wanting to mislead the House, I will say that I know one thing for sure—that is, I will never be the best host of my parents when they come to this place. That is a title I am sure Jim will always hold. They hold memories of dinners with the Speaker, parliamentary wines—thank goodness the gin was not around then, Mr Speaker—contests in the billiard room and the removal of their shoes and jackets for frivolity on the squash courts.

It was difficult meeting Jim not to hold him in high regard. I was not studious by any stretch of the imagination, but I recall one school assignment that I was particularly proud of during my primary school years and that was one where the topic was this place, the Queensland parliament. I believe I was in grade 6 or 7, still at Ashgrove State School, and Jim, Speaker at the time, was generous enough to have me come into his electoral office and interview him. Google was not a thing back then and the library was not one of my haunts, but sitting across the table from Jim I learnt of his passion for his roots, his Greek heritage, his family, his love of the Labor Party, his passion for standing up for working people and fairness and, of course, the depth of knowledge and regard that he had for this place. I got sent off with some reference materials and copious notes that afternoon and a very clear understanding of the love that Jim held for the community that I grew up in.

While I regarded that assignment—which I typed; computers were around at that point—as some of my best work, I know it was something that I cared about because of that interaction with Jim. I suspect that the trade-off was actually when I was called up to don my school uniform on a weekend and head up to school to capture some photos for Jim's political materials. Those images he used for the remainder of his political career, which kept me informed of every mail-out that went through in my senior years. Jim was a hard worker and he did not believe in needless self-promotion. He refused to have any nameplates or stickers on his car—and that is probably just as well because he was not the world's best driver. He was an astute politician and could always read the wind. He would always predict an election outcome with great accuracy. He had the respect of people from both sides of the political fence and he was a constant in election campaigns in his retirement, chatting and connecting with voters and volunteers alike.

Brian Timms shared with me a memorable encounter that took place on an Anzac Day service at Ashgrove. The management would not open the doors of the club as it was 9.40 am and the club did not open until 10 am. It was unseasonably hot that morning and a large crowd was milling at the front door and they were getting fractious. Jim sensed the situation and disappeared around the back of the club. A few minutes later the doors were flung open by none other than Jim and the crowd poured into the club, much to the horror of the manager there that day.

The imprint that Jim left on my life while exceptional was not rare. There are many through our party, community and democracy that Jim made an indelible imprint on. He invested in people, he valued people, and he transformed people's lives. His good friend Gough Whitlam phoned him one election night and said to him, 'Demetrios, you will never be defeated.' In a political sense that was very true. Vale, Jim Fouras.



**Mr SPEAKER:** I wish to make a brief contribution to this condolence motion in honour of Demetrios 'Jim' Fouras. Others have spoken passionately about his life and history and I do not intend to go into depth in those areas. As one of my predecessors in this chair, Jim Fouras's time on this dais is still remembered vividly in Queensland political circles, the Greek community of Queensland and the community at large. Indeed, his service in this House, which spanned almost three decades—with a short break in the middle—and the roles that he played made him an icon of Queensland politics.

Born in Kalavryta in Greece in 1938, he survived the trauma of the German invasion of Greece in the Second World War and the following Greek Civil War. In 1948, Jim Fouras migrated to Queensland at just 10 years of age, knowing very little English but with a great deal of determination. Whilst he threw himself into the Queensland community in many fields, Jim never forgot where he came from and was a proud Hellene. Jim said that his Greek heritage became more important to him as grew older. This pride is familiar to me. Through my association with the Greek Orthodox Church in my electorate and with the wider Greek community during my time as Speaker, I have never met a Greek who was not proud of their heritage. He also still had strong links with his Greek homeland. His brother, Andreas, served in the Greek parliament at the same time that he sat in the Queensland parliament.

Jim served as the member for South Brisbane from 1977 to 1986. Following a stint as Human Rights Commissioner investigating homelessness in Australia, he was returned to this place in 1989 in the seat of Ashgrove, which he held until he retired in 2006. Upon his return to parliament and the

election of the first Queensland Labor government for 32 years, Jim was elected Speaker of the Legislative Assembly where he served with my father, Warren. In his nomination of Jim Fouras, Premier Wayne Goss said—

He has earned a reputation not just as a worthy member of this Parliament but also as somebody who is fair and decent in his approach to his fellow man and woman and as a person who respects the institution of Parliament and the institution of democracy.

That was high praise going into the Office of Speaker. Usually those sentiments are echoed after a successful tenure as Speaker.

Upon his election as Speaker, Jim Fouras made clear how he would conduct himself in the chair. In a sign of bipartisanship, he approvingly reiterated a passage cited by the then deputy leader of the opposition, Rob Borbidge, during the preceding debate. In 1642, when confronted by King Charles, the first seeking to arrest five members charged with treason, the Speaker of the Long Parliament, William Lenthall, replied to the King—

My eyes are the eyes of the House,

My ears are the ears of the House,

My mouth is the mouth of the House,

Sire, I can only speak as the House directs me.

This reflected Jim's belief that a Speaker is both the voice and the servant of the parliament. Jim also told the House that his door would always be open to all members.

Jim Fouras was the most egalitarian of parliamentarians. During his time as Speaker, for over six years, Jim was very popular amongst parliamentary service staff. He would always lend an ear and have a chat to service staff. He was also receptive to requests from staff members. One Melbourne Cup day during his time as Speaker, Jim Fouras opened the Speaker's Dining Room to parliamentary service members to have an impromptu Melbourne Cup lunch. Jim's time as Speaker had its controversies, none of which impacted on the qualities of character needed as a presiding officer—qualities that he had in spades.

After Jim Fouras resigned as Speaker during the 1996 change of government, he remained in this House for another 10 years. There was some disappointment in the community that he was not returned to the speakership upon Labor's return to government in 1998. However, his service in this chair was not over. In February 2000, he took over the role of Chairman of Committees, a role we now know as Deputy Speaker. He served in that role of six years until he retired from the assembly.

Jim returned to Parliament House regularly to say 'hi' to staff and dine in the Strangers' Dining Room. I would bump into him often and he was never shy about critiquing me on how I was going as Speaker. Incidentally, he also offered up advice to me when I was Treasurer of Queensland, reminding me that he had a Bachelor of Economics.

In closing, I was honoured to attend Jim Fouras's funeral at the Greek Orthodox Church of St George last November. I was proud to sit with his successor in Ashgrove, Kate Jones, and the current member for Cooper, Jonty Bush. Testament to the high regard in which he was held was the large number of mourners in attendance, many from this place both past and present.

This morning I was pleased to be able to host a morning tea for Jim's wife, Tanya, and friends Deborah, Susan and Kerry, and the member for Cooper. I wish to place on record my condolences to Jim's family, particularly those who could not be with us today.

Jim's zest for democracy, human rights, the Hellenic diaspora and life in general will not be quickly forgotten. He will live on in our memories and our hearts. Vale, Jim Fouras. Will honourable members please indicate their agreement by standing in silence for one minute.

*Whereupon honourable members stood in silence.*

**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, question time will commence at approximately 10.49 am.

## TABLED PAPERS

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

REPORTS BY THE CLERK

The following report was tabled by the Clerk—

[443](#) Report pursuant to Standing Order 169 (Acts to be numbered by the Clerk) and Standing Order 165 (Clerical errors or formal changes to any bill) detailing amendments to certain Bills, made by the Clerk, prior to assent by His Excellency the Governor, viz—

**Small Business Commissioner Bill 2021**

Amendments made to Bill

**Short title and consequential references to short title—**

*Omit—*

‘Small Business Commissioner Bill 2021’

*Insert—*

‘Small Business Commissioner Bill 2022’

[444](#) Queensland Independent Remuneration Tribunal—Remuneration Determination: 2021 Review of Allowances—Determination 26/2022, 30 March 2022

## MINISTERIAL PAPER

### Revocation of Protected Areas



**Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (10.04 am): I lay upon the table of the House a proposal under sections 29, 30 and 32 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and a brief explanation of the proposal.

*Tabled paper:* Revocation of state areas: Proposal under sections 29, 30 and 32 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and a brief explanation of the proposal, relating to the Ringtail State Forest, Yurol State Forest, Castle Tower National Park, Mount Coolum National Park and Tewantin National Park [\[445\]](#).

## NOTICE OF MOTION

### Revocation of Protected Areas



**Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (10.05 am): I give notice that, after the expiration of at least 28 days as provided in the Nature Conservation Act 1992, I shall move—

1. That this House requests the Governor in Council to:
  - (a) revoke by regulation under section 30 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 the setting apart and declaration of part of two state forests;
  - (b) dedicate by regulation under section 29 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 the revoked area of the aforementioned state forest as additions to an existing national park; and
  - (c) revoke by regulation under section 32 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 the dedication of part of two national parks,
 as set out in the proposal tabled by me in the House today, vis

#### Description of areas to be revoked

Ringtail State Forest	An area of about 376.9398 hectares described as lots 9, 10 and 12 on AP22503 and part of lot 5 on AP22503 (to be described as lots 1-3 on AP23653), to be dedicated as additions to Tewantin National Park, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Yurol State Forest	An area of about 287.13 hectares described as lot 2 on AP22502 and part of lot 1 on AP22502 (to be described as lot 1 on AP23654), to be dedicated as additions to Tewantin National Park, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Castle Tower National Park	An area of 189 hectares described as part of lot 167 on plan NPW817 (to be described as lot 2 on SP278327), as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Mount Coolum National Park	An area of 7.603 hectares described as part of lot 154 on plan NPW867 (to be described as lot 2 on SP278327), as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Tewantin National Park	An area of about 664.0698 hectares described as lots 9, 10 and 12 on AP22503 and part of lot 5 on AP22503 (to be described as lots 1-3 on AP23653), lot 2 on AP22502 and part of lot 1 on AP22502 (to be described as lot 1 on AP23654), as illustrated on the attached sketch.

2. That Mr Speaker and the Clerk of the Parliament forward a copy of this resolution to the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs for submission to the Governor in Council.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Federal Budget



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (10.06 am): Once again Queensland has failed to get its fair share from the federal government. Last night's federal budget was a disappointment for our great state of Queensland. It failed the 7,000 families hoping for a permanent solution for their homes constantly flooding. It failed the millions wanting a permanent solution to hospital funding. In fact, health funding was cut. It failed to chart a course to address climate change across our nation. It failed to address issues on housing. It failed to address renewables and it failed on regional road funding. It failed on supporting CopperString to open up our North West Minerals Province. It failed to factor Queensland into the future.

A budget is about priorities. Right now, we have one: helping the people of this state who have lost everything during the floods. To live through one flood is to live in constant anxiety whenever the rain falls again. Imagine the distress of home and business owners who are just completing the clean-up from one flood only to have to face the prospect of seeing their properties flood again.

Our \$771 million joint flood resilience package will allow 500 families to sell their houses to us and move out of the flood zone forever. It offers grants of up to \$100,000 to raise houses higher and \$50,000 so that those who stay can build back better. Many of the people this package will help have no insurance. Despite our urgent pleas, there was no allocation in the budget for the federal government's share. A splash of cash is nice but protecting people from floods is far better. Queensland does not ask for charity. We pay our taxes. Queensland earns its keep. In our hour of need we simply ask for some of it back. All we want is our fair share.

People expect governments to work together for them. I support and welcome measures that will ease cost-of-living pressures, including a cut to the fuel excise, but these measures are temporary; their benefits are fleeting. It is far better to look for permanent solutions such as making electric vehicles more affordable to more people, as my government has done.

By far the most telling budget figures are those to do with population growth. The budget predicts Queensland to lead on interstate migration every financial year until 2026. A massive number of 41,000 Australians are expected to vote with their feet and choose a better life in Queensland this financial year. A total of 129,200 will move here over the next five years and you cannot blame them.

That is the equivalent of every man, woman and child currently living in Bundaberg, Gladstone, Maryborough, Gympie, Bowen and Stanthorpe all arriving over the next five years. That is the budget's greatest failure. It fails to provide the money that would help provide the services for the Queenslanders of today and the many more Queenslanders of tomorrow. Where is this country going? What sort of Australia does this budget provide for? A cynic might call this an 'election budget'. Many of the major infrastructure projects announced recently are either not in the budget or are not fully funded. I will leave it to the people of this state to pass their own judgement on what sort of government they want: one preoccupied with its own survival, or one focused on them?

### Weather Event




**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (10.10 am): While the severe weather warning has been cancelled in the south-east, we continue to experience heavy rainfall from that low pressure system which has moved south. I am advised this morning that a rescue was completed west of Dalby. Crews were onsite after a man was stranded on his car roof. I am advised that he has since been rescued, which is great news. There were also two other rescues overnight by swiftwater crews in the south-west. Three people in a car were rescued from floodwater at Cecil Plains. At Condamine Plains, crews worked with a local farmer to rescue a person from a truck.

Some 128 calls for assistance were made in the last 24 hours, the majority for sandbags, leaking roofs and flooding. There are three schools closed: Cedar Creek, Darlington and Hillview. There are many road closures, particularly on the Gold Coast, including Beechmont Road from Nerang-Murwillumbah Road to Binna Burra Road due to a significant landslide. Detours are in place. Please: if it is flooded, forget it.

That low pressure system that moved south is now severely impacting northern New South Wales, including Byron Bay. Once again, our thoughts go out to those communities, particularly Lismore, experiencing a major flood event again. Queensland is deploying 12 swiftwater technicians to assist our southern neighbours with flood rescue operations. They will be based in Coolangatta and tasked to support New South Wales operations as needed. We stand ready to deploy any further assistance if required.

### Queensland Flood Appeal


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (10.12 am): As we deal with more wet weather this week, donations continue to pour in for our flood-affected communities from last month's deluge. So far, tens of millions of dollars have been raised for the Queensland Flood Appeal. I want to thank specifically our hospitality venues that, off the back of a challenging couple of years, are helping to raise funds for flood-affected Queenslanders.

At the weekend, one of Brisbane's iconic pubs, the Breakfast Creek Hotel, held a People's Day fundraiser, similar to what it did after the 2011 floods. Flood-affected themselves, management, staff, patrons and volunteers pitched in to clean up and get the hotel back up and running, serving steaks and pints to the masses. Some 100 per cent of proceeds from Sunday are being donated to Givit. I am advised that around \$100,000 was raised with around 1,000 people pouring into the pub that day. That is great news and we thank them.

Our fundraising efforts continue tonight right here at parliament. Mr Speaker, you and the Leader of the Opposition will co-host the Queensland Parliament's Flood Appeal Reception, with all money raised going to the Queensland Flood Appeal and the five charity organisations—Givit, Australian Red Cross, the Salvation Army, St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland and Lifeline Queensland.

The event is now sold out. It is a great result. I also pay special mention to Spencer Jolly who once again has done an amazing job coordinating all of this. I also thank the staff of the parliament and DPC for helping to coordinate. Hopefully, we will be able to report some very good news tomorrow. There are a lot of great auction items. If you are a member of parliament, you had better come along with very deep wallets because every single dollar will help those in need.

### Frucor Suntory

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (10.13 am): Today I have some good news for Queensland and great news for Ipswich. Our government has helped lure international beverage manufacturer Frucor to set up a \$400 million beverage manufacturing facility in Swanbank that will quench the thirst of the Ipswich jobs market. This is an incredible coup for our state and it is a significant vote of confidence in our economic recovery that an international company of this calibre has chosen Queensland ahead of other states and countries to establish a permanent manufacturing facility here.


This project is expected to create around 450 construction and installation jobs by 2023-24. It will also create 160 long-term roles when it starts operating in mid-2024. On this side of the House, we are about growing and creating jobs. There will be a lot more good news coming up to our budget as we continue to attract investment into this state.

The company will be looking for skilled and semi-skilled workers including machinery operators and drivers, technicians and trade workers, professionals, sales workers, managers and clerical and administration staff. I am advised early construction work could begin as soon as the third quarter of this year for operations to commence in mid-2024. The facility will have the immediate capability to produce up to 20 million cases of drinks each year, with the ability to be significantly scaled up in the future, all proudly 'Made in Queensland'.

Interruption.

## SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

### Warne, Mr SK


 **Mr SPEAKER:** Before calling the Deputy Premier, I wish to note that the State Memorial of Shane Warne is being held this evening in Melbourne. I and a few other members were invited to attend but, of course, because of the sitting that was not possible. I want to make a couple of very brief remarks about Shane Warne.

Shane Warne was the greatest spin bowler of his generation. Through his talent and achievements, he took the art of spin bowling to new heights and attention. Warne was never too proud to take advice on his bowling, regularly seeking advice from former greats Richie Benaud and his coach, Terry Jenner. Warne's 708 test wickets are a testament to the achievements anyone can achieve when they apply themselves. Shane Warne was an extraordinary Australian, a great Australian and also an ordinary Australian. His confidence on the field reflected a nation's competitive heart. Vale, Shane Warne.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Resumed.

### Federal Budget

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumbidgee—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (10.16 am): Queenslanders will be very disappointed in last night's federal budget. It was a budget that did not give Queenslanders their fair share. On health, housing, education and infrastructure the LNP have short-changed Queensland again. Only a fraction of the billions promised for new rail lines and dams were included in the forward estimates. It was most unfair that the budget failed to confirm whether the Morrison government will match Queensland's disaster recovery package. It might be hidden in there somewhere, waiting to be announced at the most opportune time for the government, but that will not help the Queenslanders wondering how or if they will rebuild.


Locals, whether they are in Goodna or Gympie, cannot take a hollow log in the budget to the bank. A political trick will not lock in a tradie to fix a house. They should not have to wait for the Prime Minister's campaign itinerary to know if they can raise their home above flood level. By forcing them to, the Prime Minister is demonstrating that he has no moral compass whatsoever.

From late February to early March, South-East Queensland experienced unprecedented rainfall and subsequent flooding. In Gympie, the Mary River peaked at almost 23 metres, breaking records that had stood for a century and causing major flooding in the region. Once again, Queenslanders are faced with a monumental recovery task as the mop-up from this flood emergency continues.

Early-stage indications suggest that the recovery cost could be in the region of \$3 billion, with private insurance claims already reaching more than \$1 billion. These floods come on top of an already intense summer disaster season with five previous natural disaster events already flooding much of Queensland since November last year. Some 52 of Queensland's 77 local government areas have been impacted by disasters; 18 local government areas have been hit twice by record-breaking floods already this summer in places such as Maryborough, Lockyer Valley and Goondiwindi. Bundaberg, Gympie and North and South Burnett have all suffered through three major floods in the past four months. This has once again seen Queensland earn our unenviable reputation as the most disaster-affected state in the nation. That is why the lack of recovery funding confirmed in the budget is so disappointing. Calls to cost share our \$771 million disaster package remain unanswered. There is no mention in the budget papers that this package has or will be approved.

Queenslanders whose homes were engulfed by floodwaters or whose rooftops caved in from the torrential rain have no certainty. Once again, the LNP has chosen New South Wales over Queensland and not given Queenslanders our fair share.

### Federal Budget

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (10.19 am): Scott Morrison is cutting funding to Queensland public hospitals. That is what the federal budget says, because that is what the LNP does. The \$21 million that our Queensland public hospitals got this year, they will not get next year. The cuts do not stop there. Scott Morrison is also cutting \$176 million—

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr DICK:** I take the interjection. Member for Nanango, you have a hide to interject.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I called the House to order and the House did not come to order. That will be my last general warning to all members today. Treasurer, it would assist the House if you would direct your comments through the chair and not directly at other members.

**Mr DICK:** The cuts do not stop there. Scott Morrison is also cutting \$176 million from Queensland public hospitals in 2023-24 and 2024-25, compared to funding promised just four months ago. When it comes to a fair, fifty-fifty partnership with the federal government for health funding, under Scott Morrison you can forget it. Our nation is still in the pandemic. Across the nation, patients wait for treatment. Scott Morrison's answer is this: you can wait longer.

Let me say this about Scott Morrison's budget: Queensland has been duded, denied and done over, and Queenslanders will not forget. The LNP's federal budget failed to deliver Queensland our fair share of funding, and it is not just in health. We have heard a lot of announcements from Scott Morrison about vital road and rail projects. Guess what? Once again, it is all announcement and zero action. Just this month, Scott Morrison announced \$3.3 billion for Queensland road and rail infrastructure. Advice to me from the transport minister is that less than \$500 million of that announcement will be funded across the forward estimates. This is more dishonesty from a Prime Minister defined by deception.


What about the big water announcements from Scott Morrison? The \$5.4 billion Hells Gate Dam—he said it would be in the budget. The words are in the budget, just not the money. Budget Paper No. 2 reveals just \$1 billion will be allocated for National Water Grid project funding in the forward estimates. That is for the entire country. More deceit and tricks from a Prime Minister who has made that an absolute art form.

The political games and outright fabrications reach new heights when it comes to renewables. Billions of dollars in deals have been done with Liberal governments in New South Wales, Tasmania and the former Marshall government in South Australia. Once again, there is nothing for Queensland. That includes for CopperString 2.0—another Queensland project left on the shelf by the Morrison government. This is a body blow for our state, and especially the north and north-west. I feel sorry for the member for Traeger as his is another community that has been taken for a ride by Scott Morrison.

Queenslanders will not take this disrespect lying down. Queenslanders have been scorned by Scott Morrison, and I believe they will pay him back in May. In the meantime, the Palaszczuk Labor government will continue to step up. We will deliver more solar, more wind and more renewable hydrogen. We will deliver more storage—with no thanks to the Morrison government.


That is why I am pleased to announce today that through our publicly owned generator, CS Energy, the Palaszczuk Labor government will deliver a \$150 million 100-megawatt battery on the Western Downs. The battery, to be built at the future energy hub next to the Kogan Creek Power Station, will be able to power 14,000 homes during the evening. Our renewable energy future is creating jobs, with up to 80 workers to be employed on this project during the course of construction. All those members from the west of the state can thank me later. The federal budget represents another missed opportunity for Queenslanders to get their fair share from the Morrison government.

### Frucor Suntory

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (10.24 am): There is still good news coming from the Palaszczuk Labor government. Can I join the Premier in welcoming Frucor Suntory's decision to establish a new \$400 million manufacturing facility right here in Queensland—a manufacturing plant that will employ 450 workers during construction and installation, with a further 160 ongoing operational jobs to follow. Frucor Suntory could have chosen somewhere else in Australia to build this plant. They could have chosen somewhere else in the world, but we made Queensland the only choice.

Frucor Suntory chose Queensland because of our skilled workforce, our strong economy and a government that welcomes private sector investment. On that note, I want to pay tribute to the hardworking Investment team within Queensland Treasury that made this happen and were instrumental in bringing Frucor Suntory to Queensland. No matter how much Scott Morrison and the LNP have given up on Queensland, our government will never give up on Queensland and we will never stop delivering for our state.

### Federal Budget, Education

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (10.25 am): Yesterday in this House I said the Palaszczuk government's priority will always be to invest in Queensland schools and students, and ensure workers have safe, secure

jobs. I called for funding in the areas of flood mitigation, Indigenous students, respectful relationships, student health and wellbeing, and improving wages and entitlements for low-paid workers. Unfortunately, but not surprisingly, the LNP's federal budget has fallen way short of what is needed, and has failed to deliver Queensland our fair share.

This LNP federal budget was an opportunity for the Morrison government to lay out a vision on the eve of an election for the future of our students' education and wellbeing, and to support workers and their families. I do not think they rose to the occasion. They scored what every student in the gallery does not want to see: a big fat 'F'.

The budget appears to be nothing more than a reannouncement of short-term programs that were largely already funded and other measures that do not even scratch the surface of what is needed for schools, students, workers and their families. The Morrison government has committed less than \$10 million for the whole of Australia to help teachers and school leaders to better understand and respond to the mental health and wellbeing needs of students. This pales in comparison to the federal opposition's \$440 million school bounce back plan and the Palaszczuk government's \$100 million mental health and wellbeing plan just for Queensland. Compare \$10 million for the whole of Australia and the Palaszczuk government's \$100 million just for Queensland. There is a big difference!

This is just not good enough. Our students deserve better. I welcome the \$17 million towards respectful relationship education. Compared to the \$77 million committed by the federal opposition, I know which policy gets the gold star. There is nothing to get our flood mitigated schools back on their feet or to build back better.

The budget could have also been an opportunity to really address the issue of low wages in industries such as aged care and child care, where we know there are huge problems in attracting and retaining staff. Instead, the budget does nothing to improve the wages and entitlements of these workers and address the systemic and serious concerns in these sectors. They squibbed their responsibility. The LNP's federal budget failed to deliver Queensland our fair share of funding.

The Palaszczuk government will always stand up for Queensland schools, students and workers. What a shame the Morrison government did not do the same. They appear more interested in buying votes than giving Queensland its fair share.

### Federal Budget, Health



**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (10.28 am): If the budget delivered by the Morrison government last night is remembered at all, it will be remembered for the way it failed Queensland. Nowhere is that failure more evident than in its failure to support our health system. They failed Queenslanders with the vaccine rollout. They failed Queenslanders through their mismanagement of quarantine. They failed Queenslanders with their inability to secure sufficient rapid antigen tests. They failed Queenslanders by backing Clive Palmer over Queensland when it came to our borders. The Morrison government failed them again last night through their refusal to lift their financial support of our public hospitals and reform the national health funding agreements.

The call for a fifty-fifty split on health funding was not made by Queensland alone but by a range of stakeholders who recognise the challenges we face and the critical role the Commonwealth needs to play if we are to address the pressures of rising demand, including the AMA and every state government representing both sides of politics. Scott Morrison's response was not to simply ignore our appeal but to cut \$21 million from our hospitals this coming financial year and a \$176 million cut to Queensland hospitals over the forward estimates when compared to the MYEFO commitments. What government in the midst of a pandemic decides to cut hospital funding? A government that has contempt for the Australian people—that is who.

The arbitrary imposition of a 6.5 per cent cap on the Commonwealth's contribution by the coalition government is a real threat to the sustainability of our health system. This was also pointed out to the Morrison government forcefully and repeatedly by the states and the AMA. Last night we got our response—silence. There was no action on dental, with the same frozen amount rolled over for another year, meaning that Queenslanders are missing out on vital dental care.


While the coalition government has made additional home care packages—which were previously announced—available through this budget, the investment in aged care is nowhere near sufficient to meet demand. The vast majority of the coalition government aged-care investment is previously announced money with no new initiatives that would materially assist Queensland in tackling the significant challenges we face with bed block in our hospitals.



Finally, the coalition continues to neglect primary care and, by extension, our hospital system. We are one health system, and we need a strong primary care sector to be treating patients who might otherwise end up at our emergency departments—something we have seen an exponential increase in over the last decade. There is no substantive investment in this sector. Instead, we have symbolic line items purporting to implement the 10-year primary healthcare plan, but in reality they are more concerned with mitigating political risk, rather than enacting health system reform.

This budget was an opportunity for the federal government to reverse the corrosive impact they have had on our nation's health system since they came to power. They failed. They gave us less than the bare minimum and cut funding to our hospitals. This is a betrayal that Queenslanders will never forget. I support the AMA's comment that hopefully the next government will do better.

### Federal Budget, Roads and Transport

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.32 am): Unlike the Morrison-Joyce government, the Palaszczuk Labor government is delivering for Queensland. Last night's budget was proof that the Morrison-Joyce government does not care about Queensland. They are all about the announcement, not about the delivery.

Scott Morrison and Barnaby Joyce tried to hide the detail of their budget from Queensland and other jurisdictions by not sending the traditional budget breakdowns during the budget speech last night showing the detail of the spending and when, as has been done at previous budgets for decades. It took transport ministers across the nation, across jurisdictions, publicly naming and shaming the Morrison government before a copy was finally released late last night to Transport and Main Roads Queensland and other states and territories.

These desperate attempts to hide the budget details speak volumes about what an incompetent and dishonest government Scott Morrison leads. It is very interesting reading.

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, member for Chatsworth!

**Mr BAILEY:** Why hide the detail? Was it that only \$446 million of the \$3.3 billion announced for Queensland is allocated in the next four years? That is less than a sixth of the funding allocated for Queensland over the next four years—less than a sixth! Take the so-called \$1.6 billion promised for the Sunshine Coast rail extension, for example. Less than \$50 million would be spent before the 2025 federal election while most of the funding is in the never-never.

Yesterday, the Sunshine Coast MP Andrew Wallace suggested on ABC Sunshine Coast radio that the costings were based on the Kuraby to Beenleigh project. Yet Ted O'Brien, the member for Fairfax, said they were based on the North Coast Connect study. They cannot both be right. The Sunshine Coast MPs really should rehearse before they start trotting out different stories about what their costings are based on. CAMCOS? It is more like 'SCAMCOS'. These two experienced MPs have been caught cold with conflicting stories about where their so-called costings have come from. They are pure inventions designed for them to try to hold on to their safe seats where they have not delivered for the Sunshine Coast.

The Palaszczuk government requested \$617 million for the Bruce Highway. For the first time in many years, the federal government has not committed any new construction funding for the Bruce Highway. We also requested an extra \$280 million per year for road maintenance. This funding makes sure that Queensland roads are safe and built to standard as the largest road network in the nation.

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Chatsworth will cease his interjections.

**Mr BAILEY:** Again, last night Scott Morrison and Barnaby Joyce did not deliver for Queensland. Queensland got zero per cent of what we requested. Scotty from marketing is all advertising and no product. The Palaszczuk Labor government is a government that listens and delivers projects for Queensland. We are getting on with record road and rail investments. We just want our fair share.

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

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

**Mr BAILEY:** While I am on my feet, earlier today as I was acknowledging Commonwealth funding for the Palaszczuk government's Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail project, I said that the government had a 'detailed design that is ready to go', inadvertently leaving out the word 'almost' before the word 'ready'. To correct the record, I inform the House that the Department of Transport and Main Roads is now finalising the detailed design for Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail.

## Federal Budget, Women



**Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.36 am): Back in 2020 the budget was pretty grim for women. In the midst of the pandemic recession that, on the one hand, disproportionately destroyed women's paid work and, on the other hand, created a whole new pile of unpaid work for them, the budget failed to deliver. In the words of Annabel Crabb, 'The 2020 budget was like waking up on your birthday to find your husband has given you a lawnmower.'

**Mr Brown:** That's a good idea!

**Ms FENTIMAN:** Trust me, Don: don't do it! It won't be good for you. A year later, though, the mood had changed. After brave women like Grace Tame and Brittany Higgins came forward, a groundswell of women marched across the country and, finally, the government began to pay attention—

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

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

**Ms FENTIMAN:** As I was saying, the government finally started to pay attention to the needs of women. This budget somewhat continues in that direction. Perhaps they are trying to court the women who, according to polls, are abandoning the LNP in droves. Perhaps they have finally discovered that these issues exist. I am sure Jenny had a part to play in all of that! In any event, the result is a \$1.3 billion investment in women's safety, but it seems that this is another Morrison short-term fix.

For each and every subsequent year in real terms the budget allocation to women's safety declines. In three years time, the funding will be half what it is next year. Even the women in his own party seem to know that Scott Morrison is not focused on improving the lives of women. On the very night the budget was delivered Senator Fierravanti-Wells said of Scott Morrison, 'He has no moral compass,' and 'He is not fit to be Prime Minister.'

This budget fails to deliver meaningful change for Queensland women. While I welcome the \$1.8 million investment over three years in Working Women's Centres, the budget has failed to deliver the 55 recommendations of Respect@Work. When will they accept all of those recommendations?

The federal government has failed to deliver paid domestic and family violence leave, despite overwhelming calls from both the business community and unions. One of the biggest omissions from the budget is support for long-term housing solutions for women and children escaping domestic and family violence. I welcome the commitment to continue investing in emergency refuge accommodation but, if there is no affordable accommodation to transition to, where do women go? Considering we are in a national housing crisis, the federal government needs to step up and play its part. The federal government will face its test in a few short months. Will it be enough to win back the votes of women? As Jess Marszalek wrote of this year's budget—

Morrison needs to show women that he gets why he's annoyed them and, with an election fast approaching, he hasn't got long to do it.

## Federal Budget, Training and Skills



**Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.40 am): Providing the right training so we have the right workers with the right skills for the right jobs is absolutely vital to our economic recovery in Queensland. It is why skills and training is one of the key priorities of the Palaszczuk government's \$14.5 billion economic recovery plan and why our skills and training budget in Queensland is around \$1 billion a year. Now, in a time when labour shortage is one of the biggest challenges we face, getting the investment mix right, pulling the right policy levers and taking a long view of what is required is essential.

It is why I was so disappointed with last night's federal budget. I am never going to look a gift horse in the mouth. If they want to give us money for skills and training, that is fantastic, but let us have a look at what has really been promised. They promised \$3.7 billion funding under a national skills agreement—an agreement which will be fundamental in determining what skills and training looks like in Australia in the future. It sounds great. However, most of it is just business as usual funding. It is not an extra \$3.7 billion going to skills and training.

The biggest concern here is about the NSA itself and what share Queensland is going to get of that money. It was May 2020 when Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced there would be a national skills agreement and that it would be based on efficient pricing and activity based funding. Almost

two years on, and we are just about to go into a federal election campaign with no agreement at all on a national skills agreement and no understanding of what it could mean for Queensland. In fact our early figures, based on what we know, give us cause for great alarm—including about possible significant impacts on fees for Queensland students.

We do not know what the NSA will mean for TAFE. We do know this is a government that does not favour TAFE. It has ripped \$3 billion out of the TAFE system since it has been in government. In Queensland, TAFE—a public provider of vocational education—is absolutely critical, and it is so important when we look at the sort of decentralised state we are. With high numbers of Indigenous and rural and remote communities, it is so expensive to deliver training. Queensland needs to get its fair share to reflect those costs. If you live in the Torres Strait, Mount Isa or Longreach, you deserve the same quality vocational education as those in Brisbane or on the Gold Coast. With the collapse of the National Party influence in Queensland and therefore no-one really advocating within those communities who has any sway, we need to know that Queensland is going to get its fair share.

I have so many other concerns about the lack of acknowledgement of the complex issues of addressing labour shortages in a time of record low unemployment and projected to go even lower. It is not an easy fix. The need for wages growth is one example of that. That is why we held our Workforce Summit recently and why our new workforce strategy will address those issues. It is why I was so happy to see federal Labor promise a Jobs and Skills Australia—a partnership with the business community so we can plan for what the labour force will need in one year, five years and 10 years.

Do not even get me started on support for small businesses impacted by the floods and how New South Wales businesses are getting around three times more than Queensland businesses. This budget was an opportunity to address some fundamental issues for the Queensland economy, and it failed. The people of Queensland will show what they think about that very soon.

### Federal Budget, Renewable Energy



**Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement) (10.43 am): Alarm bells on climate change should have been ringing in Canberra after the spate of natural disasters we have seen across the nation, with another one unfolding right now with evacuations in place in Lismore. Last night's budget was a test for the Prime Minister—a test of whether he can demonstrate that he can hear those alarm bells too. It was a chance to demonstrate a commitment to real action and contribute funding to a clean energy future and this nation's energy independence. This budget was a test—a test the Morrison government has failed. It was a test on climate action, a test on real long-term cost-of-living relief, a test on clean energy industry transformation. It failed on all of those.

Instead of putting real money towards measures that will ease the cost of living long term, instead of funding zero emissions fuels like green hydrogen, the federal government is throwing \$3 billion at a six-month petrol discount—leaving fuel still at around \$2 a litre. To put that into perspective, that \$3 billion could have given Australians \$3,000 off every new car sold. It could have matched our \$3,000 incentive to purchase new electric vehicles for Queenslanders. Not content to short-change motorists, this excise cut will hammer Queensland's ethanol producers, according to the sugar industry. They say that this is a betrayal of Australian manufacturers. Scott Morrison has chosen to preference foreign oil profits over Queensland's canefarmers.

Queensland has invested \$2 billion for renewable energy projects through our Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Jobs Fund. In the *Australian* today, global fund manager Goldman Sachs said that we are in an economic fight with nations including in the Middle East, Chile and in North Africa to become the world's leading hydrogen exporter—a market which is forecast to be worth US\$1 trillion. Morrison has effectively thrown in the towel. We only need to compare Australia to other advanced economies and their progress towards a clean energy industrial transformation.

The Trudeau government are looking after Canadians. They committed \$42 billion towards supporting clean energy. That is more than \$1,114 per person. Germany's government has committed \$220 billion over four years to fund a clean industrial transformation. That is a whopping \$2,673 per person. Even Downing Street is on board. The United Kingdom has committed at least \$33 billion in clean energy initiatives, or \$498 per person. And Australia? Last night's budget allocated a pitiful \$395 million in funds for renewable energy initiatives. That works out to be just \$15.41 for every Australian—less than one per cent of other nations' clean energy investment in their citizens. This is an international embarrassment and it demonstrates absolute contempt for Queenslanders.

Battery storage, hydro-electricity projects, transmission infrastructure in regional Queensland and green hydrogen generation—these are all huge job opportunities for Queensland's future. These opportunities were dashed by last night's budget. Morrison has not just failed a test of leadership; he has failed Queenslanders.

**Mr Saunders** interjected.

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

## PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMITTEE

### Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner, Report



**Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (10.47 am): As chair of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee, I lay upon the table of the House the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner's report titled *Report of the work and activities of the Crime and Corruption Commission under chapter 11 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000*, dated 25 November 2021.

*Tabled paper:* Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner: Report of the work and activities of the Crime and Corruption Commission under chapter 11 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, dated 25 November 2021 [\[446\]](#).

The report outlines details of a single controlled operation authorised by the CCC chairperson in October 2020 ending in February 2021. It was directed at obtaining information regarding encrypted mobile phone devices utilised by persons involved in major and organised crime. The report indicates no unlawful conduct was actually undertaken by participants as the operation could be conducted without this occurring. The target of the operation was subsequently charged with four offences under the Commonwealth and Queensland criminal codes. The committee received the report on 25 November 2021 and, as required, is tabling the report within 14 sitting days of receipt.

## NOTICE OF MOTION

### Sunshine Coast, Rail Infrastructure



**Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10.49 am): I give notice that I will move—

That this House notes:

1. that the federal government has committed \$1.6 billion to the No. 1 Sunshine Coast infrastructure priority, bringing heavy passenger rail from Brisbane to the Sunshine Coast, connecting the hinterland and our coastal communities from Beerwah to Caloundra to Kawana and terminating at Maroochydhore;
2. Minister Mark Bailey's comments on 17 February 2022 that Sunshine Coast's heavy rail was 'an important part of the equation'; his remarks that 'not just with the Olympic Games coming and the need to move people around, but its population growth well before that, which is driving the need for heavy rail', and his statement reported on 6 December 2021 that the project 'is absolutely viable into the Sunshine Coast in the future'.

And calls on the members for Caloundra and Nicklin to support this rail project and on the state Labor government to immediately match the federal government commitment to ensure the Sunshine Coast heavy passenger rail from Beerwah to Caloundra to Kawana to Maroochydhore is delivered.

**Honourable members** interjected.

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

**Mr Butcher** interjected.

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

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, question time will conclude today at 11.51 am.

### Minister for Public Works and Procurement



**Mr CRISAFULLI** (10.51 am): My question is of the Minister for Public Works. The Integrity Act says former ministerial staff—

**Mr Hinchliffe** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Sandgate, was that your interjection?

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I laughed.

**Mr SPEAKER:** You are warned under the standing orders. You can start your question again, member.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** My question is to the Minister for Public Works. The Integrity Act says former ministerial staff cannot lobby ministers for two years. Why did the minister agree last month to discuss CleanCo with Anacta's Denise Spinks, who just finished as the Premier's deputy chief of staff?

**Mr de BRENNI:** I thank the honourable member for the question. As I have made it clear and put on the public record on this matter, no lobbying took place in relation to that event. I have made it very clear that there were no detailed discussions that occurred at that meeting. I have made it very clear that I made general remarks only about the importance of renewables. Last night's budget showed just how important the issue of renewables are to Queenslanders. When you look at the comparison, the pitiful investment from the Morrison government in renewable investment here in Queensland, just \$15.41 per person. I am happy to talk about the importance of investment in renewable energy here in Queensland any day of the week.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Minister, the question was a reasonably direct question, so I will ask that you come back to the question as asked under standing order 118(b).

**Mr de BRENNI:** I have been direct in my response to the member that there was general discussion only. There was no lobbying activity taking place.

### **Minister for Public Works and Procurement**

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** My question is to the Minister for Public Works. The day before the minister's February meeting where CleanCo was discussed, Anacta donated \$35,000 to the Labor Party. Can the minister guarantee he did not breach the Integrity Act or was this meeting simply a new form of non-lobbying consulting, as per Anacta's website?

**Mr de BRENNI:** I thank the member for the question. I have made it very clear that no lobbying activity took place at this meeting. It was a general catch-up. I was not aware of any donations being made. I have made my position very clear on this, and I have nothing further to contribute to that.

### **Health System, Funding**

**Ms KING:** My question is of the Premier and Minister for the Olympics. Will the Premier update the House on how the government's record investment in health care is benefiting Queenslanders?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for the question. On this side of the House, we believe that ensuring that families get good quality health care right across this state is absolutely vital and imperative. That is why we are investing over \$22 billion in health. That is why, as the member knows, we are investing in a brand new satellite hospital in her electorate of Bribie Island. That is why we have identified seven sites across the south-east where people will be able to get health care closer to where they live. It is a nation-first in terms of the satellite hospitals. The sites have been identified and detailed planning is underway with a view to getting these built as quickly as possible.

We know the track record of those opposite, and we know the member for Mudgeeraba loves interjecting and interjecting on health, but, of all people, the member for Mudgeeraba should not be interjecting on health because she was part of the cabinet that cut health funding in this state.

**Dr Miles** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right. I will take that interjection. The member for Mudgeeraba was the first nurse that Campbell Newman sacked. There is something in the LNP's DNA and that is sacking and attacking. What do we see? Not only is it at the state LNP, it is at the federal LNP. You only have to look at the federal budget handed down last night. The LNP come in here and they talk the big talk; they talk about health and their federal counterparts. What do they do? They cut health again—\$21 million in this year's budget. That is how much they care about health. They get up here, they grandstand on health. It is in the LNP's DNA to cut health in this state. You cannot ignore it. The member for Broadwater was part of that cabinet as well—sat around the cabinet table, made the decisions to cut, sack and sell. They cannot change because it is in their DNA. Not only that, it is \$170 million over the forwards. That is right—\$170 million! On this side of the House, we will build the hospitals, we will employ the nurses—employ the nurses that those opposite sacked—and we will continue to grow the hospitals and build new innovative satellite hospitals across the south-east.

*(Time expired)*

**Hickman, Mr A**

**Mr MANDER:** My question is to the Minister for Public Works. Minutes from the QBCC Board meeting of 2019 reveal board member Andrew Hickman never declared a conflict of interest when he raised the need to change fire protection licensing requirements. These changes directly benefited Mr Hickman and the businesses he runs. Can the minister explain why Mr Hickman's obvious conflict of interest was not declared at the time?

**Mr de BRENNI:** I thank the member for the question. The member knows quite rightly it was this parliament that made the regulatory reforms to the fire protection industry, not the board of the commission. Their very simple task is to implement the decisions of this parliament. If the member for Everton ever bothered to take notice of what happens in this place, he would know that. I want to take the opportunity to put formally on the record that the QBCC, like all other regulatory authorities and statutory bodies, has very robust practices in place in terms of management of conflicts of interest. I am assured by the chairman of the board that all of those practices have been followed, including in relation to these specific matters.

**Regional Queensland, Disaster Preparedness**

**Mr HUNT:** My question is of the Premier and Minister for the Olympics. Will the Premier update the House on the government's commitment to ensuring regional Queensland is prepared for extreme weather events in the future?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Caloundra for the question. The Sunshine Coast also had large amounts of rain that fell in that most recent flooding event. We saw large parts of the south-east that were inundated. I will come to that in a moment. As we know, we need to always be prepared for wet weather and extreme events. What we saw, especially in the Far North of our state as well in 2019, was that they had severe impacts in the tip of Cape York, the western Northern Territory border, down to the South Australian border and east to Mackay. We committed to work with councils to improve early-warning systems.

Today I am pleased to announce that we are installing more than 170 new flood-warning assets across the north of our state. In the Far North we are installing 45 new cameras: Cairns to Cassowary, Douglas, Mareeba, Cook, Lockhart River, Pormpuraaw, Mapoon, Torres Strait and Wujal Wujal. In the north-west there are 64 new flood-warning assets: Burke, Cloncurry, Flinders, McKinlay, Richmond, Carpentaria, Croydon, Etheridge, Boulia, Diamantina, Longreach and Winton just to name a few. There are also 65 assets in North Queensland including Mackay to Townsville, Hinchinbrook, Charters Towers, Burdekin and the Whitsunday. Today I can confirm that all of these assets are on track to be completed and operational by the middle of this year. We have done that and partnered with the federal government to deliver this \$8 million injection for flood-warning assets across the north.

If we can work together on flood-warning assets, why can we not work together to make sure that we have the natural disaster funding across the south-east from the federal government for which we have been calling? It is a very simple request. People have lost their homes; people have lost all of their worldly possessions and they are turning to their federal government for help. The state government has come to the party. Our money is on the table ready to go. It is real money that can go out the door, not the fake money like the \$1.6 billion into the never-never with \$50 million allocated. We are looking forward to that debate. My members are looking forward to that debate.

What would have been so wrong if the federal government had said last night, 'Yes, we care about Queensland. We're going to deliver to Queensland'? What would have been wrong with that? The \$771 million package is essential, vital and critical. The people need this money now, not at some future time during an election campaign. They needed to know last night and the LNP failed to deliver.

**Palaszczuk Labor Government Ministers, Email Accounts**

**Ms SIMPSON:** My question is to the Minister for Housing. I refer to the former state archivist's media claim that he was not allowed to investigate the use of private emails by ministers other than Minister Bailey. Can the minister confirm if the former archivist's claims are correct and, if so, who stopped the investigation?

**Mrs D'ATH:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I would question whether that is within the minister's responsibility and she has the knowledge to answer that question. I ask that it be ruled out of order.

**Mr POWELL:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The question is in regards to the former state archivist. The former state archivist clearly sits within the minister's portfolio responsibilities.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, I will allow the question on the basis that there may well be an issue with time frames in terms of the minister's knowledge. I will allow the minister latitude in terms of her response.

**Ms ENOCH:** I thank the member for the question. Of course, on numerous occasions I have been able to respond to questions with regard to the former state archivist. As the member would know, the former state archivist is a Public Service position and reports to the director-general of the department in whatever time span we are talking about. I can talk to the times when I have been responsible for the director-general, who is responsible for the former state archivist, but I cannot talk outside of those time frames because that information is unknown to me. However, I will say this—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members to my left, the minister is being responsive to the question as asked. I would like to hear the answer.

**Ms ENOCH:** I can say that I think the report that the member is referring to is a report of the CCC. That report had terms of reference that were very clear from the CCC with regard to the investigation. If that is the report you are talking about—and obviously there are many.

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

**Ms ENOCH:** I would not know about the other reports. All I can talk about is the report that has been provided. I cannot talk about the other time frames. All I can talk about are those that I know of and during the times I have been responsible.

I say this. The advice I have been able to provide to the House on the questions that have been asked of me over a number of sitting weeks is advice I have been able to get from the director-general. I understand that to be the truth. That is what I have been providing to the House. On top of that, I was able to table a report to the House. I believe it was the final report that was provided by the former state archivist back in 2017. That is the report I was able to table. That was the final report that he was able to provide.

### Federal Budget, Disaster Preparedness

**Mr TANTARI:** My question is of the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on what measures the federal budget contained to help Queensland be more resilient to natural disasters?

**Dr MILES:** I thank the member for Hervey Bay for his question. I know he will have been as disappointed as the rest of us on this side of the House were that Queenslanders did not get their fair share from Scott Morrison in the budget last night. Indeed, the good citizens of Hervey Bay were short-changed as well.

The federal budget delivered last night did not fund the 17 disaster resilience projects that Queensland put forward to prepare us, our communities, our households and businesses for future natural disasters. It did not fund the upgrade to the flood-warning gauges that will help us to better prepare for future natural disasters even though the Palaszczuk government has already committed to fund half of the ongoing management of those Australian government owned rain gauges. There was no funding in the budget for our No. 1 priority flood resilience project, the Bundaberg flood levee, which would protect 600 houses and businesses from future flooding, despite the fact that the Palaszczuk government has committed 50 per cent of those funds.

The budget last night did not reclassify Cairns as a region of priority tropical cyclone risk, leaving Toowoomba as a bigger priority for the federal government for tropical cyclone risk than Cairns. It did not deliver to Queensland flood victims the additional \$2,000 LNP New South Wales premium that gives them three times as much as Queensland flood victims. It allocated \$300 million from the emergency recovery fund and it delivered 75 per cent of it to New South Wales, despite the fact that 60 per cent of the impact was here in Queensland.

It did not fund the Resilient Residential Recovery Package on which we have now waited 11 days for a response from the Commonwealth, forcing flooded Queenslanders to wait even longer to find out whether the Prime Minister will support them. I am sure Queenslanders found themselves nodding along, agreeing that the Prime Minister is an 'autocrat and a bully who has no moral compass', a 'complete psycho' and a 'horrible, horrible person', a man with a 'reputation for telling lies', 'nothing more than menacing, controlling, wallpaper', a 'hypocrite and a liar who rearranges'—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Deputy Premier, regardless of whether you are quoting, the language is unparliamentary and I ask you to withdraw that language.

**Dr MILES:** I withdraw. He is also described as 'a man who is just obsessed with petty political pointscoring'. That is not what I have to say. That is what his friends have to say. They were all senior LNP members describing the current Prime Minister. The only one who will not bag him—

*(Time expired)*

### **Palaszczuk Labor Government Ministers, Email Accounts**

**Mr HART:** My question is to the Minister for Housing. Did Minister de Brenni in any way inhibit the minister from approving the former state archivist investigating the use of private emails by other ministers?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, in terms of that question, I believe you are seeking an opinion or certainly advice from the minister about another minister's motive. I do not believe I can allow that question.

**Mr POWELL:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. With respect to your statement just then—and I am in no way reflecting on your ruling—the question is simply asking: did the minister inhibit in any way the minister allowing the former state archivist to investigate a matter?

### **Speaker's Ruling, Question Out of Order**

**Mr SPEAKER:** My response is that, under standing order 113, the question must relate to the public affairs to which the minister is connected—that minister and not a previous minister. That is my ruling. I am ruling the question out of order.

### **Health System, Funding**

**Ms RICHARDS:** My question is of the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment. Will the Treasurer update the House on what steps the Morrison government has taken to ensure Queenslanders get their fair share of health funding?

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for Redlands for her question and for her strong support for better public health care in the Redlands. She has been a great champion for that since her election, along with all members representing the bayside. Unfortunately, the answer is short. When it comes to public health care and the LNP, it is a case of same old same old. We saw the same thing in the federal budget as we saw in the state budgets delivered by Campbell Newman, in whose government several members of the current opposition front bench were also cabinet members.

What do we see in the budget? We see a \$21 million cut for public hospitals next financial year and a further \$176 million to be cut over 2023-24 and 2024-25. That is what they promised just four months ago at the midyear budget review federally; they have already cut it. This is not a budget for the next four years; this is a budget for the next six weeks. Every single investment in this budget is designed to save Scott Morrison's political bacon. Scott Morrison wants to deliver for his own future, not a future for Queensland or Australia. That is patently obvious to everyone.

What do members opposite have to say about health care? On Monday, the Leader of the Opposition literally started his press conference by saying that they would like the focus this week in parliament to be on healing the Queensland health crisis. It is day 2 of parliament and they have already given up! Where are the health crisis questions? It is just confected outrage by the Leader of the Opposition. Remember the integrity inferno? Remember the mock crisis? Remember the worst integrity crisis for 30 years? He gave that away. It is no wonder he does not want to listen. It is no wonder he wants to talk about something else.

Then we had the health crisis that he was going to run through the parliament this week. On day 2 of parliament, he could not ask even one question on the topic. That is no wonder, because they support health cuts. The Leader of the Opposition even had the temerity to say on Monday that one of their five-point plans or seven-point plans was for more resources for Queensland Health. What do we get in the budget? We get a cut of \$21 million next year and \$176 over the following two years.

It is in the LNP's DNA. You cannot believe a thing the LNP says on public health care in this state. The would-be LNP health minister is the member of an organisation that behaves in a way that supports anti-vax sentiment. That is the story of the LNP's life. They cannot be believed. They are dishonest, they cannot be trusted and they have zero credibility on health care. You can always trust Labor to back public health care and to support the needs of Queenslanders.

*(Time expired)*



### Trad, Ms J

**Mr BLEIJIE:** My question is to the Attorney-General. Clause 8 of the ministerial indemnity and legal assistance guidelines states—

The State will not provide Legal Assistance to a Minister to commence Civil Proceedings ... unless approval has first been obtained from the Attorney-General.

Following the Premier's media confirmation that taxpayers are paying Jackie Trad's civil proceedings to hide a CCC report, will the Attorney tell the House when she signed off on Jackie Trad's legal assistance and how much it has cost Queenslanders?

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I thank the member for the question. As the member has pointed out, the legal indemnity guidelines are publicly available, at Appendix 6 to the Ministerial Handbook.

**Mr Dick:** He was responsible for them.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** That is right. Many members opposite also have had legal cases determined by the guidelines. I want to be very clear about the guidelines. As the former attorney-general would well know, it is the Crown Solicitor—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** Maybe I should correct myself. Maybe the former attorney-general does not quite remember, but the guidelines make it very clear that it is the Crown Solicitor who provides a recommendation to the attorney-general of the day about whether or not a claim falls within the guidelines. In fact, the member for Kawana signed off on numerous indemnities when he was attorney-general—for the member for Mudgeeraba, the member for Surfers Paradise, the former member for Caloundra.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr Dick** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I was going to warn you, Treasurer, but you have made it much easier for me. You are warned under the standing orders.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** There was so much noise before that, for the benefit of the House, I might just run through that list again. The member for Kawana signed off on numerous indemnities as attorney-general, including for the member for Mudgeeraba, the member for Surfers Paradise and the former member for Caloundra. What I would like to say about this matter that I have said in this House—

**Ms Bates** interjected.

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

**Ms FENTIMAN:** The former attorney-general, the worst attorney-general in Queensland's history, came into this place and used parliamentary privilege to effectively be in contempt of court. The former chief justice on almost her last day in the role issued a public statement, something that she does not do lightly. For the benefit of the House, I want to read out what the then chief justice said about the former attorney-general's actions.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana!

**Ms FENTIMAN:** The former chief justice said that an order had to be lifted because it had been rendered futile.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

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

**Ms FENTIMAN:** She said—

It would be premature to assume that the original disclosure of the existence of the proceeding and the name of the applicant was a deliberate breach of the order, but the result has been to defeat its effect ...

Of course, if the individual or individuals who disclosed that information did so in wilful breach of the order, questions of contempt ... would be raised.

That is from the former chief justice of Queensland. No wonder the member for Kawana is the worst attorney-general in Queensland's history.

### Federal Budget, Health

**Mr RUSSO:** My question is of the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Will the minister update the House on what support for Queensland's health system was included in the Commonwealth budget?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I thank the member for Toohey for his question. It is good to see that members on this side of the House are actually interested in health and the budget. We have not got a question yet, but I suspect those opposite might be writing one very quickly now.

As we know, all state and territory health ministers from across the country called for the Morrison government to lift funding to 50-50, to remove the cap on growth and to invest in aged care, disability, dental and primary and allied health care. They failed in every regard. It is not just the Queensland Palaszczuk government saying this; the headlines say it all. From the Pharmacy Guild of Australia: 'Government fails to adequately address medicine affordability for working Australians'. From the AMA: 'Business as usual budget neglects non-Covid health needs'. From the Lung Foundation Australia: 'Lung cancer screening ignored in Federal Budget'. From ACOSS: 'A budget people can't rely on'. From the Australian Dental Association: 'Another Federal Budget that is light on for oral health. Once again we see an extension to the National Partnership Agreement for adult dental services—another Band-Aid to a system that is broken'. From the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation: 'Another big-spending budget short-changes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health'.

It is disgusting that the Morrison government, which is so desperate to buy votes at the next election, still ignores what is the No. 1 issue that voters are interested in in the upcoming federal election—health care. They want a government that is going to invest in our hospital system but also their GPs, to ensure that private health is affordable, that they can get access to specialists, that their loved one can get into an aged-care facility and not have to live in a hospital bed, that their loved one who has a disability can get an NDIS package and have a good quality of life and accommodation that is suitable for them.

The Morrison government has walked away from the people of Queensland and the people of Australia when it comes to health care. From all of those stakeholders who have reported, not one has a positive word to say about this budget when it comes to health. It is silence on the other side. Where is the press release from the Leader of the Opposition, David Crisafulli? Where is the press release from the shadow spokesperson for health, Ros Bates, who always likes to talk up her health credentials? Nothing! They ignore the fact that their mates in Canberra have failed again and the voters of Queensland will—

*(Time expired)*

### **Crime and Corruption Commission, Chairperson**

**Mr NICHOLLS:** My question is to the Attorney-General. Can the Attorney outline to the House if she or any member of her staff requested advice from Crown law on legal steps to remove Mr Alan MacSporran QC as head of the CCC?

**Ms FENTIMAN:** No, I requested no such advice.

### **Federal Budget, Education and Workers**

**Ms BUSH:** My question is of the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. Following last night's federal budget, will the minister update the House on what has been delivered for Queensland schools, students and workers and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

**Ms GRACE:** I thank the member for the question. She accompanied me when we visited Milton State School which was devastated by the floods. The only thing that survived was a new building that we built at Milton which was built purposely above the flood line. It survived and did its job. I want to see more of those buildings in schools, but, member for Cooper, I have no good news under the federal budget. We need disaster relief funding. We need it to build back better, and guess what we got under the federal budget at the moment? A big fat zero! There is nothing in there with which I can give the member comfort and the other members who have been affected like the member for Gympie and like the schools in Rocklea and the schools in other parts of Queensland.

What do we expect from this government? In 10 years it has delivered absolutely nothing on any of the elections. It cannot even deliver a pork-barrelling car parking policy aimed at electorates of the LNP, so it could not even deliver that! It is extraordinary to think it is going to deliver something substantial to Queensland when it comes to schools and workers in this state, but what do we expect? Let me say something: the Leader of the Opposition and I have something in common—we are both very proud of our Italian heritage and background. I say to the Leader of the Opposition and to the House: Italian women do not stand between their value sets and their ability to spot a phoney, and it

was Senator Fierravanti-Wells—a senior senator—who described the Prime Minister as an autocrat, a bully with no moral compass and not fit to be Prime Minister. Let me tell members: Italian women know a phoney when they see one, and so does the electorate because it sees a phoney in the Leader of the Opposition.

Yesterday he said, 'Let's ring our mates. Let's get some money.' However, as the Treasurer and the health minister have just pointed out, there is no money for health and no additional meaningful money for education and it is going to do what the LNP does best—cut, sack and sell. When it comes to workers, all we on this side of the House really want for the workers that we represent is to pay workers a fair day's pay for a fair day's work. What is the government doing federally? Trying to buy their vote, but let me tell it: it ain't going to work. We needed this Prime Minister to step up for Queensland, and he failed miserably. True to form, those opposite are more interested in throwing mud than cleaning it up.

### **Star Entertainment, Casino Licence**

**Mr BERKMAN:** My question is to the Attorney-General. In light of revelations that Labor and LNP donor Star Entertainment seems to have intentionally concealed money laundering in its Gold Coast casino, will the Attorney-General commit to public hearings on whether Star is fit to hold a casino licence like those being held in Victoria and New South Wales?

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I thank the member for the question, and I do take the allegations of money laundering very seriously. I am aware that the managing director and CEO of Star Entertainment, Matt Bekier, resigned on Monday over issues raised in an ongoing inquiry into Sydney's Star casino.

In Queensland the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation is continuing investigations along with AUSTRAC and the Queensland Police Service into Queensland casinos. OLGR is working very closely with the current New South Wales public hearings and has been down there to meet with its New South Wales counterparts, as it did with the Crown inquiry which began with the Bergin inquiry and then the subsequent inquiries in Victoria and Western Australia. OLGR is also engaging regularly with AUSTRAC and QPS to facilitate improved information exchange between the regulators, and the government will very carefully consider the allegations made in relation to Star—it will continue the investigations that are underway—and also the outcomes of any inquiries.

### **Federal Budget, Roads and Transport**

**Mr SKELTON:** My question is of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Will the minister update the House on what was in the federal budget for Queensland transport and roads?

**Mr BAILEY:** I thank the member for Nicklin, who is doing an outstanding job in his first term.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Buderim, well done! You are warned under the standing orders.

**Mr BAILEY:** The best member for Nicklin since Peter Wellington; no doubt about it. What we saw in the budget last night—once we eventually got the spreadsheets late last night after the big hoopla about \$1.6 billion on the Sunshine Coast—is that most of it is beyond the forwards.

Let us get back to the issue of where they got the figure from, because they did not get it from the state. We only build and run railways, so we would know something about that. They did not get it from us. The member for Fairfax said that the North Coast Connect study was where they got the estimate. He made his own cut on the \$5.3 billion apparently—very scientific! His neighbouring MP Andrew Wallace, the member for Fisher, went on radio yesterday, and let me quote him. They asked him about the costings and he said—

... the costings that we've used for this project—

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Half an hour ago I moved a motion about the rail on the Sunshine Coast, so I say that the minister is anticipating debate that we will be having at five o'clock this afternoon.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, I do ask that you tread carefully around the issue given that there is a motion before the House scheduled to be debated this evening.

**Mr BAILEY:** I certainly shall, Mr Speaker. The question was about the federal budget and I am talking about the basis of a commitment in the federal budget. When asked about it, Mr Wallace said—

... the costings that we've used for this project are based on the same calculations as the costings that they're—  
the state government—

relying on for the Murrumbidgee extension ...

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, you are anticipating debate as I hear the response, so I again urge you to come back to the question and steer clear of matters to be debated.

**Mr BAILEY:** I look forward to the Dixie scream later on, Mr Speaker; it is going to be an absolute corker.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Standing order 30 states—

A document read or cited by a member may be ordered to be tabled pursuant to a motion moved without notice ...

I move—

That the spreadsheet referred to by the minister be tabled in the House.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion negatived.

**Mr BAILEY:** We asked for \$617 million additional for the Bruce Highway and what did we get? Zero! We asked for maintenance funding and what did we get? Nothing; the status quo. That is what we got in this federal budget.

Those opposite are covering up for their mate, Scott Morrison. They never stand up for Queensland. There is nothing in there for flood victims in Queensland. Every LNP member of this state parliament who did not stand up for their flood victims ought to be ashamed of themselves. There are people who are desperate for help. There were billions promised in all kinds of electioneering ways last night and flood victims in Queensland were ignored. From Wide Bay to the border and out to the south-west, there was nothing from the Morrison government. The Leader of the Opposition covers for Scott Morrison, his mate. He says nothing. He is silent. We might not have the member for Callide, but we have a new Marcel Marceau and it is the Leader of the Opposition who never stands up to Canberra and never stands up for Queensland.

### National Parks, Stray Cattle

**Mr KNUTH:** My question is to the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs. Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services have been performing shoot-to-kill operations on branded and unbranded cattle in Cape York national parks. Considering this is a huge cost on neighbouring landowners, why are they given little to no notice by Parks and Wildlife Services officers instead of working with them to muster this valuable resource?

**Ms SCANLON:** I thank the member for the question. I am happy to look into that in more detail. We made some significant announcements more recently on the cape with the acquisition of Bramwell and Richardson, something I know is incredibly important to First Nations communities in the cape. Of course, we make sure that we invest in managing those national parks in those properties. We know there are neighbouring communities. We work with them as well. I am more than happy to provide some more information to the member in due course.

### Federal Budget, Water Infrastructure

**Mr SMITH:** My question is to the Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water. Will the minister update the House on the outcomes for water infrastructure funding for Queensland from the federal budget?

**Mr BUTCHER:** I thank the honourable member for the question. He is known in his area as 'the King of Paradise'! He is the king of Paradise Dam and the \$1.2 billion investment going on, especially now that we have seen the alleged \$600 million for Paradise Dam by the federal government. Our government were the first ones to put money on the table for this critical water project for that region and after strong advocacy from myself, the Premier, and the member for Bundaberg and his constituents, the feds finally came to the table. Or so we thought. Unfortunately, it seems they are still dragging because the numbers in last night's budget do not stack up when it comes to Paradise Dam and delivering their \$600 million share or any of the commitments that they have recently announced.

The devil is in the detail. The budget papers say there is \$6.9 billion for the National Water Grid over the next 12 years—not in the short term. Nowhere is that more stark than here in Queensland. We have been duded. Of the \$6.6 billion worth of commitments that they have made in Queensland in the short term before this election, the estimates show that they account for only \$1.5 billion—and what will we see next year? A mere \$179 million. That is less than a third of what they have announced for Paradise Dam.

No-one has noticed he has even left the building, because you did not notice him when he was here, but remember the former member for Callide? He recently wrote to me and asked for Paradise Dam to be rebuilt as soon as possible because the feds have now put money on the table. Where is it? It is nowhere to be seen because there is no breakdown in this federal budget for Paradise Dam.

It is abundantly clear that the water spending in this budget is just about saving marginal seats for the LNP: \$5.4 billion hangs on a project with an unfinished business case and nearly \$500 million is for a project near Mackay that does not even have an environmental impact statement. I am sorry, but this federal government has no intention of delivering on any of these projects. If these projects do not stack up then the money will disappear from these regions once again. The evidence is there. This budget is not about jobs, it is about a job: Scott Morrison's job. If this is an attempt to save his seat it is a pretty poor attempt, using water in Queensland as a—

*(Time expired)*

### **Crime and Corruption Commission, Chairperson**

**Mr POWELL:** My question is to the Attorney-General. I refer to the Attorney's previous answer and ask the Attorney to outline to the House if any member of her staff requested advice from Crown Law on legal steps to remove Mr Alan MacSporran QC as head of the CCC.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I thank the member for the question. I am happy to ask my staff and get back to the member. I am not aware of any request that has been made for that advice.

### **Fundraisers, Regulation**

**Ms LAUGA:** My question is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. Can the Attorney-General advise what further work the Office of Fair Trading is doing to make sure that money raised through fundraisers is distributed through the appropriate channels and is she aware of any other approaches?

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I thank the member for Keppel for the question. As I noted yesterday, the Office of Fair Trading has been working hard to ensure that charities and fundraisers that have been set up in the wake of the disastrous flooding here in Queensland are abiding by the rules, and that includes the Office of Fair Trading having to go to the federal member for Dickson and advise him that his GoFundMe page was not set up in accordance with Queensland laws.

We already know from yesterday what an outrageous international embarrassment that this is for Peter Dutton and the federal government, but what we did not know is that Peter Dutton is now giving the money that Queenslanders have donated very generously—almost \$30,000—to a little-known group called the Dickson Seniors Council. They are not registered with the Office of Fair Trading, they are not registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission, they are not registered with ASIC and they are not part of the Australian Business Register. They barely have 100 likes on Facebook. In fact, the Facebook page for this little-known group is the only mention of the group anywhere online. They have no website. They do not even have contact details. Yet Peter Dutton believes that they are best suited to handle this money to go to flood victims. I wonder why.

Could it have something to do with the fact that Peter Dutton's face is all over their Facebook page; that they have shared videos of him promoting their events—where it says to contact Peter Dutton's office for more details; could it have something to do with the fact that Peter Dutton's office created the promotional materials for the events of this group, complete with Peter Dutton and LNP branded logos; or could it be that their events are covered with Peter Dutton banners and feature show bags with his face on them?

I think Peter Dutton has some pretty urgent questions to answer: why has he chosen this group to distribute the funds; how are the funds going to be distributed to those families in need; and does his office have any involvement in the setting up of this group or this group's Facebook page? Clearly Mr Dutton does not care about flood victims. He is a shameless self-promoter, much like the Prime

Minister. We have already heard today that Senator Fierravanti-Wells called the Prime Minister an autocrat with no moral compass. No wonder Peter Dutton thinks he can give all this money to this group. The Prime Minister has set the standard. Absolutely shameful.

### Forensic and Scientific Services

**Ms CAMM:** My question is to the Minister for Health. Over the last four years there have been three internal reviews which have raised issues with Queensland Health Forensic and Scientific Services. Having failed to act on three damning internal reviews, is it now time to have an independent, external review, to ensure justice is served?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I thank the member for her question. I was asked questions about the forensic services yesterday. I indicated that I would be looking at doing an external review in relation to the allegations to ensure that the public continue to have confidence.

**Ms Camm** interjected.

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

### Federal Budget, Energy

**Mr BROWN:** My question is to the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement. Will the minister advise the House how the federal budget supports long-term energy cost relief and is the minister aware of any other approaches?

**Mr de BRENNI:** I thank the member for the question because, like all members on this side of the House, the member for Capalaba is always standing up for working families in his electorate and right across Queensland. Today Australians count the very real human cost of another natural disaster: the federal budget. It is a budget that leaves Australians captive to foreign powers. Last night Australians were looking forward to a road map for clean energy, a plan for energy independence. The nation wanted cheaper, cleaner fuels and energy made here in Queensland—not just between now and election day, but for the future.

However, let us look where the Prime Minister's budget has driven energy policy. Last night's budget has Australia, as Angus Young and Bonn Scott once said, on a highway to hell. Last night Scott Morrison literally drove Australia off a cliff, driving us further down the energy ranging. Last year in Glasgow at COP26, Australia's climate policies were ranked last out of 64 countries. We were considered one of the worst on emissions too. That is the direction in which Prime Minister Morrison and his budget are taking us. It is a road to nowhere. In Queensland, it has been this government that has launched our Zero Emission Vehicle Strategy. Meanwhile petrol costs \$2.20 a litre and the LNP thinks that a six-month subsidy to overseas oil companies is the answer. While we are getting on with building a hydrogen superhighway, for modern fuels and modern vehicles, the Morrison government is firing up the Oldsmobile.

Last night's budget had all the hallmarks of the opening scene from the *Beverly Hillbillies*. There was the coalition, tearing up the tarmac, literally, like they were from another era. We had Barnaby Joyce behind the wheel; he is leading them there. Scott was in the passenger seat, wondering what on earth was going on. He was wondering, 'What am I supposed to be doing?' Matt Canavan was hitching a ride on the tray. He was pouring oil into the old combustion engine. The Oldsmobile is still sputtering, but Canavan's solution to everything is more fossil fuels so he just kept shovelling it in—and maybe wiping a little on his face for a bit of authenticity.

It is clear that Australians wanted a budget that delivered cheaper power for their homes and cars—not for six months and not just to get past the federal election but for the future of this nation. The Morrison government had one final chance to get Australia's energy future back on track. That was last night's budget and the Morrison government failed Australians and Queenslanders miserably.

### Whistleblowers

**Mr LAST:** My question is to the Minister for Disability Services. I refer to media claims by former Palaszczuk government media adviser Neil Doorley that the minister or his office asked him to background against a well-respected Rural Fire Service boss. Can the minister confirm if the whistleblower is correct and, if so, who asked him to background?

**Mr CRAWFORD:** No, the whistleblower is not correct.

### Federal Budget, Environment

**Ms PUGH:** My question is of the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs. Will the minister update the House on what the federal government's budget means for our state environment and for young Queenslanders?

**Ms SCANLON:** I thank the member for the question. I know many people in this House were eagerly awaiting to see what the budget delivered for Queensland. While one could be thought cynical for pointing out that there is an election coming up, of course now is the most important time to lay out a vision for our country. I hate to be the bearer of bad news but they were devoid of ideas, particularly when it comes to climate action.

We have cosplay progressives such as Josh Frydenberg, the Treasurer, saying that Australia is playing its part in responding to the critical global challenge of climate change. However, when we actually check the detail there is a massive 35 per cent cut over four years to climate spending. That is a decline every single year. There is no matched funding for our Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund. There is no additional support for electric vehicles to make it more affordable for Queenslanders to purchase EVs. Even the ABC deemed renewables as a loser in the budget. There are parts of the south-east bracing for severe floods. Even the Prime Minister himself acknowledged that that is the result of climate change and yet, at the very same time, they are cutting money to climate action.

When it comes to waste, again all we hear are empty words. The Treasurer tells us that no longer are we exporting waste; we are recycling it here at home. In Queensland we have a \$1.1 billion Recycling and Jobs Fund but, in comparison, all they have delivered is an \$83 million fund for the entire country to deal with their own export bans. It is absolutely rubbish. Members such as Trevor Evans claim that they stand up for Queensland. This was their opportunity to show whether or not they back this state and they failed.

I do not want to be all negative. There are some things in the budget that I am sure some in this House, particularly the member for Kawana, will be thrilled by. There is \$20.3 million over three years to plant trees for the Queen's platinum jubilee. That is \$20.3 million to plant trees for a 90-year-old while, at the same time, only \$500,000 annually for programs that address youth at risk of homelessness.

That brings me to young people. I would like to speak on this for longer, but there is not much in the budget for anyone under the age of 35. This morning the Prime Minister was asked what they are doing to help young renters. He told the reporter that young people should just go and buy a house. I did some research. The Prime Minister bought his first house for \$330,000 in Bronte. In that area the median house price is now \$4.8 million. They are not helping young Queenslanders. They are cutting money to the National Rental Affordability Scheme. They are not helping young Queenslanders.

*(Time expired)*

### Palaszczuk Labor Government Ministers, Email Accounts

**Mr MILLAR:** My question is to the Minister for Public Works. Did the minister in any way inhibit the State Archivist from investigating the use of private emails by other ministers?

**Mr de BRENNI:** I thank the member for the question. This matter has been professionally considered by an independent QC, McKenna. The report has been publicly available. I understand it is on the website of the Department of Premier and Cabinet. I invite the member to download a copy of it. All of the answers to all of those questions can be read in that report.

### Federal Budget, Housing

**Ms BOYD:** My question is to the Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts. Will the minister update the House on what the federal budget means for housing in Queensland?

**Ms ENOCH:** I thank the member for Pine Rivers for that very important question. I know she joined me last night in hoping that there would be some relief in the federal budget with regards to social and affordable housing in this state and across the country. This government, the Palaszczuk government, has identified the need to build more social and affordable homes in this state. That is why in our last budget we committed an historic concentrated budget—the largest concentrated investment in this state's history—of \$2.9 billion for social and affordable housing. That included the establishment of a new \$1 billion Housing Investment Fund. That was done against a backdrop of the federal

government completely vacating the space. What we asked of them was pretty simple: first of all, to correct a few things in last night's budget. We asked them to correct the fact that they are withdrawing the National Rental Affordability Scheme, which will see some 10,000 households in this state worse off as a result. We asked them to come back to the table on that. They could have corrected that last night, but there was no mention of it.

We asked them to forgive Queensland's historic debt. We are talking about the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s as they have done in Tasmania and which has been done previously for South Australia. Did they do that? No. There was no mention of that.

They have been stripping almost \$100 million from the state budget in terms of housing and homelessness since the 2016-17 budget. The member for Everton cannot speak—when he was the housing minister, we saw a net decrease of 428 in the number of houses being built in this state. We had to build those back and we have been building ever since.

The federal government only contributes just over one-quarter to the work that we in this state do. They cannot even meet us halfway. We asked for these very simple measures in the budget, but they could not even bring themselves to speak about social housing. I have been calling on the federal government to convene a national housing summit of all ministers to deal with this issue on a national level, but it is absolute crickets.

Again last night in the budget, there was no mention of any measures to support the building of more social and affordable homes—only to do offloading into the community sector. This is a government whose members are more concerned about their jobs and where they are living; in fact, we have a Prime Minister more interested in keeping his address at Kirribilli House than housing more Queenslanders! It is not good enough. Queensland deserves its fair share in housing and health. Of course, we will continue to fight the federal government to get that fair share.


**Mr SPEAKER:** The period for question time has expired. The members for Pumicestone and Gympie are both warned under the standing orders for quarrelling across the chamber.

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

### Second Reading

Resumed from 29 March (see p. 715), on motion of Mrs D'Ath—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (11.52 am): I rise to make a contribution to the Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2022. I do this in the knowledge that for the past two years and two months we have prioritised the health, safety and interests of the people of Queensland in responding to the most challenging and unknown health crisis many of us will ever see in our lifetimes. We have done this with due care and consideration through our public health measures.

I reflect on some remarks of the World Health Organization's director-general in March 2020 when the pandemic was declared the first pandemic caused by a coronavirus. He went on to say that several countries had demonstrated that the virus could be suppressed and controlled, but he posed a challenge to those dealing with large clusters or community transition—not whether they could do the same in suppressing and controlling the virus but whether they would. He recognised that some countries lack the capacity, that some countries struggled with a lack of resources and that some countries struggled with a lack of resolve.

It is very clear that in Queensland over the past two-plus years we have created the capacity, provided the resources and, most importantly, have shown the resolve to deal with COVID-19. We moved quickly to activate established disaster management arrangements, enabling planning for changes in service delivery to ensure continuity of care and preparation to lift health system capacity for the anticipated surge of cases. Our government committed an additional \$1.2 billion in health funding to support the health response to the pandemic and the resources we would need, including: the expansion of fever clinics, more paramedics and ambulance services, new infrastructure for and better utilisation of existing hospitals, expansion of community screening, contact tracing and 13HEALTH services, backfilling of health staff exposed to the virus, additional regional health services, and more aeromedical services for regional and remote communities as well as the provision of elective surgery in both public and private hospitals.



From 29 January 2020 when Queensland was the first jurisdiction in Australia to declare a public health emergency, we certainly had the resolve. This resolve has meant that we were able to suppress the virus as successfully as we could. We did this by implementing quick and successful lockdowns, mask-wearing and social-distancing requirements, and closing our borders at the appropriate times despite the foolish dog whistling from those opposite who called for the borders to be opened 64 times and even took out billboards spruiking their irresponsible message. This is what resolve means. It is sometimes about making the unpopular decisions if they are the right decisions for the health of our communities.

Once we had suitable vaccinations developed, Queensland moved from a pre-vaccination suppression strategy to a post-vaccination strategy focused on prevention of serious illness, hospitalisation and fatality. As a government we recognise that vaccination is and continues to be safe and effective against COVID-19. It is that simple. I know that every member on this side of the House went above and beyond to engage with and communicate to our communities the importance of vaccination. The results speak for themselves. As a state, we now are 91.7 per cent fully vaccinated, something to be honest I was not sure we would be able to achieve in the early days of the vaccination campaign, especially with the federal government's 'stroll-out' of the vaccination program, not to mention the absolutely heartbreaking utter and dismal failure in terms of vaccinating our most vulnerable in our aged-care facilities and disability homes.

Let us be clear, our decision to introduce mandatory vaccinations for key sectors has been challenging but it has been incredibly successful in lifting our vaccination rates. Lifting those vaccination rates mattered. At the height of the first Omicron wave, Queensland recorded 928 hospitalisations and 71 ICU admissions instead of the worst-case scenario modelling of 5,000 hospital beds and up to 500 ICU beds. Despite those who say COVID-19 is not serious, COVID-19 is not real or 'So what?' as the member for Mermaid Beach said last night, think about what those words mean to the grieving families of the 727 Queenslanders who lost their lives to this cruel virus.

According to the World Health Organization, globally as of 28 March there have been 480,170,572 confirmed cases of COVID-19 including—and I want not to round these figures out but mention every one of them—6,124,396 deaths recorded. Everything that our government has done to protect Queenslanders from COVID-19 has relied on having the right legislative measures to make decisions quickly and flexibly to respond to the unpredictable and changing nature of COVID-19.

I thank those who contacted my office to express their views in relation to the extension of the public health measures. I appreciate that not everyone is supportive of these measures, though the majority seem to be focused on the vaccination mandates rather than recognising that public health measures extend beyond the eight per cent of Queenslanders who remain unvaccinated.

It is also important to recognise that the majority of associated COVID-19 legislative measures are due to expire on 30 April 2022 and will not be extended by the bill before us. However, it has been recognised that the legislative framework of essential public health measures must continue and that withdrawing all public health controls in one go would be reckless. Last week the Chief Health Officer advised that it is as a result of the BA.2 variant of Omicron that COVID-19 cases actually increased by 54 per cent and that we now are in a second wave of the virus. Health professionals are also indicating that there may be a further wave during the winter months as well.

Internationally, 48 countries have reported an increase in cases. The latest news shows that Shanghai has begun a phased lockdown as an Omicron fuelled COVID-19 wave spreads through mainland China's most significant financial hub, resulting in the highest caseloads in the country since the early days of the pandemic. It is really interesting when you read the statement of reservation issued by the LNP committee members only on 24 March who speak of 'the virus subsiding faster than any of the government's computer modelling predicted' and 'we are now in a more endemic period'. It would seem those opposite believe the pandemic is over, despite the growing evidence to the contrary. Here is the rub—because as a government we rely on the health advice of those medical professionals with years of study, training and experience to tell us when the pandemic is over or, maybe, just read occasionally a newspaper.

Last night the federal budget allocated \$4.2 billion in 2022-23 for the response to the pandemic and has made a number of assumptions, some positive but some negative, again reflecting that this pandemic is far from over.


At the Ipswich Hospital last week I, along with my fellow Ipswich based MPs, organised free coffee for the health workers. It was the smallest of gestures, because really how do you say thank you to those amazing people who we know are continuing to work each and every day to make Queensland's response to COVID-19 the best it can be. Our health workers, our paramedics, our police,

our border workers, our pharmacists, our cleaners, our supermarket workers—every single person on the front line these last two years has been doing everything they can to keep people healthy and safe, to keep shelves stacked and to keep workplaces clean.

I know the last two years have been very difficult for our communities—the uncertainty, the fear, the upheaval and the constant changes to rules and requirements. I have ridden those waves with my community members and I recognise that everyone is fatigued. We are all tired and we just want life to get back to normal—a time before we knew what a coronavirus was or what it meant to live through a global pandemic.

I conclude by saying to those individuals who did their part—physically distancing, adhering to the lockdowns, wearing masks, staying home when unwell, keeping kids home from school, getting vaccinated—you followed the directions, even when they were sometimes challenging or complicated or perhaps felt like they did not make sense. You recognised that by sticking together and by doing the right and selfless thing by our community we have and we will continue to emerge from this pandemic stronger, more resilient and with a continued resolve to keep each other safe. I commend the bill to the House.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): Before I call the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I will remind members of those who are on a warning under the standing orders. They are the members for Chatsworth, Nanango, Maryborough, Gladstone, Sandgate, Woodridge, Mudgeeraba, Kawana, Buderim, Whitsunday, Gympie and Pumicestone.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (12.00 pm): In speaking to the Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill, which is essentially the extension of the Chief Health Officer's extraordinary powers in Queensland, I place on record my great thanks to our frontline health workers across the state who have not only dealt with COVID themselves but also dealt with their patients, their families and the long hours. I say thank you to all our health workers across Queensland, and particularly on the Sunshine Coast and in my electorate of Kawana which has the Sunshine Coast University Hospital. Over the last 2½ years health workers have done an extraordinary amount of work and done the best they can in extraordinary circumstances. For our health workers, ambulance officers and police on the front line it has been a long journey. It has been a long journey for Queenslanders.

The impacts are real. Over the last 2½ years we have raised issues in this parliament related to not only the health impacts of COVID but also the borders being closed and the sad and sorry stories of people in my electorate who could not get home because their own government denied them the opportunity to return to their families and friends under the guise that this Premier kept everyone safe. This keeping everyone safe had huge mental health impacts for many constituents in my electorate, particularly those who could not get home and see their families.

I recall many times I directly asked the Premier questions about many Sunshine Coast residents who were over the border visiting family for health reasons or whatever the case was when the borders were slammed shut and the state government did not let them return home. This included young people in Kawana who had surgery overseas and could not get home and home quarantine. The government kept saying to us at the time that it was about keeping everyone safe. Labor members were saying, 'The Premier has kept everyone safe,' but it is interesting that every matter I raised in this parliament on behalf of my constituents about them not being able to come home was by the afternoon somehow fixed. It was fixed. The rouse that the Premier was keeping everyone safe and that is why people were denied entry back into Queensland was all of a sudden fixed by the afternoon. If only the government had the political heart every time we raised these issues then we would not have had the anxiety and pressure faced by many Queenslanders. We have faced that issue of Queenslanders not even being allowed to come to their own homes in Queensland.

We have had lives turned upside. We have had livelihoods turned upside down. We have had businesses close down. We have had our communities divided more than I have ever seen before. I have mentioned the mental anguish of many people. At the start of the pandemic I spoke about the music industry and how the pandemic is impacting that industry particularly. As soon as they stopped live music and they put restrictions on venues like NightQuarter on the Sunshine Coast all those musicians lost their income. It was not until the federal government introduced JobKeeper that a lot of sole traders in the music industry could maintain their livelihoods.

To this day, Kawana Surf Club continues to struggle. Their income is down roughly 30 per cent. Labor members would have us believe that there are no restrictions, no-one is wearing masks in these venues and capacity is not an issue at these venues anymore. There are impacts because of the

vaccine mandate. It is not just eight per cent of the population who have chosen not to get vaccinated, it is their friends saying, 'We are not going to book a table at the Kawana Surf Club and 10 of us are not going to a concert because our mate is not vaccinated.' That is having impacts today.

The restrictions may be over but they are still having an impact. They are having an impact on cafes that are still operating under takeaway provisions and are not allowed to have their regular clientele sit down at tables. For some reason, the government would have us believe that it is unsafe for someone in Kawana to go to, for instance, BFresh—which is a very popular cafe in my electorate—and sit down and have their coffee. It is okay for them to stand and wait 15 minutes for a coffee but they cannot sit down and have a coffee because of the vaccine mandate. Some of this does not make sense.

Businesses are still hurting because of these issues, including the mandate. The road maps the government released over the last 2½ years could be chopped and changed at the whim of the government. There was no certainty for business. There has not been enough support for our small business community. We have expressed those concerns.

At the end of last year I expressed the concerns I had with extending the Chief Health Officer's powers. I see no more reason, as I did back then, to be in the position now of having to extend the Chief Health Officer's powers. Even the new Chief Health Officer is saying we need to live with COVID. Labor does not want to start living with COVID because if they have a policy that people live with COVID then that means government is getting out of our lives. The control the current government has on people's lives will go. Labor does not want to let go of that control.

We on this side of the House believe in small government. That is what the Liberal National Party believes in—small government; personal responsibility. Let the people take responsibility for their own actions. Labor does not want that. We saw this with the floods a few weeks ago. The Bureau of Meteorology issued a severe weather warning so what did we do? We closed every school in South-East Queensland and sent every parent to pick up their kids. This was done under the guise of the Premier keeping us all safe. Principals and local communities used to be tasked with that job. If it is unsafe to have kids at school let the principals, the parents and the communities decide, not the government acting as Big Brother in everything in our lives.

We are at the juncture with this pandemic where people need to start, as the new Chief Health Officer and the Premier say, living with the virus. That means the state Labor government giving some of their powers away. Why have legislation on the books that is not required at this stage? Labor will say, 'What's around the corner? There might be a new variant.' I have had the new variant. There will be new variants. There will be new variants forever. There will be new variants of influenza forever.

We deal with it at the time. Parliament can easily come back and deal with urgent matters, including the extension of the Chief Health Officer's powers if the government so requires or, better still, give them to the health minister and then make the health minister responsible and accountable to parliament. That is why we will be moving the amendments as outlined by the shadow health minister, particularly those around parliamentary oversight. It is very important.

I turn to the issue of the small business community and the concerns with the vaccine mandates. Let the record show that I am pro vaccination but I am also pro choice. I have always been pro choice for vaccination. I do not support vaccine mandates. I never have but I am pro choice. I choose for me and for my family to get vaccinated. I have been triple dosed and I still got COVID. When the Premier was telling under-40-year-olds not to get the AstraZeneca, I went and got the AstraZeneca because I believe in the vaccine, but I do not agree with the vaccine mandates. I have been honest and up-front with everyone who has asked me in my constituency and I have told them that from the start. They appreciate honesty from their members. I have been up-front with people.

It is now the time when we either live with the virus or keep living with government control over our lives. I believe we must take personal responsibility for our actions. Over 90 per cent of the population are double vaccinated now. I encourage more people to get vaccinated if that is their desire. It is well beyond time now. We need to heal our communities. We need to bring our communities back together.

I say to the Labor government and to the people of Kawana that, if the Labor government do not in a spirit of cooperation support the amendments that will be moved by the LNP opposition in terms of parliamentary oversight, then I see no reason for supporting this legislation today. As the Chief Health Officer and the Premier say, if we are going to start living with this virus let us show the community how to live with the virus. We would do that by supporting the amendments. If not, then we are sorry but we will not be able to support this bill.

*(Time expired)*



**Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (12.10 pm): I rise to support the Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill. I have spoken on previous related legislation as we have extended these provisions several times. I want to use this opportunity largely to say some thanks to people.

Yesterday, the passing of the Small Business Commissioner Bill and making that position permanent was a real milestone in terms of some of the emergency response legislation we have passed since the beginning of COVID. The initial act established a temporary Small Business Commissioner particularly to help with leasing disputes. Also, the Retail Shop Leases and Other Commercial Leases (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Regulation was made under the COVID-19 Emergency Response Act. The leases regulation has been extended a number of times to enable the temporary Small Business Commissioner to continue to mediate small business tenancy disputes.

In November last year the justice legislation extended the expiry date of the leases regulation for a further two years until 30 April 2024. That includes transitional provisions to enable matters progressing under the leases regulation to continue and preserve related rights through to its expiry on 30 April 2024. The public health bill itself does not extend the leases regulation but it enables the regulation to continue in line with the justice permanency amendments.

We have heard throughout the debate on the Small Business Commissioner Bill absolutely glowing support for the role that the Queensland Small Business Commissioner and her office played through COVID to support small business. I do not think there was a member who spoke on that bill or a business in their electorate who had not had fantastic contact with either the Small Business Commissioner or her office.

I did not get an opportunity yesterday to thank the really hardworking people from the Queensland Small Business Commissioner's team. I want to read out their names because they work so hard and they have made such a difference over this challenging two-year period. These are the people I want to acknowledge in her office: Peter Maddock; Luke Forster; Rebekah Godbold; Rachel McCaffrey; Kaela Smith; Kate Sammon, who answers all of their phone calls; Carly Johnson; Rose Calvert; Jenni Walters; Julie Robson; and Kirsten Schmidt. Former but equally wonderful long-term team members who deserve a special mention are: Ian Pepper, Gary Smiley and Les Retford. Thank you very much to all of them.

Here we are now nearly two years along and the world as we know it has changed. I think we all remember those early days when we did not know what was going to unfold in front of us and we saw some horrifying images from right across the world of mass graves and heard terrible news about what was happening. We did not know whether we were going to be seeing our loved ones or whether people very close to us were going to pass away. Before I go any further, I do want to acknowledge that since the beginning of this year, in the first three months of 2022, Queensland has recorded over 700 deaths from COVID-19. I pass on my sincere regards to the families of those people. It is something that we cannot even imagine. I feel so sad for them in their grief.

Here we are in Queensland and we have been open and trading for most of that period. When we look back over the 21-month period, New South Wales endured 125 consecutive days of stay-at-home orders and Victoria spent over 260 days in lockdown. In comparison, Queenslanders spent a total of 21 days in lockdown, with 11 of those applying to South-East Queensland only. That is because of leadership. It is not because every time someone makes a noise or every time it gets a bit hard we just cave and say, 'Those people are really unhappy, so we are not going to do that anymore.'

Dealing with a crisis like this requires leadership from government. Our Premier and our health ministers—the previous health minister and the current health minister, the member for Redcliffe—have done an amazing job and have made the really hard decisions in the face of opposition and a complete lack of support from those opposite. The Premier and the respective health ministers have been abused on a daily, hourly and minute-by-minute basis. If you want to get really scared, just read the social media pages of any one of those three people. I hope for their sakes that they do not read them.

Issues like border closures, vaccinations and building quarantine facilities were the matters on which our leaders stood firm, and that is what has put Queensland in good stead. Over on the other side the LNP has been completely irresponsible. They opposed the building of quarantine facilities. They talked about opening the border 64 different times. What an absolute disaster that would have been for our small businesses and for our community. Just think about the impact that would have had on our health system and on people's lives.

**Mr Hart** interjected.

**Ms Boyd** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Order! Member for Burleigh and member for Pine Rivers, you are both warned. We will not have quarrelling across the chamber.

**Ms FARMER:** We saw a complete lack of leadership on vaccinations. We did not hear a word from any one of them on encouraging people to go out and get their vaccinations. Not once did they talk to Scott Morrison about quarantine facilities or RATs. Not once when JobKeeper ended did they talk to Scott Morrison about targeted support for those businesses that were still going to suffer. When things are hard, when people are speaking loudly, they want to go that way. Thank goodness they were not in government because leadership is sometimes hard. Now we have an economy that is in a huge growth phase and we have an enormous opportunity for Queenslanders, and that is because of the leadership.

Speaking of leadership, I also want to acknowledge the role that the small business peak bodies have played over this two-year period representing the views of their members. They are never afraid to speak their minds, and the working relationship with those people has been fantastic. I want to acknowledge the Ai Group, CCIQ, Clubs Queensland—I congratulate Kelly Egan, who has just finished up in his role—the National Retail Association, the Queensland Hotels Association, the Queensland Social Enterprise Council, the Queensland Tourism Industry Council and the Restaurant and Catering Industry Association.


Previously when I have spoken on related matters, I have taken the trouble to thank our health workers, our school staff, our police, our pharmacists, our general practitioners and all of those people who have been on the front line. I, too, had COVID last week. I thank my local GP and her staff who were so supportive, as were the local QML pathology people. What a great and professional operation they all run.

I want to particularly give a shout-out to our young people. I was at Balmoral State High School yesterday for their leadership ceremony and met the wonderful Liz Smiley and Monty Doorey, who are the new school captains, and Cohen Reid and Saphia Armstrong, who are the new vice captains, and all of the junior and senior leadership teams. I was talking to the principal and their teachers. It echoed conversations I have been having with school staff over the last two years about just how hard COVID has been on our young people, not knowing what was ahead of them, not knowing what hope they could have for all of their plans and dreams for what they might do with their lives.

This year has been a bumpy year for these young people going into year 11 and year 12, but they have been positive in the way they have been going about their business. I had conversations with them yesterday and they said, 'It's actually been really hard.' Some of them were talking about mental health challenges because they did not know what was going on, but they said they have to get on with things and show the younger kids that, when things happen to you, you just have to get up again and cope with them. They had messages of resilience.

I want to give a shout-out to all young people, and I am probably talking about the 16- to 25-year-olds. I have a daughter in that age group and I know that a lot of her friends who were starting university or TAFE were so overwhelmed by what was ahead of them. I want to say that our future is in good hands when we have these young people being so resilient and having such messages of hope.

We are in the position we are in now because the whole community in Queensland have worked really hard. They have been disciplined. They have looked out for each other when they needed to. They have known that we have had to do the hard things sometimes. They have walked alongside this government, despite the lack of leadership of those opposite. That is why we have such hope for the future. I thank the minister for bringing this bill to the House.

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (12.21 pm): I rise to talk about the Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2022. In doing so, I want to thank the health staff—our doctors, our nurses and in particular our ambulance officers. They have borne the brunt of this pandemic. They have done the hard work to see us through this, and they certainly deserve our support. Businesses have also done the hard work because of the impact that COVID has had on them over the last two years.

There is no doubt that COVID has had a severe impact on businesses, so why would we leave this legislation to the last minute when this is about to expire? If this was so important to the minister and the government, why are we leaving it to the last minute? We are truncating the whole committee process by only allowing 31 days for the committee to examine this, by only allowing two weeks for submissions and by only allowing the health department to come before the committee and answer questions for less than an hour. Of course, non-government members only get half of that time, so it was actually half an hour for non-government members to talk to the health department about this bill.

Under this bill as it currently stands, there is no requirement for public health officials to formally answer questions or for the restrictions to be scrutinised by the Queensland parliament. Should the bill be passed without amendment, it will mean that the bill is not scrutinised by the parliament for six months. I believe that is completely unacceptable. The minister says that the opposition wants to see more health advice. I just want to see some health advice. Any health advice would be fantastic. The government tells us that it relies on advice when it sets its policy, but that advice has not been shown to any of us. It has not been shown to the committee. In fact, when the committee met, the then director-general, Dr John Wakefield, was asked to provide the committee with the health advice and he said—

... decisions about release of information in that regard are a matter for the minister and a matter for government.

So why was the minister not present at the committee hearing so she could give that feedback to the committee, answer the question and possibly release that information? We are seeing this constantly—that committees are stopped from getting the information they need in order to do their job, and I have raised this in the parliament before. As an example, meeting minutes and correspondence between the minister and the Chief Health Officer in Victoria are routinely released by the government when new health directives are issued. The opposition is moving an amendment to establish a six-person parliamentary oversight committee chaired by a non-government member, and I fully support that amendment.

I want to tackle a couple of things that the member before me said. She quite clearly said that none of the members on this side had anything to say supporting vaccinations. That is the problem with this government—they reinvent history. The minister obviously has not been listening to the things that we have been saying on this side of the House when it comes to vaccinations. I have been encouraging everybody in my electorate to get vaccinated for months. As well as that, the minister said that we spoke 64 times about opening the border. I can tell the House that I certainly did because the Gold Coast Airport was shut for a long time. They went from 80 flights a day to zero. In a place that relies completely on tourism, the borders were closed. What did the government do when I put up that billboard that called for the borders to be opened? They opened the borders.

**Ms King** interjected.

**Mr HART:** I take that interjection from the member for Pumicestone, who I understand is on a warning.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Member for Burleigh, thank you, I do not need your assistance.

**Mr HART:** The government opened the borders. This is what they do. They reinvent history. They have completely forgotten that they opened the borders. In considering my position on this bill and how I have voted in the past, my basic philosophy of life is a liberal philosophy. In my maiden speech, which I have quoted in this House a number of times, I said—

... I place on the record my overriding philosophies of life. The opinions and decisions I make in this place will reflect those philosophies.

And I stick with that. I said—


I believe in the right of people to make their own choices in life.

This is from my maiden speech 10 years ago. I said—

Regardless of whether or not I agree with them, they have a right to their own opinion and their own choices. I believe in small government with minimal regulation. I believe in a hand up from government, not a handout. In basic terms, I believe good government needs to ensure the population is secure from interference from the action of others. If a government does just that one thing, I believe it succeeds.

I voted in the past on extensions to this based purely on that last part—that 'I believe good government needs to ensure the population is secure from interference from the action of others'. It was appropriate previously to support these actions that the government were taking when they closed down businesses, they closed our borders and they did everything else because we were protecting some of our population from the rest of the population. Now that the state has reached a 90 per cent vaccination level, I believe my support for these laws has expired because my conclusion is that we no longer need to secure our population from the interference of others.

The population has had its opportunity to be vaccinated. While I encourage everyone to be vaccinated—and I want that on the record: that I encourage everyone to be vaccinated—as I am and my family is and just about everybody I know is, those people who have decided not to be vaccinated have a right to that choice. The government has failed to prove unvaccinated people are a danger to others. If such proof is in the health advice, let us see that. Otherwise, let us get on with our lives. I will not be supporting this bill.

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (12.29 pm): It has been extraordinary this morning to hear the contributions from both the member for Kawana and the member for Burleigh. We are getting an insight into who has the real power in the LNP. The change in position happened overnight. The opposition health spokesperson did not mention, 'If we are voting down the amendments, we are voting down the whole bill.' We do not see the member for Broadwater, the Leader of the Opposition, speaking on this bill. What we are seeing is the member for Kawana on the run this morning coming up with a new policy position for the LNP. That is extraordinary! Undercutting the opposition health spokesperson?

**Ms Bates:** What a load of rubbish!

**Mr BROWN:** You were here. Why didn't you say it? I take the interjection from the member opposite. The opposition health spokesperson had the ability yesterday, in her lengthy contribution, to put that position, yet did not do that. What are we seeing this morning? The power of the LNP residing in the member for Kawana coming up with a policy position on the run. What did the member for Kawana do? Straight after his contribution, he went around and sat next to the member for Burleigh and said, 'Back this in. This is going to be our party position today.' It is an extraordinary revelation this morning that this has happened—completely undercutting the opposition health spokesperson, completely undercutting the opposition leader. It is policy on the run. It is policy on the run on such an important issue! It is extraordinary what the member for Kawana said. He went on about mandates, but then talked about the amendments by the opposition health spokesperson, which do not really go to mandates; they go to the transparency of the bill. He then says, 'Because we do not get those up and we disagree with mandates, we are going to vote the whole bill down.'

**Ms Bates:** So transparency of mandates? Don't mislead the House.

**Mr BROWN:** I again take the interjection from the opposition health spokesperson. This has hit a nerve because I am right. This has hit a nerve because I am absolutely right on this. It is an extraordinary step by the member for Kawana to do this policy on the run. I hope that the member for Broadwater comes in and actually clears this up. The member for Kawana has obviously booted the Nationals to the backbench—a complete takeover. The Liberals are all in power now. The Nationals are gone, Colin Boyce has gone and there is no National Party left here. What do we see this morning? Policy positions on the extension of the COVID bill made up by the member for Kawana this morning.

I want to thank my constituents for following the health advice of the Chief Health Officer during this time. As the member for Jordan said, we MPs out in the Redlands went to the Redland Hospital and put on a 'free coffee' day to thank them for their service.

I do note that the people of Redlands, before the borders were opened, reached over 95 per cent double-dosed. We were the second quickest in the state, behind Goondiwindi. I do congratulate Lawrence Springborg on a fantastic campaign. He would not have let this happen. He would not have let the member for Kawana come in and do policy on the run, especially on the COVID extension bill.

I also want to address some of the amendments by the Katter's Australian Party and the member for Traeger. Again, this is an extraordinary overreach, particularly in aged-care settings. We have to make sure that aged-care workers and, more importantly, aged-care residents, are kept safe. There is a reason aged-care workers need to get the flu vaccine, and that was well before COVID even existed. There was a vaccine mandate in the aged-care industry before COVID was even discovered. But do you hear any word from the Katter party about that when it happened? No. It is this populist thing, trying to chase after a small bit of the population. The Katter party, One Nation, the Liberal Democrats and now the LNP are chasing after eight per cent of the population for their vote because they think that that is who is right. The people who are right, the people behind why we are open and free today, are the people who got the vaccine. People getting the vaccine is the reason businesses are open. It is why I can go to the pub and have a beer. It is why live music is back.

**Mr Kelly:** It is why kids are safe.

**Mr BROWN:** It is why kids are safe. It is why people can go and see their loved ones in aged-care facilities. We did not go through what New South Wales or Victoria went through, the reason being that we had sensible health measures, through the powers given by this type of legislation to the Chief Health Officer. Time and time again, the Chief Health Officer, both the previous one and this one, had proven that they use these laws and powers responsibly. They turn it on and off when they need to.

In many cases, these restrictions are nation-leading. We have less restrictions than many other states because of how we have handled the pandemic, but, more importantly, because Queenslanders have gone out and got double-dose vaccinated and are also getting their boosters.

I also want to touch on the LNP locally, especially the federal member for Bowman who is a trained health professional and a doctor who is playing both sides of the fence when it comes to these mandates. You heard the line from the member for Kawana: 'I support the vaccine, but I support choice.' That sends the wrong message to the community. It sends the message to the community that it is okay not to get vaccinated. If everyone had that opinion, guess what? We would still be having lockdowns; we would still have borders closed.

Is it any wonder? We have the member for Bowman, in his last week at federal parliament, caught out yesterday travel roting. Extraordinarily, he has come out today and said he will not pay it back even though—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Order, member for Capalaba! I bring you back to the long title of the bill, please.

**Mr BROWN:** Thank you, Deputy Speaker, but it is extraordinary—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Capalaba, you will not reflect on my ruling by saying 'but'. I ask you to come back to the long title of the bill and remain relevant to it. Please remain relevant to the bill.

**Mr BROWN:** Thank you, Deputy Speaker. The rumours are he wants to run for state parliament. He will fit right in with the member for Kawana. He will not run against me. I put the challenge out.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr BROWN:** Yes, that is right. There are not many left. Get him up to Callide!


**Mr MILLAR:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Gregory. Member for Capalaba, I have cautioned you and directed you to remain relevant to the bill. I ask you to resume your contribution and be relevant to the bill.

**Mr BROWN:** I wrap up by again thanking the Redlands community who have come out in droves very quickly to get double-dosed—the second quickest in the state. I am so proud of that. Did I cop flak? Yes, I did. I had the swastika graffitied on my office. However, I am proud. I am proud that that happened to me because I came out hard, as a former health professional myself, and said that my community needed to get vaccinated and quickly.

I am not going to listen to the minority in my area, especially the likes of the owner of Vintage Apron who pulled a stunt against police officers. My local police officers did very well on those two occasions, and I have thanked them time and time again, through their senior constable, for their professionalism and for the way in which they conducted themselves. I am glad that the centre management at Capalaba Central—the owners were here last night for the Friends of Taiwan—took the action of booting him out of his premises, not off the back of my complaints, but off the back of customer complaints. They wanted to go to a cafe and feel safe and welcomed. They want to be in an environment that is free of COVID, where there is less probability of catching it, and where they can feel assured they will have an enjoyable time without that thought in the back of their minds. I congratulate Capalaba Central for standing up for their community.

I thank everyone in the Capalaba community who have done the right thing, who have gone out and got vaccinated and who have made sure that we are a free and open state when it comes to COVID.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (12.39 pm): I rise today to speak against the Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill. The bill will extend the government's and the Chief Health Officer's unlimited and godlike pandemic powers until 31 October including the likely continuation of the disgraceful vaccine mandate, or what I prefer to call segregation policy. The bill now gives the government unchallenged powers—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr KNUTH:** They love that, don't they? The bill now gives the government unchallenged powers to continue to exclude those who are unvaccinated from our society and force a third vaccination shot on our frontline workers. In my 18 years of parliament I have never seen a more destructive abuse of powers that segregates and marginalises a section of our society than this bill allows. It is incredible—

**Mr Saunders** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Member for Maryborough, you were on a warning. You can leave the chamber for one hour under standing order 253A.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Maryborough withdrew from the chamber at 12.40 pm.*



**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members on my right, the member for Hill has a right to be heard.

**Mr KNUTH:** It is incredible that the committee recommended the passing of the bill despite over 1,700 submissions against it, including from the Queensland Human Rights Commission and the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties. The government is always quick to point out the support of organisations such as the Human Rights Commission and the Council for Civil Liberties for legislation when it suits them but it has disregarded their advice to not pass this bill. For those members who have not read both these submissions, it is worthwhile me reading some extracts. The Queensland Council for Civil Liberties state—

It is for the government to justify the continuation of these emergency powers.

In our view, statements made by the health minister in her speech when tabling the bill do not justify a continuation of the emergency powers. That is not coming from the member for Hill; that is coming from the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties. It goes on—

The government's repeated failures to provide a set of criteria by which it will decide to end the emergency other than a criterion which must result in it continuing so long as the virus is circulating in the community, must lead one to conclude that the government will keep the emergency powers for as long as it likes.

This is an important point. The vaccination rate has stabilised at 91.7 per cent, yet the mandate remains in place. Why are they continuing with this policy? Their submission goes on to say—

... these are the most Draconian powers that have ever existed in Queensland, including in wartime.

That is not me saying that; it is the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties. I will say it again—

... these are the most Draconian powers that have ever existed in Queensland, including in wartime. ... This is entirely unacceptable because it represents a clear and present danger to our civil liberties.

...

... people are being deprived of a chunk of their lives which they will never get back.

I table that submission.

*Tabled paper:* Submission No. 962, dated 4 March 2022, by the President, Queensland Council for Civil Liberties, Mr Michael Cope, to the Community Support and Services Committee's inquiry into the Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2022 [\[447\]](#).

The Queensland Human Rights Commission submission states—

As a community, we have learnt about the impacts of quarantining conditions on people's mental health, the human rights limitations arising from public health directions that confine people to their homes and the mandating of vaccines. Powers imposing such significant human rights limitations cannot continue without proper oversight, transparency and external review.

I table the Human Rights Commission submission.

*Tabled paper:* Submission No. 970, dated 4 March 2022, by the Queensland Human Rights Commission, to the Community Support and Services Committee's inquiry into the Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2022 [\[448\]](#).

These are highly regarded organisations whose advice the government has completely ignored now that it does not suit them. Even the Newman government, who declared war on everybody, were angels compared to this government. I also have grave fears about the committee process. The committee has also completely ignored the overwhelming evidence, testimony and submissions against the bill and has basically rubberstamped the government's obsession with continuing this unprecedented abuse of power. The reality is it makes no sense to extend these powers and we cannot continue to operate in this environment. The damage that this bill and the mandate has caused to small business and frontline health and education workers will take years to recover from.

The mental health issues that have arisen because of these powers and the mandate will have far-reaching and long-term impacts on all Queenslanders and our already struggling health system. It is disgraceful that none of this has been taken into account and it is plain to see that this policy is not based on medical evidence but is purely politically driven.

More and more countries around the world are abandoning the vaccine mandates, including the announcement last week that New Zealand will follow suit. This is despite an average of 17,000 new infections being reported each day in New Zealand. What does the government do? Despite us having one of the highest vaccination rates in the world, they extend the Chief Health Officer's powers and continue the vaccination mandate until 31 October and from then who knows when? That is because we have a state government that is drunk on power. Questions have to be asked about the scare campaigns used by powerful—

**Ms PUGH:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. It is unparliamentary language. I would like the member to withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I will take some advice. Thank you for your point of order, member for Mount Ommaney. I am advised there was not any unparliamentary language used. However, member for Hill, if you want to withdraw it that might help.

**Mr KNUTH:** I withdraw. Questions have to be asked about the scare campaign used by powerful global pharmaceutical companies and how this could influence governments in continuing vaccination mandates. It has been reported that Pfizer is making enormous profits from COVID, earning nearly \$51 billion in sales from its COVID-19 vaccine in 2021 and projecting \$75 billion in sales during 2022. I table this article.

*Tabled paper:* Email, dated 16 March 2022, from the Hill Electorate Office regarding an article from the *Courier-Mail* titled 'Dr Nick Coatsworth reacts to Pfizer's claim most people will need four doses of the Covid vaccine' [\[449\]](#).


It is certainly in the best interests of these pharmaceutical giants, health organisations and governments to continue the vaccine mandate. This government initially told Queenslanders they would be protected from COVID by double vaccination. Then they told us we would require a third shot to be 'truly safe'. Now we are told to have a fourth shot, which may be required by the end of the year, and then we will be 'truly, truly safe'. The goalposts keep being shifted by this government and it is no wonder there is anger and mistrust in the general community towards this government.

The vaccine mandate commenced in Queensland on 17 December 2021 when there was a total of 2,227 cases and a fully vaccinated status of 83.6 per cent. When they brought in the mandates there were 2,227 cases across Queensland. As at 29 March 2022 total COVID cases in this state had jumped to over 747,000 cases with a fully vaccinated status of 91.7 per cent. Since the mandate started, Queensland has averaged 7,327 new cases per day. During this same period the number of those who are unvaccinated in the state has fallen, from 16.4 per cent to 8.3 per cent, yet we have recorded 745,000 new cases. My point is we have exiled the unvaccinated from society and restricted their movements, yet COVID has rapidly spread through the state, so 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 the mandate was a complete waste of time and has made zero difference in stopping the spread of COVID throughout the state. The government will argue that removing the mandate will increase hospitalisations, as mentioned previously, of those who are unvaccinated. In fact, it is the government that has worsened the state's health system by standing down 4,000 of our most 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, our elderly and our disabled helpless.

A massive amount of resources have been wasted in policing businesses, cafes, pubs and takeaways to enforce a mandate that is unnecessary, highly destructive and ineffective. Instead of extending the Chief Health Officer's vaccination mandate, we need to look after and focus on taking care of and protecting the sick, the frail, the disabled and our elderly. Make no mistake: everyone who votes to support this bill is voting to destroy small business, destroy families and destroy communities. By mandating the vaccine, you are voting to destroy your lives. We oppose the bill.

*(Time expired)*

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (12.50 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2022. I do so because it worked and it is continuing to work. This bill extends the provisions required to support Queensland's public health response to COVID-19. Queensland's response to the pandemic has been outstanding. Our careful, strategic approach has prioritised the health of Queenslanders and ensured our hospitals have not been overwhelmed.

When I hear the member for Hill's speech and when I hear some of the speeches from those opposite, it would seem that the measures we have introduced to protect Queenslanders are part of some evil scheme. That is far from the case. Like many people in this House, I am a parent. Often, we do have to make decisions that are in the best interests of our children because that is our responsibility. As members of parliament, it is our responsibility to take care of the broader community, to take care of everyone. It does not make everyone happy but leadership is our job.

We did not call 64 times for the borders to be opened—you can imagine what a disaster that would have been. What we did do was successfully contain and eliminate the spread of COVID-19 when no vaccine was available. This saved thousands of people from severe disease and death. Once the majority of us were vaccinated, we steadily removed restrictions and learnt to live with the virus, while carefully managing the risks to protect the more vulnerable members of our community.

We have had many freedoms throughout the past few years. There have been restrictions. I think I heard the Minister for Small Business say that we had something like 21 days of lockdown. I have a son who lives in Melbourne, the most locked down city in the world. Some 262 days of his life as a young student were lost. Those statistics speak for themselves.

**Ms Boyd** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Order! Member for Pine Rivers, you are under a warning. You can leave the chamber for one hour under standing order 253A.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Pine Rivers withdrew from the chamber at 12.52 pm.*

**Ms HOWARD:** Over the past two years, Queensland has dodged the worst of this pandemic. This is thanks to the hard work and leadership of our Premier; the former and current chief health officers, Dr Jeannette Young and Dr John Gerard; the leadership team of our government; and the former and current health ministers, Steven Miles and Yvette D'Ath. We owe a massive debt to all of the hardworking health and emergency workers across the state who have sacrificed so much during the pandemic to keep us safe.

I acknowledge the role that all Queenslanders have played in the positive outcomes we have had. In particular, I acknowledge my constituents in Ipswich. I know that when the pandemic first hit I got on the phone, like many of us, to talk to the vulnerable people in our community. I was overwhelmed by the way that everybody immediately knew what to do. They were not whining or complaining about any of the deprivation of liberties; they just got on with it. They were not worried about themselves; they were talking about their 94-year-old neighbour or their family member with a disability. It was all about the greater community. It was about doing the right thing for the betterment of everyone. I do want to thank all of those people.

I want to thank all of our schools and the students at our schools. There have been sacrifices. People will never get that time back again, particularly our students at university, as well as at our high schools and even in primary schools. Those children had to learn to work from home. It was a big burden on families—parents and children. I want to give a shout-out to them and acknowledge what they have been through.

This bill is essential to our state's successful pandemic response. If it were not for this bill, the Chief Health Officer would not be able to issue directions such as mask wearing in high-risk settings, requiring people to isolate after contracting COVID or issuing other public health measures to minimise COVID transmission. While the Omicron wave has certainly impacted our state's hospitals and tragically taken over 700 Queenslanders' lives, the measures put in place by the Chief Health Officer in the lead-up to the Omicron wave and during its peak have most likely contributed to Queensland seeing far fewer deaths and hospitalisations than anticipated.

I was interested to read, by way of comparison, of the experience of South Carolina in the US which has a similar population to the state of Queensland. It has recorded about 3,000 deaths since 1 January this year. That is not to discount the tragedy of the more than 700 deaths we have seen here in Queensland. They lost their lives during the Omicron wave. I cannot imagine what their family and friends are going through. Every single one of those people is sadly missed by their family and friends but, when you look at the statistics, you realise just how many lives we have saved from this terrible disease. This is due to our world-leading public health response, including our government's strong campaign to vaccinate all Queenslanders—something that has undoubtedly saved many lives.

Here in Queensland, 78½ per cent of our state's total population—counting all ages—has received at least two doses of the vaccine, whereas only 56.5 per cent of South Carolina's total population has been fully vaccinated. That statistic should give the member for Hill pause to consider his comments about vaccination not stopping the spread. That statistic speaks for itself. Our higher vaccination rate has saved countless lives, and the statistics back that up. As we head into winter, I urge everyone to get their booster shot if they are eligible and to make sure their kids get vaccinated as well.

The temporary public health measures supported in this bill will be extended to 31 October 2022 or until the health minister is satisfied that the temporary legislative powers are no longer needed. Right now, however, it is crucial that we retain flexible and rapid public health measures in light of the unpredictable nature of COVID-19 and the risks it can still pose to the public. We could be facing a new variant in the future that is both more transmissible and more severe. Certainly, the Omicron

BA.2 subvariant is now on the rise and we need to manage that effectively. We may also have to contend with the coming winter of rising COVID cases coinciding with a winter flu season—something that we have not experienced for a couple of years.

While our high vaccination rates have protected most of us from the worst of Omicron, we should not forget that there are still many vulnerable members of our community who are dependent on our public health measures to keep them safe and alive. These public health provisions need to be extended so that our Chief Health Officer and our emergency officers can make directions to limit and respond to the spread of COVID-19 in Queensland.

Most of us are learning to live with this virus and have gone back to living fairly normal lives. Many of us have had it. Our restaurants and cafes are filling up again, people are going back to the office and we are free to travel interstate and overseas. I do have to say: that is one of the reasons I am bewildered by all of the people who have been contacting our offices in the past few weeks protesting this bill. They quite bizarrely claim that we are living under tyranny and that the public health measures trample their freedoms. While they freely walk about the streets outside protesting or sit at their keyboards freely exercising their right to criticise this bill, our doctors and nurses are working in COVID wards—including my own daughter—sweating in full PPE and working 12- to 24-hour shifts treating patients who are struggling for life. Without the public health measures supported in this bill, our hospital workers would be treating thousands more cases and hundreds of lives would be needlessly lost. That is why the extension of these measures is crucial.

Once again, I extend my sincere thanks for their excellent guidance to our leadership team, our chief health officers and all of our amazing frontline health workers. I thank them for making the past two years so much better than it could have been. I give a shout-out to the committee, which did a lot of work on this bill. I acknowledge the chair, the member for Mansfield, and all of the members of that committee. I know that they looked very closely at the bill. We have a really good system in place.


As I said, it could have been so much worse than it was. I feel really privileged every day to be a Queenslanders and to be a part of this government. We can stand proud on our record when it comes to our handling of this pandemic. I commend this bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Ms Howard, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 12.59 pm to 2.00 pm.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Further Answer to Question, Queensland Crime and Corruption Commission, Chairperson


 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (2.00 pm): In response to the member for Glass House's question earlier today, I can advise that I have sought further advice from my office and can confirm that advice was sought by an adviser in relation to general powers that exist in relation to the chair of the CCC. That request was made in the context of the parliamentary inquiry into the Queensland Crime and Corruption Commission investigation that was ongoing at that time. As Attorney-General, I did not request that advice and it was requested without my knowledge. A copy of it has not been provided to me.

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

### Second Reading

Resumed, on motion of Mrs D'Ath—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (2.00 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2022. The purpose of this bill is to extend the special powers that were granted to the Palaszczuk government due to the onset of COVID-19. These powers have been extended once before, in August 2021. No-one can doubt the impact that COVID has had on every one of us and in fact everyone on this planet. It has been the cause of many deaths around the world and here in our own country. I take this opportunity to express my condolences to the families and friends who have lost loved ones.

The impact on businesses, large and small, has been very difficult and in some cases catastrophic, with livelihoods lost. The cost to governments around the world has been enormous and we have not been immune from that cost, with the federal government providing stimulus and support payments to keep the economy afloat. Australia is one of the stand-outs in the world, with the strength of our economy being one of the strongest and the current unemployment rate sitting at four per cent—the lowest unemployment rate for a generation. The federal government has contributed approximately \$28 billion to the Queensland COVID response compared with around \$9 billion by the Palaszczuk government. As we are all too aware, the Palaszczuk government has mismanaged the finances of this state to the extent that we already had a debt of \$102 billion prior to COVID—a debt that is now forecast to reach \$130 billion. This government cannot blame COVID for the dire situation of this state's finances; we were in trouble long before the onset of COVID.

The opposition recognises that the government needed to implement urgent legislation and amendments to deal with the rapid speed in which COVID was spreading throughout the community. There was a very real danger in the early days before the rollout of vaccinations that our hospital system would be completely overwhelmed. After all, our hospital system was already under pressure due to the mismanagement of this Labor government, and we have only seen this situation decline further ever since. We as an opposition did recognise that certain measures needed to be put in place. However, this support is not limitless.

The member for Mudgeeraba and shadow minister for health and ambulance services, Ros Bates, will be moving some amendments which will improve the openness and accountability surrounding this legislation. I would hope that all members in this House will support these amendments as we have reached the stage where the public has become worn out complying with some of the conflicting advice which is coming from this government.

The general public is to be congratulated on the way it has complied with the directives which have been imposed on its day-to-day lives. Our vaccine rate now stands at 93.4 per cent of the Queensland population aged 16 years and over being double vaccinated. We were told the restrictions would be reviewed after we reached 80 per cent and then this was increased to 90 per cent, and here we are now having reached that milestone debating these restrictions remaining.

Like all members, my office has been inundated with emails and phone calls regarding this bill. While many of these emails have come from all over the state, there has still been a significant number from within the electorate. It is the feedback from the electorate of Condamine that I largely base my position on. I do not think any member can say all feedback received is solely for or against this bill, and this is the case in Condamine. However, I have noted that the mood of the electorate has changed over time. It is fair to say that the general public in my view is looking for a relaxing of restrictions and life to return to something like normal.

Let me say that my position has not been influenced by some of the more extreme correspondence that I have received. For example, I do not believe that COVID is a hoax. It is real. I do not believe that we are not a properly constituted government and I very strongly believe in vaccines. Vaccinations have saved many millions of lives across the world for many decades. Putting the extreme views aside, it is everyday Queenslanders who have told me that it is time to move forward. We know things will not be as they were before COVID for some time yet. However, the overwhelming view being relayed to me is that with the vaccination rate now above 90 per cent it is time to begin to wind back these regulations.

It is the inconsistency that is frustrating many in the community, and there was no better example of this than last week at the Toowoomba Show. The show had to run under strict COVID regulations. Only vaccinated patrons and volunteers were allowed admittance. Security guards had to be hired by the show society at considerable expense to monitor those passing through the gates. Can members believe that we had to hire security guards at a country show? The Toowoomba Showgrounds hosts a multitude of events—home shows, book fests, gymkhanas, car shows and many others—without these COVID restrictions applying. These events have hosted many hundreds of attendees and volunteers. However, these events are fine apparently and do not require patrons to be fully vaccinated.

The show committee raised its concerns with this government, but to no avail. Its pleas fell on deaf ears. The agriculture minister, Mark Furner, offered no assistance to the show society and was left in no doubt as to its frustration by the committee when he attended the official opening of the show. As the Minister for Rural Communities, this minister is responsible for the cancellation of many country shows. He has not lifted a finger to help these struggling show communities. He forgets where the local show proceeds go to—mostly funding local charities and community organisations. He is no friend of our country towns and his abandonment of show societies will not be forgotten.


We have seen time and time again it depends upon the impact of particular unions that can be the deciding factor in which decisions are made. The Minister for Education was a perfect example in imposing restrictions, only to back down once the union gave her a call to tell her that she had chosen the wrong option and then there was a sudden change of mind. We have the situation where if you are involved in an accident the police and ambulance officers will arrive fully vaccinated, but then the firefighters arrive and they are not. Then we have the quarantine debacle.

There remain many unanswered questions regarding the quarantine facility at Wellcamp. The building contract for this facility was awarded to the Wagners on whose land it was built. There was no tender process. In fact, there was only one bidder. The terms of the contract have been withheld from the public, who are footing the bill. Under pressure from the opposition, the government has since revealed that the government contributed \$48.8 million towards the capital cost. We still do not know what the taxpayer is paying for the ongoing costs for this facility, and I think that is a question to which we should be entitled to an answer. The total capacity of the facility is currently at 500 beds, soon to be 1,000. Since this facility opened almost three months ago, it has housed 250 guests. That is approximately 25 a week. What great value for money that is!

As I stated earlier in my contribution, it is a lack of openness and transparency that has undermined confidence in the decision-making processes of this government. It is for that reason that one of the amendments proposed by the shadow minister is to release the health advice that these decisions have been based upon. We have been asking for this on behalf of the public for a considerable time.

The shadow minister is also calling for the establishment of a parliamentary committee chaired by a non-government member, such as is already in place in New South Wales and New Zealand. We have shown that we are prepared to work with the government and with these amendments we continue to show that. It is time that this government showed that it is willing to work with both the opposition and the people of Queensland.

I cannot conclude without acknowledging the tremendous work of those on the front line during this pandemic: our doctors, nurses, health providers, police officers, teachers and emergency services officers to name but a few. They have had to endure the frustrations of the public because of mixed messaging and at times heartless regulations. It is for them and the public at large that we need to transition to the next stage as outlined in the shadow minister's amendments.

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.10 pm): I did not have a go at the member for Condamine, but I reserve my right to. I will start off by saying that I support the bill. I am going to respond to at least one of the things the member for Hill said specifically. I will probably respond to most of what he had to say during the course of my speech. He introduced the tired old bogeyman of the pharmaceutical industry to further his arguments about vaccines, trotting out all of the tired old lines about big pharma et cetera, et cetera. This would be the same member whose party frequently comes in here and demands more dialysis services in regional Queensland, and rightly they should be demanding those services, but the last time I checked, to deliver dialysis you need the pharmaceutical industry. Why is it okay when we are talking about dialysis but not okay when we are talking about vaccinations? That is of concern to me.

I will try to inject into this debate the view of what I consider to be an average health worker. I think they would be somewhat confused by the fact that we are even having this debate. Certainly aspects of this debate would confuse them. The first reason they would find this debate confusing can be found on the International Council of Nursing's website whereby the most up-to-date figures of nurses and other health workers who have died as a result of caring for people with COVID-19 is a shocking 180,000 people around the world. That is shocking for so many reasons. Name me one other profession or occupational group that has faced that level of death in a 2½ year period by showing up to do their job. After we got through that initial phase where it took us by surprise, from the research we know that many of the nurses who continue to die to this day do so because of a lack of protective equipment. Shame on our global community that continues to allow that to occur. Try telling the 180,000 families who have lost a love one due to COVID that this is over.

I was surprised when I was reading through the amendments to find that the Greens political party and the LNP are on a unity ticket. That probably should not surprise me. The Greens have come in with hard-hitting amendments which they have ripped off the LNP. I want to talk to those amendments because both parties talk about wanting more information. I want to give them the benefit of explaining what we know clinically about COVID-19. Here is what we know and here is what the public health

decisions are being made on: it is highly contagious, it infects a lot of people and there is a really high death rate in the absence of vaccination. In this country the vaccination start was delayed by at least four months—another failure of the federal government. We know that measures such as handwashing, social distancing and wearing masks works, even in the absence of vaccination, to limit transmission and limit death.

We know that as a government some of the steps that we have had to take under public health measures have caused discomfort, distress and pain for people. I have felt the pain of those restrictions in my own personal life, having a mother entering an aged-care facility in January 2020. The last 2½ years have not exactly been fun. In the absence of vaccinations these measures were our only defence. The public health measures have been constantly refined, changed and updated as we have gone forward. That is what we are basing our decisions on.

Instead of this constant carping and requesting of information, I urge members opposite to look at the information readily available. There are a couple of doctors and nurses opposite. I am sure they can explain it. Even with vaccinations, we know that there is still a significant risk to certain parts of our population. Little kids under the age of five cannot be vaccinated at this point in time. The best protection that we can give to those little kids is to make sure that everybody else who can be vaccinated is vaccinated. We know that when you are vaccinated you have less chance of catching the disease yourself and you have a far less chance of spreading the disease. It is not just the little kids under the age of five at risk, people in vulnerable groups who are triple vaccinated are still at risk. The best thing we can do is push our vaccination rate up. I will tell members what else we know about this disease—and this information is publicly available—it mutates, and it has mutated several times.

I spoke about the failure of the global community in relation to protecting health workers in poorer countries. The failure of the globe in relation to vaccinating people in poorer countries is absolutely shameful. The vaccination rates in some of our near neighbours is appalling. That is not their own fault. There is much more we could be doing. What that means is that we have a perfect environment for further mutations of this disease. If this disease mutates again, and it is highly likely that it will, and we have new variants of this disease coming through that resist current vaccines or have new symptoms that are quite devastating, we are going to need to put in place and adjust the sorts of public health responses that this bill allows. Allowing another period of time for these measures to be in place is fair, reasonable and based on evidence.

I want to respond to some of the things that the member for Hill said about the Human Rights Commissioner. He talked about the commissioner raising issues relating to quarantine, and rightly so, but we should always remember—and the member for Condamine failed to take my interjection—that quarantine is a federal responsibility. It was because of the failure of the federal government that we had to step into the breach, as did every state, and pick up the slack. The Human Rights Commissioner also wanted to talk about vaccinations. I do not seem to recall the Human Rights Commissioner ever raising any concerns around several other policies that effectively lead to compulsory vaccination in this country. Not a word about the no jab, no pay policy, not a word about the no jab, no play policy. We have a long history in this country of using all sorts of measures to encourage people to get vaccinated.

**Mr Power:** Nothing about Q fever!

**Mr KELLY:** Nothing! You have to balance individual human rights against broader social implications. I would have thought the Human Rights Commissioner would do this. It has failed in this particular instance.

Let us explore what would happen if we allowed vaccination rates to fall. We do not need to go very far to explore it. We can look at data that is freely available on the John Hopkins University website to see what happens when vaccination rates fall. There are several countries where vaccination rates are extremely low and the death rates related to COVID-19 are extremely high. Therefore, taking these measures protects our society at large. While I have a deep respect for the Human Rights Commissioner, in this instance these measures, which have been taken on sound clinical advice, have been taken in a way that balances individual rights against the rights more broadly of our society to remain safe. I commend this bill to the House.



**Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (2.20 pm): I also rise to make a short contribution to the bill. I want to respond to some of the comments made by the member for Greenslopes. I wholeheartedly endorse his opening comments. I too put on the record my heartfelt thanks to our first responders, including those in the health system, the police, the ambos and the teachers. At the start of this pandemic they all stood up and have continued to do so over the past two years. Certainly I echo his comments there.

I acknowledge the Queenslanders and the many people from around the world who have lost their lives to COVID. I acknowledge them and their families. I also acknowledge the people from my electorate and from across Queensland and Australia who have lost their livelihoods.

In further response to some of the comments by the member for Greenslopes, first I put on the record that I am an avid supporter of vaccinations, particularly the miracle of the mRNA vaccinations. However, more and more I am becoming an avid opponent of the ongoing mandates. There are a couple of reasons for that. Just over two years ago now we were asked to make sacrifices, which we all dutifully did. This government, with the support of the opposition, put in place what at the time were draconian measures that were required to keep us all safe. As the member for Greenslopes pointed out, some of those measures did work.

We were asked to make those sacrifices two years ago for two reasons. One, we needed to slow the spread of the virus so that the world could have time to create a vaccine, and it really has been a miracle that that was done in such a short amount of time. The second reason we were asked to make those sacrifices was to flatten the curve so that our local health services could have the time to build capacity. Throughout the world, our scientists, medical experts, immunologists, virologists, epidemiologists and others did their job. Queenslanders and people across Australia also did their job. People lost their livelihoods. People made serious sacrifices. People abided dutifully by the legislation of the time and made those sacrifices. However, this government did not uphold its end of the deal to increase capacity.

I heard the member for Greenslopes and other members talk about the evidence. What we have been calling for, what we have been begging for and what all Queenslanders have been asking for is the evidence. What we want and what we demand is facts over fear. We want facts over fear. I am very concerned that the 10 per cent of people who are not vaccinated, in the vacuum of any credible information from the government, go looking for their own information. That is why I, and I am sure all members of parliament, have been hammered by anti-vaxxers who have gone down a rabbit hole with ivermectin or hydroxychloroquine when there is no research to support that they are effective. In the absence of data to underpin this legislation, people go looking for that. We were told that we needed to dutifully abide by these mandates and regulations until we reached a vaccination rate of 90 per cent, and we are there now.

Leading up to this debate I went looking for some evidence. I am lucky that my brother is an associate professor of epidemiology in the United States and he pointed me to some facts. I disagree with the member for Greenslopes when he spoke about how devastating it would be if this legislation were not passed. We know that two years ago, when we supported these measures—and a lot of them did work—that we were dealing with a different beast. We were dealing with Delta, Beta and Alpha before that. Now we are dealing with Omicron and it is a totally different beast. We are saying that this legislation and the powers that we are giving to this government as legislators in this place need to be proportionate to the risk.

I disagree with the member for Greenslopes because there is clear evidence that over 50 per cent of people in Europe and over 25 per cent of Americans have seen Omicron. We know that in stark contrast to Delta, Beta and Alpha before that, the current death rate of Omicron is 0.00003. Thankfully, due to the miracle vaccines that I have spoken about, if you have been vaccinated and you get Omicron there is a 90 per cent chance that you will not suffer severe illness or die. Therefore, this legislation needs to be proportionate to what we are dealing with. From across the globe there is clear and readily accepted evidence from epidemiologists and others to show that the measures we are taking now are essentially overreach because the situation we faced two years ago is different to what we face now. Things have moved on.

I agree with the member for Greenslopes when he talked about other variants. There will be other variants as there are with the Spanish flu and the Russian flu before that. Variants from those two pandemics still travel around the world regularly. There will be other variants, but history and evolution show that over time as humans we will develop more natural immunity, on top of the 90 per cent vaccination rate. Therefore, we will not require an indefinite extension—particularly for six months—of these draconian measures. That is why we on this side of the House will be moving amendments to support an extension of three months. We will be back in this place for two weeks in May. If, heaven forbid, after May there is a variant as or more serious than Delta, we will be in a position to rapidly reconvene parliament. We on this side of the House support that.

I want to put on the record that I do not necessarily agree that getting vaccinated is a personal choice. I ran for the LNP and a centre right government because on this side of the House we believe in limited government and maximum personal freedoms. While I do not necessarily agree with the




10 per cent of people who do not want to get vaccinated, that is up to them. If they want to get sick with COVID, that is up to them. However, I think you have a civic duty to get vaccinated. I know of one case in America where two people refused to get vaccinated and died from a previous strain of COVID, leaving their children orphaned. I believe it is incumbent upon people to get vaccinated if they can. However, in Queensland among that 10 per cent there are people who do not want to get vaccinated for reasons other than being anti-vaxxers. I say that they should not continue to be punished.

Earlier I spoke in acknowledgment of our frontline services. It is unfortunate that earlier this year they had to deal with a more than one-in-100-year flood event. Our frontline services are also dealing with reduced capacity because of the mandate. There are hundreds of police affected. We know hundreds of ambos and others are affected. They have a reduced capacity to deal with disasters. Having more mandates or continued mandates to put downward pressure on systems like this is counterproductive because the mandates are causing downward pressure on our frontline services.

I have spoken about how revolutionary and successful the vaccinations have been and how Omicron is a minor virus. We now know that it is probably less severe than the seasonal flu. Two years ago, no-one in our hospitals and governments really knew what we were going to have to deal with as the wave of coronavirus came into the country. However, now our ICU staff and other health staff, medical professionals, immunologists and virologists know a lot more. In hospitals, the treatment for people with COVID has improved out of sight. They are now using new therapeutics and repurposed drugs. Not only is vaccination potentially saving their lives; our health staff are better at dealing with the virus.

In summing up, we in this place need to ensure that the harsh measures and the strong legislation we are putting over people that have adverse effects on them are proportionate with the risks we face. Clearly, across the globe and across this country, with what we are dealing with now in the current Omicron wave the systems and the legislation we put in place two years ago to deal with other more serious strains of the virus are no longer necessary.

In summary, how will we be judged in the future when we look back? Assuming that COVID will have other waves, that it will come back and that over time—hopefully—it reduces to become less and less severe, how will we in this place be judged for the way we treated people who for whatever reason chose not to get vaccinated?

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (2.30 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2022. Queensland was the first jurisdiction in Australia to act decisively and declare an emergency to respond to the danger of the COVID-19 pandemic. That emergency was declared back in January 2020. As we know, it has been extended multiple times, most recently until 24 June this year. It is this effective public health response that enabled our community to receive such high vaccination rates right across Queensland. In Ipswich, we are currently sitting at 92.3 per cent fully vaccinated and 94.2 per cent with a single vaccination. In my local community across the suburbs of Bundamba, Dinmore, Riverview, Ebbw Vale and South Ripley we are at 93.9 per cent fully vaccinated and 95 per cent single dose; whilst in Goodna, Bellbird Park, Redbank, Redbank Plains and Collingwood Park we are at 91.6 per cent fully vaccinated and 93.8 per cent single vaccination. That is absolutely outstanding in terms of a response from our local community.

I thank every single person who came out to get vaccinated, to protect themselves, to protect their loved ones and to protect our wider community. It is because of these people and the people who have come out right across Queensland that we are able to enjoy the freedoms we in Queensland enjoy with our relatively open lifestyle. We can go to the pub and have a beer. We can go and have a meal. We are also protecting the vulnerable in our community, those who cannot get vaccinated—the elderly and young children under the age of five. The fact is that vaccination is still our best protection and our best and safest way out of this pandemic. It is not over.

The other thank you that I would like to place on record is for the outstanding work of our frontline health workers. They have been absolutely immense throughout the 2½ years of this pandemic. They are the ones who have been doing the contact tracing, providing vaccinations, undertaking our testing as well as providing all of the other life-saving treatments and required healthcare services our community need. Most recently during the Omicron wave over Christmas and New Year, our frontline health workers were working long shifts, sometimes double shifts, to the point of exhaustion, driven by the need to protect others and by their commitment and professionalism to help us be as safe as possible.

That is why I was particularly pleased last week to join with my colleagues, the members for Ipswich, Ipswich West and Jordan as well as our federal colleagues in the federal members for Blair and Oxley, in thanking our local frontline health workers. We were able to provide them with a free coffee as we joined them at the Ipswich Hospital cafe. I want to place on record again my deep gratitude to our frontline health workers. It is because of their commitment and because of our careful planning and management that COVID-19 transmission in Queensland is happening against this backdrop of a highly vaccinated population. It means that there are fewer COVID related deaths, less severe illness and reduced pressure on our health system, particularly compared to other jurisdictions. I also place on record my deep condolences to the families and loved ones of everyone who passed away throughout the course of this pandemic.

Whilst we have had this excellent response that has enabled us such high coverage and the protections that come with that, the risk of adverse health impacts to the community and pressures on our health system—and, indeed, the consequent impacts on our economy—remain. Recently, that was clearly demonstrated by the high rates of transmission that occurred through the first Omicron wave in terms of the threat that is out there in our community at the moment. It is very clear that the COVID-19 pandemic still remains fluid. It still remains unpredictable not just here in Queensland or in Australia but right across the globe. Given the highly infectious nature of Omicron, the increased transmission of COVID-19 is likely to continue throughout 2022. This is the expert health advice. We have already seen the beginning of that with the second wave of Omicron and the subvariant BA.2 here in Queensland.

Before this COVID-19 response framework that is the subject of this bill, a declared public health emergency could only be extended by regulation in Queensland for up to seven days. These public health measures are necessary to respond when new variants emerge that are more transmissible, more severe or, indeed, both. It is particularly important as we enter the winter months. I encourage everyone who is eligible to get their winter COVID booster and a winter flu shot. It will be yet another challenge as we continue to walk a path through this pandemic. There have been so many challenges to overcome. Unfortunately, some of the most severe challenges resulted thanks to the federal Morrison LNP government which initially completely botched the vaccination rollout by not ordering enough vaccines and not providing Queensland with enough supply.


**Government members** interjected.

**Mr McCALLUM:** Yes. It was not a race apparently, except it turned out that it was! One would think that this Prime Minister, who is never there in a crisis when we need him, would have learnt some lessons. Follow that up, of course, with pretty much the same failure of planning and supply when it came to rapid antigen tests. All the way through for the Prime Minister it was always someone else's fault. He always blamed the states, especially Queensland, for never accepting responsibility and for always changing colours like a chameleon.

We saw it again only last night with the delivery of the federal budget. Scott Morrison has written off Queensland. This is despite the fact that, due to our excellent management of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are the growth engine of our national economy. Our nation-leading COVID response and economic recovery has our fellow Aussies moving here in droves. Instead of giving Queensland our fair share, Mr Morrison is off chasing votes in other states. The sacrifices that Queenslanders have made over the past two years during the pandemic have been ignored by what is an incompetent and arrogant federal government.

We asked for a fifty-fifty partnership with the federal government to meet the health needs of Queensland. Scott Morrison has denied Queenslanders a fair deal. The budget papers have it in black and white that he is cutting \$21 million from our public hospitals over the next financial year—in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. I think that that is absolutely shameful. If that is not enough, he is going to back it up by cutting another \$176 million from Queensland hospitals over the 2023-24 and 2024-25 financial years compared to funding that he promised just four months ago.

We will get on with the job of protecting Queenslanders like we have done all the way through this pandemic and has put us in a position of leading the nation. We have a world leading response to this pandemic and we will get on with the job of delivering for Queenslanders and protecting Queenslanders as we continue to face the COVID pandemic.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (2.40 pm): I start my contribution by expressing my deepest sympathy to those who have lost their lives and to the families who mourn their loss. I place on record my extreme sorrow for those who have not been able to come to say goodbye to those who have lost

their lives because of the lack of compassion shown by the state government—unless, of course, you are a movie star or a sports star. There were many people who were unable to cross the border to say goodbye to those who have lost their lives.

I also place on record my sincere appreciation and thanks to the frontline health workers who have done a wonderful job throughout this pandemic. I refer not just to the nurses and doctors but also to the cleaners and transport drivers—everyone who keeps our health system functioning. It involves a very broad range of employment.

I also say thanks to our police who were taken away from our communities to work on the borders. While that happened we can question why there has been an increase in serious injuries and fatal crashes in Queensland—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): Pause the clock. Member, could you please resume your seat. Members, there is continuous quarrelling across the chamber—member for Lytton and member for Gympie. Can everyone please allow the member for Lockyer to continue to make his contribution.

**Mr McDONALD:** As I said, a great number of healthcare workers, police and others were responsible for keeping us safe during this pandemic. Police were taken away from their roles in the community to enforce the borders. It was great work by them to keep Queenslanders safe. Across Queensland there has been an increase in serious injury and fatal crashes. We question whether that is as a direct result of the lack of enforcement by police.

Today we are here to talk about the Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill. I thank the member for Burnett for his conscientious contribution in his statement of reservation. It contains some great thoughts that have led to some debate in this House. I thank the shadow minister for health for her conscious decision to introduce amendments to the House. I certainly look forward to supporting those amendments. I certainly will not be supporting the extension of time for these provisions.

This is something that is important for Queenslanders. It should not be about fear but facts. What does the health advice say now? In my previous role as the officer in charge of police I had a lot to do with risk management. This COVID situation is an extreme risk and it requires good management, but the controls must match the risk. What we are seeing in Queensland is that the controls are not matching the risk. We want to see the health advice. We want to understand it so the community of Queensland can be well informed. It is all right to say, 'Let's keep these controls in place. They can be in place for perpetuity,' but that is not what Queenslanders expect. I am a member of the LNP, and we want to see small government. We want to see fewer controls placed on our people.

This brings me to an example that I face every day in my community when I go to one of our shops. We have baristas who are no longer working in coffee shops, but I can go to the supermarket and the same person serves me there. They are still handling food and dealing with members of the public. They have made a choice not to be vaccinated. For the record, I support vaccination. My family and I are vaccinated. I encourage people in the upcoming flu season to get vaccinated.

I recognise that some people cannot have the vaccination and that some people for their own reasons have chosen not to. We as a society need to be mature enough to move forward and accept that. The health advice that the federal government commissioned said that once we had a vaccination rate of over 80 per cent we would reconsider these controls. We are sitting at above 91 per cent double dosed in Queensland. It is time we took a stand, reviewed those controls and gave the community of Queensland some confidence that the legislature is listening to the health advice and decisions are not being made based on fear. As we have heard from others in their contributions, the Omicron variant—others will come along—is not as severe as the Delta variant, which is what these arrangements were put in place for. We need to be sensitive to that and make sensible decisions in line with those risks. The severity is not there now.

I now turn to the inconsistency in the government's management of some of these controls. Others in this House have spoken about the arrangements around showgrounds. No better example of this could we find than the arrangements regarding showgrounds and show societies. I have some great show societies in my community. I congratulate them on the way they have been able to manoeuvre given the directives they have faced.

One weekend there might be a market which has certain controls. The next weekend there might be a show which has more stringent controls. Then there might be a car show or a horse show which have even fewer controls than shows. We have inconsistencies in controls that the show societies—

the owners of the showgrounds in many case or the managers of them on behalf of councils—face. It is not just about the controls but also the cost of employing security and putting in place the other arrangements required for them to be able to hold those shows. If the government is going to put in place those controls then they should give them extra funding to manage them. That is what good governments do. The show societies have great volunteers who run great shows in Gatton, Laidley and Lowood.

I hope common sense prevails. I know the shadow minister is talking with the Chief Health Officer and is hoping to get some changes to those directives for the upcoming show season. I wish her well in that. I encourage the minister to have the same conversation with the Chief Health Officer because if we do not have those conversations and bring the controls and directives back into line with common sense then many shows may not occur this year or in time to come.

I gave thanks to our healthcare workers, which is important, but we need to place on record our thanks and appreciation to Queenslanders. It has been their response around good hygiene, social distancing and if they are unwell staying at home that has been the vast contributor to keeping Queenslanders safe. It has been that and also their response to taking up vaccination. As I said, over 90 per cent have done so. That is a commendable effort.

If there is a change in terms of the seriousness of the COVID situation and there are other variants, we have parliamentary sittings all the time and these controls could be put in place again, and Queenslanders would understand that. We could also recall parliament. The sessional orders now say that that can be done remotely. That is a sensible approach that our shadow minister has suggested as well.

The suggestion of having a committee of oversight, which we have talked about on a number of occasions, would have given an additional level of comfort to both the parliament and to Queenslanders to be able to regularly catch up with the Chief Health Officer and the medical staff so there was broader consultation. That is good leadership. At the moment there is a lot of control by the Premier and her staff as to when briefings occur. The first time many healthcare workers get to hear about changes in direction is when the Premier stands up on TV. That is not good leadership. That is not bringing people on a journey with you. That is about fear and control.

Queenslanders have led the fight to keep themselves safe through good hygiene, social distancing and staying at home. As I said before, I encourage people to get vaccinated if they have not done so already, especially for the upcoming flu season. I stress again that the controls have to match the risk. Talking about speaking lists, I note that there are only 18 members on the government side of the House who are intending to speak on this bill. We are talking about a pandemic—one of the biggest threats facing Queenslanders—and only 18 put themselves on the speaking list. I wonder how many over there are being forced in line with their control or bullied into agreeing with the government's agenda.

In closing, I support the amendments that will be moved. I object to the continuation of these health directives because they are not in line with the risks.

*(Time expired)*



**Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement) (2.50 pm): I rise in support of and will vote for the Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2022. I start my contribution by acknowledging that the pandemic has been difficult for everyone. I and members on this side of the House can do that without exploiting the pain and suffering that many individuals have experienced throughout the last two years. It has been difficult for individuals. It has been difficult for households, businesses and organisations. We extend our condolences and sympathies to those who have suffered loss, be it personal or otherwise.

I also want to take this opportunity, as others have done, to acknowledge our Chief Health Officer, Dr John Gerrard. I acknowledge our former chief health officer, Dr Jeannette Young. I acknowledge our health minister and the former health minister, now Deputy Premier. I acknowledge the members on this side of the House, leaders of industry and community leaders who have been steadfast in their support for the health response through these unprecedented times.

I especially want to acknowledge every frontline worker in this state in every setting—whether that is in health, in schools, in transport, in fruit production, in retail, in utilities or in farming. Everyone has worked together. They have put our state in an incredibly strong position both nationally and globally. My point is that now is not the time to undermine all of the work that they have done. It would

be an affront to every one of those frontline workers, those Queenslanders, if we drop the ball now. We collectively in this House owe it to all of those who have worked so hard, and to those who have suffered loss, not to drop the ball now.

While the worst has past, it is not over yet. We know that. People are still being affected in Queensland—in this place, in our schools, in the public domain. People are continuing to lose their lives. We can see what is happening in other parts of the world as variants sweep in waves through communities and cities. Shanghai has just gone back into lockdown as cases surge amongst its 26 million citizens. COVID hospitalisations in Scotland last week reached the highest level seen during the pandemic—serious hospitalisations of desperately ill people. After a record of 1½ million infections last week, German health ministers are pushing to extend restrictions there as well.

We are continuing to take the evidence based advice of Queensland's Chief Health Officer, as we have done the whole way through the course of this pandemic. Our approach stands in contrast to that of other governments in places like New South Wales and South Australia, where that advice has not been followed. Where we have followed the Chief Health Officer's advice, we have seen us open our borders and open them safely. Where we have followed the Chief Health Officer's advice, we have seen that quarantine is no longer required in Queensland for fully vaccinated people and we have relinquished masks, except in very limited places such as in airports and on flights. The Chief Health Officer has made it clear that withdrawing all measures in one go would be reckless. We have heard that multiple times today.


The rates of infection our state is experiencing is proof enough that the pandemic is still with us. That is why careful and measured controls on exposure remain necessary to ensure that our already fatigued frontline services are not stretched even further. Yes, we have a duty to take into account the impact that the pandemic has had on people who provide essential services to our community—doctors, nurses, teachers, teacher aides, school cleaners and small businesses. We also have a duty that, as we pass the peak of the pandemic in Queensland, we do not throw the game just before the final whistle. Based on the Chief Health Officer's advice, it is clear that extending measures in relation to our public health response—specific measures that are limited to preventing the spread of COVID-19—is the appropriate course of action.

I note that amendments to COVID-19 laws which were temporary which provided regulatory relief to institutions that are not necessary any longer will expire, and that is entirely appropriate. I note as well that other measures that have been made permanent, such as those that were put in place to protect victims of domestic and family violence, have been made permanent, and we should acknowledge that. Yesterday we passed legislation to make permanent the position of the Small Business Commissioner—a position which was created to support businesses through the pandemic. It has proven to be immensely successful, and this House voted to make permanent that role in Queensland. We have permanently modernised the way that certain legal documents are signed and witnessed—affidavits, statutory declarations and general powers of attorney.

The measures that we put in place—everything from protecting victims of domestic violence to making sure we can continue to conduct business here in Queensland—has kept Queenslanders safe. It has protected Queenslanders' way of life and those measures have protected our economy. Here is the proof: 14,500 jobs were created in Queensland just last month—an incredible result—with 280,000 more jobs forecast to be created over the next three years because of the measures that were put in place and because of the measures that are proposed in this bill. We have created a thousand jobs a week every week for seven years straight, even through a pandemic. Business confidence is up and employment is down—down to around four per cent in January. From the very start of the pandemic, we progressively improved the level of protection for Queenslanders. We added more and more protection as we knew more and more about how the virus behaved and its impact on the population.

As we come out of this pandemic, we will progressively reverse those restrictions that have been put in place to keep Queenslanders safe. A mark of Queensland's response to the pandemic has been our decisive action. I acknowledge that not everyone in the community I represent, nor across the state or across the globe, agrees with our approach. Members opposite do not agree with our approach. By and large, Queenslanders do respect our decisions and our approach and they do the right thing to keep each other safe. We should, in turn, respect that and thank each and every one of them for that. We will continue to act decisively to protect Queenslanders. However, it should be noted that decisive does not mean rash. What it means is that Queenslanders can be confident—and our economic data proves that Queenslanders are confident. As the health minister said in her explanatory speech, '... 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.'

It is clear that our government, along with Queenslanders, has led this state to a point where we are now transitioning towards us living with COVID-19, but transition must not mean a cliff over which Queenslanders are plunged into an abyss. These provisions remain a critically important guardrail for the health of Queenslanders and for the Queensland economy. For those reasons, I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (2.59 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2022. At the outset, I want to extend my condolences to the families and friends who have lost loved ones during the COVID-19 pandemic. I also want to acknowledge all of the frontline health workers who have provided care and kept our health services running during the pandemic. I commend them for the work they have done, particularly those staff in my area who did rounds of lots of different hospitals doing the vaccinations.

COVID-19 has had an impact on the mental health of many people. They have lost their livelihoods, some have lost their businesses, others have lost their jobs and others were separated from their families and their support. COVID has been hard economically, socially, physically and mentally for everyone. For those who live along our state's borders—for example, communities in my electorate like Mungindi—they even struggled at times to be able to get a bottle of milk. The double standards were difficult too. It was galling for Mungindi residents to read of the red carpet treatment given to the NRL entourage who jetted in from Sydney, whilst at the same time Queensland Health nurses who worked at the Mungindi Hospital in Queensland and lived on the New South Wales side of the border could not cross the border to come to work. Where was the health advice to downgrade the services at the Mungindi Hospital during a pandemic? Where was the health advice to lock the staff out of the hospital they worked at during a pandemic?

There needs to be more scrutiny of government decisions, and the health advice needs to be publicly released. I would like to know where the health advice has been to leave hospitals like Mungindi, Augathella, Cunnamulla and Quilpie for days and sometimes weeks without doctors during a pandemic. The hardworking local nurses and the on call emergency retrieval teams have been left to provide these communities with health care, and I want to thank them for keeping the doors of these hospitals open in the absence of doctors. It is disappointing that this Labor government does not properly resource these regional hospitals during a pandemic. The stress on people has been immense. The constant changes of criteria and the anomalies created by the government have been difficult, and they still are for those involved with our local agricultural shows.

As an opposition, we have been carefully considering the detail of the government's bill. The LNP recognise that the provisions contained in this bill are extraordinary. They give an unprecedented power to the Labor government, with little to no oversight. I only have to refer to the report of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee—which is an oversight committee—into the sacking of the Logan councillors to demonstrate how important oversight committees are.

The position which Queensland finds itself in now is very different to when this House debated similar extensions in August last year. At that time, the vaccine rollout in Queensland was still ramping up. More than 90 per cent of our state's adult population has now received two doses of COVID vaccine and some, like me, are triple vaccinated. I support vaccination and I ask those people who want to get vaccinated to please go and get vaccinated. At the beginning, it seemed unlikely that there would be such a safe and effective vaccine in such a short period.

COVID will not be eliminated because the symptoms are not easily recognisable. We need to look to the future as to how COVID will be managed on a permanent basis. Looking to that future, it is the responsibility of the government to provide a step-by-step road map grounded in expert advice that shows Queenslanders the path out of this pandemic. First on that road map should be dealing with the anomalies impacting showgrounds. Showgrounds and agricultural shows have been unfairly singled out, despite providing an annual economic contribution of \$141 million to local regional communities, and I will be going to the Dalby show on Friday.

All shows are asking for is to be treated equally like other events that are able to continue in the same communities on the same showgrounds. It is absurd that for one to two days during the show there are restrictions on who can enter; however, for other community events for the other 363 days these restrictions do not apply to the same people. I do not think the government understands the impost on local show society volunteers. There are 15,000 volunteers who are being blamed for the restrictions, when in fact it is the Labor government who are enforcing an anomaly through their requirements.

We were told things would be reviewed at 90 per cent vaccination—well, the government have sat on their hands. We still have no clear path forward and Queenslanders should know what that plan is. It is for this reason that the LNP are moving key transparency amendments to the bill. The LNP's amendment would see the extraordinary powers given to the government and the Chief Health Officer expire on 31 May 2022. The government has two months to outline a plan for the future. The LNP has consistently called for the expert health advice received by the state government—which is used as a rationale for implementing the public health directions—to be publicly released. It should be publicly released. We also want to establish a parliamentary committee which would routinely hold hearings with the Chief Health Officer to assess and scrutinise the health advice. This layer of parliamentary oversight would be in line with other Australian and international jurisdictions.

The LNP back the AHPPC guidelines for frontline staff and aged-care staff to be vaccinated. We have backed them from the beginning, and I support vaccination. The amendments set a target for the transition away from restrictions. They say to the government, 'What's your plan?' They say to the government, 'As a parliament and as a population, we've upheld our end of the bargain for two long years. Now it's time the government did the same.' They also seek to increase the level of transparency in government decision-making so that all Queenslanders can understand why certain restrictions are imposed.

The opposition believe the government has not undertaken an appropriate level of scrutiny which is necessary for a bill as significant as this. Despite these powers existing for more than two years, with ample time to prepare for a proper and thorough review of the bill, the government has chosen to undertake a rushed process again. The public hearing with Queensland Health lasted one hour. That is one hour of questioning. It is not appropriate that a bill of this magnitude is subject to such little scrutiny. The opposition believe that the level of ongoing parliamentary oversight for a bill of this nature is insufficient.

Under the bill as it currently stands, there is no requirement for the public health officials to formally answer questions or for the restrictions to be scrutinised by the Queensland parliament. The establishment of the parliamentary committee would see routine hearings with the Chief Health Officer and Queensland Health officials, and I think having those Queensland Health officials in there is particularly important. The committee would scrutinise the health advice, consider changes to the AHPPC advice recommended by the Commonwealth government, deliberate on appropriate quarantine requirements for international arrivals that may be carrying new strains of the virus or other viruses, and provide recommendations to the government on the suitability of other COVID related restrictions. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the opposition has called for the public release of the expert medical advice which has been used as a rationale for the restrictions. Clarity around decision-making is essential for public confidence. That is why the LNP and our shadow minister will move amendments stipulating that the health advice needs to be released publicly.

Queenslanders have displayed an extraordinary level of trust in the government by giving up basic rights and freedom to control the spread of COVID-19. They have done their bit. The opposition are of the view that we have a responsibility to honour this trust by outlining a pathway for the return of these rights and to restore transparency. We believe the amendments do just that, and I will be supporting the amendments as proposed by our shadow minister.



**Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (3.08 pm): I am pleased to be able to contribute to the debate on the Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2022 and give my support to its passage. I would like to extend my condolences to those families and friends who have lost loved ones due to COVID. I would like to touch on an issue that the member for Warrego raised about doctors in hospitals during a pandemic. What we saw last night with the federal government was the shameful slashing of funding to our health system and our public hospitals. They have refused to come to the party with all health ministers and departments across the country. They know that every state has a hospital system that is struggling. It is really shameful to see the opposition stand up and keep bleating on about funding for—

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Lui): Order! Member for Mudgeeraba.

**Mrs GILBERT**: It is really shameful that they do not call on the federal government to stand up and to stand with the states to make sure that every person in Australia has the health care that they deserve. The federal government continually refuse to fully fund places in our universities that target our rural health professionals and doctors. We need to get more places into our universities so that we

can train up those young doctors and nurses that want to go out to the rural areas which those opposite represent. Stand with us and make sure we get those places because we certainly need them, and young people want to go out there.

This bill extends the essential measures to support Queensland's public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As we see widespread outbreaks of the Omicron variant and subvariants across Australia, with continued hospitalisations and, sadly, deaths, the need for the emergency powers under the Public Health Act is clear. The extension of powers in this bill is necessary to protect the health of Queenslanders and keep them safe. That is not to say that the impacts of these necessary health measures have not been tough for some in our community, but we must remember things would be a lot worse if restrictions had not been in place to limit and respond to the spread of COVID-19.

In Queensland it has not been about the survival of the fittest; it has been about protection for all. We have seen the devastating effects of not acting early and decisively in other jurisdictions. We know that restrictions will continue to save lives, particularly for our vulnerable communities as we navigate the next few months of unfamiliar territory. This virus is still new. We do not know what is in front of us, and we need to be prepared to be able to act quickly if necessary.

The low number of cases and deaths in Queensland in the recent Omicron wave can be attributed to the Chief Health Officer's considered and measured approach. The Chief Health Officer has used his powers to successfully respond to the COVID-19 emergency, mitigating impacts of borders reopening, quarantine requirements being removed for vaccinated travellers and schools returning, all while COVID-19 circulates in Queensland. The power to issue public health directions remains critical to Queensland's effective response and cannot be allowed to lapse on 30 April this year.

We must remember that Queensland is only in the great economic shape that we are experiencing now because of the ability of the Chief Health Officer to give quality advice to the Premier and to the Minister for Health so that they are able to make short, sharp decisions about lockdowns and mask-wearing where necessary.

During 2019, I remember when it was only Queensland students on the eastern seaboard attending classes while other states were in forced homeschooling to stop the spread of COVID. As assistant minister for health and regional health infrastructure, I would like to once again place on record my thanks to all those who have worked so hard to protect the health of Queenslanders. The work of our hospital staff, frontline workers, paramedics, police, teachers and supply chain workers have all been essential in keeping Queenslanders safe and Queensland functioning during the pandemic.

Last week the Mackay HHS held a lovely thankyou celebration to celebrate a year since opening the Mackay vaccination hub. It was originally situated at CQUniversity, but quickly had to be moved to the Mackay Showgrounds as it quickly outgrew the university accommodation. Thank you once again to all the hardworking staff who delivered thousands of jabs and to the auxiliary support staff who made the flow through the centre quick and efficient for our locals.

The team, under the guidance of the wonderful Julie Rampton, the executive director of COVID response in Mackay, and the pharmacist, Ron Nightingale, fearlessly and tirelessly led the charge. They not only ran an efficient hub but also coordinated pop-up hubs at shopping centres, Bunnings, schools, sporting events and festivals, and we all joked that if there was a bloke down town with a guitar, they would have a team there popping up to jab anybody who stopped and listened. Every time there was some event going on, they were there. The weather up my way has been hot, steamy and uncomfortable in a lot of these outreach locations. When I visited, there was Julie and Ron there supporting their staff. They made sure that they were out there doing the tough work that they were asking the nurses and other staff to do. I want to thank them all for their commitment and their drive to save lives.

The COVID testing team also turned up to the celebration because their hub is also in the Mackay Showgrounds. They are also out there working in hot PPE in the steamy North Queensland summer weather. They are not complaining; they are just getting on with it. For that, I thank them.

For those who think that COVID is a thing of the past, the team was telling me how more and more people are getting out to festivals and travelling around and they have seen a jump in presentations at the testing centre. They are finding that the positive results are rising, so we cannot let our COVID radar down.

I would just like to say that everyone has the right to protest in a respectful way but, unfortunately, in January this year a group of similar protesters to those who we have seen outside parliament recently took it upon themselves to rampage through a local shopping centre in Mackay, all in the name of




freedom. Within the shopping centre, they terrified families doing their Saturday morning catch-ups with friends at coffee shops or just doing their shopping. Parents had to whisk their terrified children out of the centre. Frightened shop assistants closed their stores with frightened shoppers taking refuge in their stores. It was just terrible. Parents and grandparents told me that they were yelling anti-vaccination slogans at their small children. The staff at the pop-up vaccination centre were the focus of their protest. Just imagine the noise that was being made outside here inside a closed shopping centre. The mob was harassing the workers who were carrying out their duty at the pop-up vaccination hub. All people that are carrying out work should be able to do so without fear. Three protesters were arrested that day.

Those members in this parliament who have been supporting the protesters outside need to stand up in this House and condemn the out-of-control actions of rogue members from their group. We have no problems with those who are protesting peacefully.

I also want to send out a huge thankyou to every person who has been vaccinated, worn a mask or taken a COVID test when they have been feeling unwell. They have contributed to ensuring that COVID numbers remain low in Queensland. I thank everyone for continuing these efforts to keep themselves, their families and their loved ones safe.

While Queenslanders have come out in force to be vaccinated, unfortunately our children are lagging behind. I urge parents to get their children vaccinated to protect them and their elderly relatives. While it is mostly mild for children, they are not immune to serious disease, so we need to get them vaccinated.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (3.18 pm): I rise to speak on the Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill. I, too, join with my parliamentary colleagues to offer my condolences to those families who have lost loved ones and to our frontline workers who have worked particularly hard across many of our emergency response areas. Well done to them.

This bill extends the expiry date of the emergency COVID-19 provisions to the end of October, making it more than 2½ years of living under emergency powers. It is arrogant to repeatedly extend unprecedented powers with little openness and transparency on restrictions and health directives.

Temporary powers will be extended, including physical distancing, restricting movement and gatherings, requirements to quarantine or self-isolate including compliance, sharing and protecting personal information for contact tracing, increasing from seven to 90 days for which a regulation may extend a public health emergency regulation, and charging for mandatory quarantine.

The current emergency provisions expire at the end of April. When they were extended last August the vaccination rollout was in its early stages. The government promised Queenslanders it would review the situation when 90 per cent of the population was vaccinated. Ninety per cent of our adult population is now double vaccinated and yet the government refuses to keep its promise. It does nothing. It abuses the trust of Queenslanders because it wants to keep these extraordinary powers.

Queenslanders have little trust in the reasons behind the rules. They showed it when they stopped checking in. They stopped wearing masks because they know they are being manipulated. People have given up; they have had enough. Trust in the government is diminished because its word does not mean much. Before the pandemic our health system was already stretched and struggling. At the time, the government argued it needed provisions to help it buy time to build capacity in the health system. It has wasted the last two years. Queensland Health is in crisis because the government has avoided fixing it.

The Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service's Master Clinical Services Plan for 2022-2027 admits that Gympie Hospital is not up to the task. It is spread across poorly connected, multi-age buildings and is constricted by its location at the top of a steep hill. Gympie needs a new hospital at a different site. The minister's speech justified the extension of powers on the basis that circulation of the virus in the community had the potential to significantly impact hospital systems. On that basis the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties' submission said that, given the current state of our medicine, it would be forever and that that leads to the conclusion that the government will keep these emergency powers for as long as it likes.

There is a real concern that the upcoming flu season will be tough and the Gympie Hospital will not cope. Numerous staff have told me that I have been misled by the minister about the real state of the delivery of services and the staff available at the hospital. Upheaval due to the pandemic has drastically disrupted many Queenslanders' lives. It has been devastating. Many are still trying to

recover. Two years ago everyone believed the mantra that we are all in this together. Queenslanders did what was asked of them. They displayed an extraordinary trust by giving up their basic rights and freedoms.

During the last two years we have seen too many examples of one set of rules for celebrities, elites and the protected and another set for everyone else. Cookie-cutter and blanket mandates have significantly impacted regional and rural communities which have carried an uneven share of the burden. The government has little to no concern about the unnecessary damage it has done and is still doing to many communities. They were extraordinary provisions two years ago and they are still extraordinary. They give unprecedented power to the government with little to no oversight. Emergency powers should be used in only the most stringent circumstances and should be reviewed within the tightest time frames. They should not be used to bypass our parliamentary democracy and the oversight of the parliament. The LNP amendments will seek to deliver transparency, limit the extension of powers to 31 May and establish a parliamentary oversight committee.

The government avoids openness, transparency, scrutiny and accountability. More than two years of these emergency powers is plenty of time to review and scrutinise them, yet the government still rushed the process. The committee had only 31 days to examine the bill and was given only 60 minutes to question health officials. The public had barely two weeks to make submissions. Health officials are not required to formally answer questions and the parliament cannot scrutinise restrictions.

The QCCL called the powers 'the most draconian powers that have existed in Queensland including in wartime'. Without amendment, the passing of this bill would mean yet another six months before provisions could be scrutinised. Queenslanders are so concerned that the overwhelming majority of more than 4,000 submissions were against the bill. The committee chair wrote—

Your perspectives and feedback are essential to the decision-making processes of Government.

Their submissions were ignored. I have received 603 from Gympie residents alone. The government indulges in hollow words of self-congratulations. It is a nonsense for the government to imply it can protect people against everything. The QCCL said—

Freedom has enormous value in our society and that includes the freedom to take on some risk.

Some communities have borne, and still carry, an immense and disproportionate sacrifice. An honest reflection on the impact of these decisions would consider the lives lost due to adverse mental health issues caused by government overreach as well as the anguish caused by businesses folding, jobs lost, families divided and community organisations made to bear unreasonable restrictions imposed on their volunteers and supporters.

Good governance does not carelessly impose a greater burden on some communities than others. Good governance does not impose unilateral and unreasonable restrictions. The government unilaterally closed licensed armourers and gun dealers under the cover of COVID-19. It could not have done it faster. Cabinet ministers apparently had no idea of the impact it would have on pest controllers and primary industries. It was ludicrous and impractical. In a three-day turnaround it reluctantly reversed the decision. The government has never provided the Chief Health Officer's medical advice on why they were a risk. Good governments trust people with the information it uses to base its decisions on; they treat the public with respect.

Agricultural shows have been postponed, cancelled or significantly downgraded and restricted. This is a direct result of the onerous and contradictory restrictions applied solely to shows. The government is silent. I have written to the Premier but have heard nothing. The agriculture minister, who is also supposed to be interested in regional communities, is not standing up for shows. The minister is happy to turn up but remains mute and does nothing as double standards are applied to the major community event in regional and rural areas. No-one knows why because the health advice is not published.

Rules are applied solely to the holding of the Gympie Show and a show fundraiser but not to other events and activities at the same venue. In February mandates prevented the show society holding its major fundraiser to help pay up-front costs, yet a similar event was allowed with none of the restrictions at the Mary Valley State College in the same month. The Queensland Human Rights Commission's submission said to maintain public confidence—

... it needs to be as open and transparent as possible and ... that statements of reasons are provided, the evidence behind those decisions is provided ...

Unvaccinated volunteers are not allowed on Gympie showgrounds—they are not allowed to help—yet they can go to the local hardware stores or the supermarket. No-one knows why. As the QCCL said, the advice should be published.

Under current emergency mandates, the show is expected to comply with onerous record keeping and they must police attendees. It is not logistically possible and the show cannot afford to fund additional manpower. The rules are inconsistent. When the showgrounds were used as an evacuation centre during our second worst flood, the compulsory vaccination regulations went out the door. Government members talk about a small price to pay. This is not a small price for our community or the many community organisations which raise thousands from manning gates, parking, traffic control, cleaning facilities, and running bars and food stalls.

Our show would help bring our community together following the recent floods. The community deserves to know the medical advice which prevents it holding its show. In the interests of transparency and fairness, I support the LNP amendments. If these fail I will vote against the bill.



**Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (3.27 pm): We recognise that coronavirus has had a huge impact on our world; over six million people have already died. This is probably an undercount. We need to remember the incredible pain this caused for the families of those who died.

I want to say thank you to the healthcare workers and especially note, as did the member for Greenslopes, the thousands of healthcare workers who gave their lives in caring for others, including caring for those who chose not to take the basic preventive measure of getting vaccinated. We should remember the Queenslanders who died and express the condolences of this House to their families who miss them.

Recently I looked back on the speeches I have made on this subject. I note that we have debated the COVID-19 response a number of times. I counted five separate debates, but I note that the health minister nominated seven separate debates. I am really disappointed that those opposite, including the previous speaker, misled the House in saying that we have not examined the contents of this bill. The Economics and Governance Committee looked at the same extension of powers as did the health committee twice.

When I looked at my speeches the common theme in each was clear: the government led by Premier Palaszczuk was able to get the best advice and work with the Chief Health Officer to act quickly and firmly to protect Queenslanders. This has been vital in helping keep coronavirus out of Queensland, especially until all Queenslanders had the opportunity to be vaccinated. I want to speak briefly about vaccinations. We know that people who are unvaccinated are 10 times more likely to be hospitalised and die. That is an extraordinarily sobering thought.

We know that without so many Queenslanders getting vaccinated—in Logan, it is over 94 per cent—we would have seen many more Queenslanders and Logan residents sick and dying. We would have seen a far greater impact on businesses, schools and the services Queenslanders rely on. I, unlike many other members, continue to urge Queenslanders to follow their doctor's advice and get vaccinated. I have spoken to some good people in my electorate who continue to be uncertain about being vaccinated—they have seen unreliable information that feeds those doubts—however, I urge them to reconsider. With over 94 per cent of Logan residents being vaccinated, I can say with absolute confidence that the side effects of vaccination are minimal and, from the evidence presented, the benefits are clear. Over 4.5 billion people across the globe have been vaccinated. I ask people to please take this step to protect themselves and their family.

I note that some had doubts about mRNA vaccines which I think are misplaced. There simply is not the evidence to back it up. However, now we have the option of Novavax, which is more of a traditional vaccine. I say to those who remain unvaccinated: I respect that at the beginning of the process you may have had doubts, but it is clear now that those concerns and doubts have proved unfounded. Now is the time to look anew at vaccination and to speak with your doctor. I am sure that they will recommend vaccination to keep you and your family safe.

We hear from people who speak to us about rights, especially when it comes to mandates. I want to speak about a different right. We all have, as far as possible, a right to health—to go about our everyday life without unnecessarily being exposed to COVID-19; for example, to attend a hospital and know that the person who is giving us treatment has taken every precaution to try and keep us safe from a dangerous infectious disease. I want to say clearly when it comes to rights: there is no right to infect others with a dangerous disease. We care deeply on this side of the House—perhaps everyone does—about Queenslanders being able to go to work, to seek health care and to do what they wish.

We note that the Human Rights Commissioner, Mr McDougall, spoke about this issue in a hearing. As I said, we have heard this five times now. I asked him if was he making a health or epidemiological judgement and he said—

No, not by any means, Chair. I would not pretend for a moment to have any expertise to put to the commission—

I think he meant ‘committee’—

in a position where it was attempting to second-guess health decisions made by the Chief Health Officer. I think we have made that clear in our approach to the pandemic from the outset.

When we have this debate we must be very careful that the rights of one do not damage the rights of others. Whether it be accessing health care, being dealt with by the police or studying at school, people have the right to be as safe as possible from a dangerous disease.

I note that MPs have spoken previously about wanting to revisit this in three months. We dealt with this issue in the Economics and Governance Committee. I will read a question that one of the members of the committee asked someone who was asserting that it should be three months. The member said—

Mr Cope, this bill was introduced into the parliament in June. We are now halfway through July. It has to go to parliament in August. We have quite a period of legitimate questioning about the right to extend these powers.

At this point—which was the third or fourth time we had done it—the member was saying that we had deliberated on this extensively. He continued—

As we said, the sunset clause is going to take it through to April of next year. If we moved with your council's suggestion of 31 December—

the three-month suggestion—

then proper parliamentary processes for extending these powers and extending the legislation would have to start in about late October or November to formally inquire as to the right and proper way to extend this legislation further.

The member went on to say—

... we have all agreed with what you said and we all understand those sorts of matters—to take it through to December may well require a further process in about two months time. Whilst we love seeing you here making presentations to us, it seems a very short-sighted answer as to where this pandemic is at.

In that case, the member asked a quite long-winded question. It could legitimately be said that I was not authoritative enough as the chair to pull this person up. Was it the member for Hervey Bay or the member for Macalister who was criticising this three-month period? No. It was the member for Mermaid Beach who made the perfectly sensible argument that we should not immediately turn around to start the process again as soon as this House had determined it. It is clear that it is quite sensible to have this extension for six months.

I want to make it clear that this legislation is an enabling power. The Chief Health Officer has this enabling power to do the things that keep people safe. All those who argue against it are arguing against the Chief Health Officer having an enabling power. They want to second-guess the Chief Health Officer. That is the only logical conclusion to draw about those who do not wish to vote for this legislation.

We have seen dangerous suggestions from those opposite. They said in the middle of the Delta wave that they wanted the borders to be opened.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr POWER:** I hear the interjection that they were opened and that was the same. No, that is not true. How do we know this? Former premier Berejiklian made it absolutely clear when she said, ‘Deb would have opened it months ago’—not at a time when it was safe, with people vaccinated, but right in the middle of the Delta wave. We have it in black and white from the former premier of New South Wales.

**Mr Hart** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Lui): Member for Burleigh, order!

**Mr POWER:** This from a man who put up a billboard inviting sick people in.

**Mr Hart:** And that the government opened the border.

**Mr POWER:** And it would have been done months earlier if you had had your way. It is quite clear.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Burleigh, you are warned under the standing orders. I called you to order. Members, can we please let the member for Logan speak in peace for the last one minute and 27 seconds.

**Mr POWER:** I note that there is an amendment foreshadowed by the member for Traeger and that both the Greens and the LNP made a statement of reservation. Whenever I read them, I can hear a high-pitched noise. It is the dog whistle of those who do not have the strength to put what they want to say. It is a dog whistle to some of those protesters outside that secretly they are on their side. The member for Traeger has foreshadowed an amendment. If members intend to vote for this amendment, which says that unvaccinated people cannot be prevented from going into, in this case, healthcare or aged-care facilities—at least the Katter party is being honest.


**Mr LANGBROEK:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I ask that you enforce standing order 244 about referring to members by their correct title and district.

**Mr POWER:** I apologise and withdraw. I did it inadvertently. I am happy to continue.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Logan, I ask you to refer to other members in the chamber by their correct title.

**Mr POWER:** Thank you. My apologies. If the Greens and LNP members are on a unity ticket on this issue, we will see them voting for the foreshadowed amendment. If they do not, they will be revealed as only dog whistling for those outside and not standing for them.

Put simply, the legislation we have before us has served us well. It has resulted in Queensland having one of the best responses in the world, both economically and with health. We should not throw away this legislation too early. We need to take a careful, considered approach whereby we have these options even if we do not use them in the future.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (3.39 pm): At the outset, I wish to place on record my acknowledgement that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused significant disruption and upheaval to the lives of many people around the world and, more specifically, here in Queensland. I acknowledge those Queenslanders who have lost loved ones. I acknowledge those Queenslanders who have lost livelihoods and had to sell property. I want to acknowledge all of those people who have given up their freedoms and have restricted and curtailed the normal things they would do in their life so that we could get to this place.

I also want to thank the emergency workers, the doctors, the nurses, the ambos, LifeFlight, the police and everybody who has been involved on the front line of keeping our community safe and acknowledge the sacrifices that they have made to be away from their families to spend time looking after people who find themselves sick or infected. With that said, it is now time for us to reflect: how did we arrive here? We arrived here because there was a worldwide pandemic.

In February 2020 the Public Health (Declared Public Health Emergencies) Amendment Act came to this place which extended public health emergency regulations to 90 days. In March 2020—two years ago—the Public Health and Other Legislation (Public Health Emergency) Amendment Act was enacted, giving extraordinary powers to the Chief Health Officer and which had a sunset clause of 12 months. Given where we were at in the world at that time with the lack of vaccine availability and the things we did not know about the virus, I think that was a good decision that this House made with both sides of the House supporting that bill.

In March 2021—so we are one year into the pandemic—the Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Act is extended again for six months, so now we are at a little over 18 months of restricting people's freedoms. In September 2021 we were back in this place extending them beyond that extended six months. We had said 12 months and we then extended it six months and then six more months, and here we are again back in this place and if this bill passes the extraordinary powers that curtail various people's freedoms and abilities to operate in the state the way that they would like will be extended for another six months.

The question for me becomes: when and under what set of circumstances should these powers finish? When should some aspects of these powers be incorporated into normal legislation such as if someone is knowingly contagious that they should not be able to go to an old people's home? We can write that into plenty of pieces of legislation; we do not need to extend emergency powers to do that. There are many pieces of the puzzle here, and that is why the amendment that we are proposing goes through to 31 May—that is, to give the government time to bring those necessary things that we may have to have on an ongoing basis before this House so they can be incorporated into regular legislation rather than a continuum rolling ball of emergency powers.

I want to talk a little about the health crisis, because at the start of the pandemic there was great fear of how we would manage it, and rightly so because our health system was already failing without the pressure of COVID in an unvaccinated population. We had to be extremely cautious and this House supported legislation that was cautious. In my electorate we are now at 97 per cent vaccinated and the First Nations population is at 80 per cent, and we are trying to get that number up still, but our health system is still in crisis and it is not being caused by COVID; it is being caused by a complete lack of built environment for a hospital. What we need in Toowoomba is a new hospital. The one we have is 30 years old and has reached its end of life.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr WATTS:** I hear the chirping from those on the other side at a time when there has been a 100 per cent increase in federal government spending in health. The question is: why have the people of Toowoomba not got their hospital built? The only reason is that it is sitting on the minister's table. There are companies that will be involved in a PPP—

**Mrs D'ATH:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. This has absolutely nothing to do with the bill and the member should be brought back to the bill.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Lui): Member, I ask you to get back to the long title of the bill.

**Mr WATTS:** I will certainly get back to the bill. One of the components of the bill is for us to be able to manage people's health when they get COVID. One of the ways you do that is in a hospital. One of the ways you cannot do that is when the hospital is overcrowded and should have been replaced with a new hospital, but the minister was too lazy to put that forward.

**Ms KING:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My point of order is that you have just provided guidance to the member to bring him back to the bill and he has continued to speak to that former topic.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, I please ask you to get back to the long title of the bill.

**Mr WATTS:** The long title of the bill is about emergency powers which are to do with making sure we have a healthy population and that we can look after that healthy population. I understand that the other side might not think that hospitals play a part in that, but I have heard a number of people talking about hospitals.

**Government members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr WATTS:** Let me move on, because clearly they do not want to build a hospital in Toowoomba even though there are those who would fund it. So let me move on. We have a situation—

**Mrs D'ATH:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe that the member is deliberately ignoring your advice to not refer to those matters. They are not relevant to the bill.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I will seek advice from the clerks. Member, I have asked you to get back to the long title of the bill. I have given you guidance and I may have to reconsider if you continue to stray from the long title of the bill.

**Mr WATTS:** Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. What we have on the other side is a party that promised that at 90 per cent vaccination rate it would review where we were at as a population. What we now find is that we are at 90 per cent—in fact, we are over 90 per cent—and yet we are back in this place extending these emergency powers forward into the future. Let us talk about what these powers mean and what they can do. The real question here is: should people in our society be free? Should they be free to live their lives without government interference in their lives? There is always going to be some level of government control in people's lives, and that is appropriate and that is what this House is for. However, there are those on the other side who constantly have a view that is a dystopian future for the people of Queensland. One is about maintaining power and control over the people of Queensland and telling them how it will be. I swore an oath when I came into this place to well and truly serve the people of Queensland, not control their lives as those on the other side would do.

Propaganda is information that is unusually biased to promote a political cause. If something comes forward from the Chief Health Officer, then publish the advice so that five million people can trust the decision. If the government of the day chooses not to publish that advice, it is nothing more than propaganda for political purposes. That is what needs to change in this whole process—that is, the health advice needs to be available for the five million people of Queensland so they can make sensible decisions about their own individual rights and their own individual health. I am triple vaccinated and my family are all vaccinated and I would encourage people to talk to their medical

practitioner about being vaccinated, but I would ask this government with its dystopian view of the future to seriously consider the mental health crisis that has been caused by the fear that it has driven into the community. Some 500 years ago a book was written by Machiavelli, *The Prince*, and it states—

It is better to be feared than loved. If no-one can be both, then it is better to be feared. It is safer than being loved since people with fear can easily be manipulated and controlled into following the demands of their rulers.

I am in this place—

**Government members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!


**Mr WATTS:** It is amazing how they will try to—

**Government members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member, you have the call.

**Mr WATTS:** They will try to silence me because the population has been terrified, but the medical advice has not been published. People have not been able to see what it is we are running from.

This is a serious issue, but it is certainly not more serious than a democratic society having the right to operate and govern itself. This legislation should be amended so that we have an opportunity to put into law the things that we need to keep and get rid of what we do not need so that Queenslanders can get on with their lives. That was the commitment they were given by the government when we got to 90 per cent. If it is not going to be at 90 per cent, when do Queenslanders get their lives back? When does this dystopian government stop reaching into people's lives and making them scared of their own shadow so that they cannot get on with their lives? It is time to review this legislation and cast it out.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (3.49 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill. Queensland has done a remarkable job managing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. One only has to listen to the previous speaker to know why he had to resign from the shadow ministry for holding a street party at the height of a world health pandemic.

**Mr HART:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Lui): Can I remind the chamber to cease all cross-chamber interjections. What is your point of order, member for Burleigh?

**Mr HART:** Noting your ruling on the member for Toowoomba North a few minutes ago, I would ask you to apply the same rule on relevance to the minister.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Burleigh, I am listening carefully to the minister's contribution and her contribution is in line with the long title of the bill.

**Ms GRACE:** We are in the middle of a world health pandemic. The way that Queenslanders have risen to the occasion to ensure that we have kept Queensland safe has been remarkable. We are leading the world and they are looking to what we did in this state to manage an outbreak of a very serious virus that has not only affected Queensland, that has not only affected Australia, but has affected the whole world. Listening to those opposite, one would swear that we were hearing of a virus that was nothing more than a walk in the park. In my 63 years of being alive I have never before lived through a world health pandemic.

**A government member:** You don't look it!

**Ms GRACE:** Thank you! I thought I would throw that in for good measure. We were one of the first states in this nation to quickly and decisively put in place measures to keep Queenslanders safe. That is what this extension is all about. People think we are out of the woods. Look around; we are not out of the woods yet. It is premature to suggest that these powers should be diminished on some notion of freedom and people being able to do what they want.

Queenslanders have had a pretty good run compared to the rest of the world, and compared to the rest of Australia, when it comes to what they have been able to do. It was when we opened the borders and the variant that we have at the moment came in that disruption was at its peak. That is exactly what we warned people would happen when the borders opened: that it would spread, people would need to take time off, they would need to isolate and businesses and ordinary families would be

impacted. That is exactly what happened. In fact, I was impacted myself. Thank goodness that I was triple vaccinated, as I know many others in this House are. Being triple vaccinated assisted me in getting over the virus. Let me tell members, when you get it, it is no walk in the park.

I want to thank Queenslanders, who have been admirable in playing the role that they needed to play to keep people safe. I commend the Premier on the role that she has played in leading this state.

Debate, on motion of Ms Grace, adjourned.

## MOTIONS

### Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders



**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (3.54 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders:

- (a) the Premier and Minister for the Olympics be permitted to immediately move a motion without notice regarding the federal budget with the following time limits to apply—
  - five minutes for each member;
  - total time before question put—1 hour;
- (b) standing orders 87 and 231 are suspended for this motion; and
- (c) the private member's motion to commence immediately after the conclusion of the debate on the motion moved by the Premier and Minister for the Olympics.

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, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Madden, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

**NOES, 38:**

**LNP, 31—**Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

**Grn, 2—**Berkman, MacMahon.

**KAP, 3—**Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

**PHON, 1—**Andrew.

**Ind, 1—**Bolton.

Pairs: Harper, Janetzki; Richards, Robinson.

Resolved in the affirmative.

### Federal Budget



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (4.01 pm): I move—

That this House:

1. notes the failure of Prime Minister Scott Morrison to deliver Queensland our fair share of funding in this year's federal budget, handed down on Tuesday, 29 March; and
2. calls on Prime Minister Scott Morrison to start providing Queensland with our fair share of Commonwealth funding, particularly funds for critical health care, flood recovery, infrastructure, renewable energy and housing affordability.

It is deeply disappointing that last night's federal budget failed to deliver Queensland's fair share. Queensland was not asking for too much from Scott Morrison; just our fair share. We did not get our fair share on flood disaster recovery funding. We did not get our fair share when it came to critical health. We did not get our fair share on infrastructure and roads funding. We did not get our fair share on water infrastructure funding and we did not get our fair share on renewable energy funding.

Today in federal parliament we saw a key example of how Queensland gets treated differently to New South Wales. For years more money has gone into New South Wales and Victoria than into Queensland. In question time today the federal member for Oxley asked why flood impacted people in Goodna were not receiving the same assistance as people in northern New South Wales. To the best



of my recollection, the Prime Minister said that it was because northern New South Wales experienced a one-in-500-year flood. Well, it was a pretty bad flood here. In fact, the same weather system moved from Queensland into New South Wales. It was the same weather system.

How come a family living in Goodna, a family living in Gympie, a family living in the northern suburbs or a family living anywhere else in Queensland that has been impacted and has lost everything is treated differently to a family living in northern New South Wales? Why? It is absolutely disgraceful! It is an absolute disgrace that not one member of the LNP—and it is nice to see that they have woken up from their afternoon naps to come in here—has stood in this House and demanded Queensland's fair share for flood impacted victims. The Minister for Transport has been to street after street to visit flood impacted people who have lost everything—absolutely everything. Their whole life is on the street. Imagine how you would feel if that were you. However, not one person from that side of the House has stood up to demand that the Prime Minister backs in our \$771 million for flood recovery and assistance.

This is the day that Queensland stands up and says, 'Enough is enough!' With the federal election looming, I expect every single person who has been impacted in Queensland will stand up and say that Queensland should be treated equally to New South Wales. We get up, we do the work, we stand up and we go and help people in our communities.

**Mr Dick:** We carried the country during COVID.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right: we worked hard during COVID. Queenslanders have always done the right thing. They have always done everything that they have been asked to do and they have been absolutely duded. Later we will debate the opposition motion on infrastructure. The Sunshine Coast has been duded as well. The member for Maroochydore has been here for nearly 30 years. What has the member for Maroochydore delivered for the Sunshine Coast? Absolutely nothing!

**Ms SIMPSON:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Premier's accusations are unfair, misleading—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): No, I do not want a speech, member. What is your point of order?

**Ms SIMPSON:**—and I ask that the offensive comments—

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

**Ms SIMPSON:** The Premier's comments are misleading and offensive and I ask that they be withdrawn.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** There is a process to follow, that you would well know, if you think something is misleading in the House. Premier, I ask you to withdraw those comments.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I withdraw. The Leader of the Opposition stands in here every day—or nearly every day; he nearly forgot today—to ask questions about health. What did they do in Canberra? They cut the health budget! That is what the LNP does. They did it when they were in government here and they are doing it federally as well. The time is coming. The federal election is nigh. Very shortly everybody will have a chance to cast their judgement on the Morrison LNP government. They will absolutely have their chance.

We will stand with Queenslanders and we will fight for Queensland every single day that we are in government. The Leader of the Opposition now has the choice to stand here and back in my calls to demand money for flood resilience to help the people impacted by floods. Will he stand up—

*(Time expired)*



**Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (4.07 pm): I always say that we work best when we work together. Of course, when we are in the shadows of a federal election, as we saw before the last one, this parliament becomes a theatre for those desperate to change government in Canberra. What is most disappointing is that, when that is the case, partnerships that can deliver for people take a back seat to partisan politics. It is music to my ears when the Premier talks about a fair share because that is something we should be fighting for. We should be fighting for it regardless of the colour of the government in Canberra.

The Premier could not say it but I will: Mr Albanese, the Leader of the Opposition. If Mr Albanese is elected as prime minister of this country I will be willing to work with Mr Albanese because that is what good state governments do. It is what good people in public office do. Rather than taking this opportunity for the parliament to put a focus on things that we can control, this has turned into a theatre for bashing Canberra. The test for the Premier is this: would she continue this bravado if the government

were to change? In the meantime, I have a suggestion for the Premier. If we are looking for flood mitigation, and there are few causes more worthy than that, this state has not built a dam in a generation. This state has not—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order, Deputy Premier! Order, Treasurer!

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** This state has not embarked on the flood mitigation it has needed. This state has not built levees or detention basins for over seven years. Do members know the best way to deliver? Mr Deputy Speaker, you may be struggling to hear me but I will continue despite that. The best way to deliver flood mitigation would be to make a detailed proposal to the Commonwealth and say, 'This is why we back this proposal.' When governments choose to make funding submissions through the media, is it any wonder that political argy-bargys undermine the opportunity to get flood mitigation?

**Mr Dick** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Comments will come through the chair, Treasurer.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I am trying to respectfully deal with an issue. The issue is that good governments work together. Good governments put forward good, costed proposals. I back the plan to provide flood mitigation for this state. I would work with any government in Canberra to do so, as I do about the health system. Every day I will get up and fight for my fair share for this state—every day.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, members!

**Mr Dick** interjected.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** No—

**Mr Dick** interjected.


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** In terms of the level of interjection, I know there is a lot of feeling in this debate and I know there are lots of people who want to have a say. There will be plenty of opportunity to get yourselves on the speaking list.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** You are right, Mr Deputy Speaker. Any reduction in health funding should be resisted. I have fought hard in terms of the level of reduction for the HHSs in this state; \$400 million in the past three years. I will fight Canberra in terms of any reduction. Health is the responsibility of the state. A good state government would heal the health crisis by doing two things: first, they would work with Canberra to get our fair share; secondly, they would listen to doctors and nurses about putting them back in charge of fixing—

*(Time expired)*

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumbidgee—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (4.12 pm): I rise to address and support the motion moved by the Premier. I had hopes there for a moment! The Leader of the Opposition stood up and said, 'We work best when we work together.' I thought that maybe something has changed. Maybe he is going to work together with us to get a fair share for Queensland. Maybe he is going to work together with us and say that we should get our fair share, but of course he cannot—his masters in Canberra are too powerful. They will not let him. He knows in his heart that the LNP federal government's budget does not give Queensland their fair share. He says that he will not bash Canberra. We are not asking him to bash Canberra; we are just asking him to ask Canberra. All we are asking is for them to support our efforts to get a fair share for Queensland.

I was one of the few people who listened in to a couple of the Leader of the Opposition's press conferences. Day after day he suggested that we should put together a resilience package. He even misled Queenslanders and suggested he was the only minister who had ever delivered a resilience package, which is actually not true. He suggested that we should have a resilience package and then, the day we announced that we would half-fund a resilience package, do members know how many times he has mentioned it since? None. There has been silence since then. Not once has he said that the LNP in Canberra should fund the other half of our resilience package. He says that he will support

detailed, costed policies that deliver resilience. That is exactly what our resilient household recovery program will do, but there is not an ounce of support from those opposite. On health, housing, education and infrastructure Scott Morrison and the LNP have short-changed Queensland.


This budget includes a shameful \$21 million cut from hospital funding for Queensland next year, a \$176 million cut to Queensland hospitals over the forward estimates compared to the Morrison government's own MYEFO, its own last budget statement. Queenslanders know that the LNP only know how to do one thing when it comes to hospitals—to cut them. We know that we do not make health better by cutting its funding. When will they learn? The Leader of the Opposition said that he would resist any cut in health funding. Well, he should show us how he intends to resist. Issue a statement. Put out a press statement. Write a letter and release it to the public. He said that health is a state responsibility. Health is funded under a national partnership agreement between the states and territories and the Commonwealth. A national partnership agreement that was originally negotiated with a view to reaching 50 per cent funding of hospitals between the states and territories and the Commonwealth, a commitment to fifty-fifty funding, has been abandoned by the LNP. If the Leader of the Opposition has an ounce of honesty in his claim that he will resist cuts to funding for health, he should put out that statement, write the letter and release it.

Billions of dollars of funding in this budget went to renewable energy projects in New South Wales and in Tasmania but, once again, there is nothing for Queensland. Queensland is expected to have net interstate migration of 130,000 people in this budget, more than any other state and territory, but no funding for infrastructure to deal with that growth, no funding for the 17 flood mitigation projects, including upgrading the flood gauges, and no funding for Toowoomba Hospital.

**Mr Dick** interjected.

**Dr MILES:** I take that interjection: not a dollar. The LGAQ described the faults in the flood warning network as alarming. Gaps in the network mean Queensland communities are not getting accurate, vital information as swiftly as they should. What could be more important than that? In terms of the federal government's refusal to fund flood victims in Queensland to the same level as those in New South Wales, surely nothing else can get the opposition to support Queenslanders than the notion that in Lismore you deserve three times as much as you do in Queensland if your house flooded. That should be enough to prompt some action.

*(Time expired)*

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (4.17 pm): It is disappointing that the Premier's best resort is to get nasty and personal rather than address the issues.

**Honourable members** interjected.

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

**Ms SIMPSON:** It has been noticed.

**Mr Dick** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, Treasurer!

**Ms SIMPSON:** Integrity issues go to the heart of how taxpayers' money is spent. They go to the heart of how this government does business. When it starts to expose the dirty deals with Labor lobbyists whose hands are in the pockets of taxpayers, back channelling through ministers, subverting the democratically elected process of having transparent decision-making, we know that this government is under pressure. They get dirty; they get mean.

We must address the issue of what we want to see happen in regard to fighting for Queensland's fair go and fair share of federal funding, but also the fair go for all of Queensland, how this state government does business and how funds are spent. We have not seen that. It has been bitterly disappointing to see this government so partisan that its members waste opportunity and waste time.

Members opposite want to talk about flood resilience. I know that my colleague the member for Warrego, Ann Leahy, has been visiting communities that have been through the heartache and devastation of the floods. One message that Ann, the member for Warrego, can talk to is finding out about infrastructure for which this state government is responsible but that it has not acted to address in a timely way.

If those opposite want flood resilience and want to address climate change and climate impacts one would think, with reports done as far back as 2011, they would have acted. This is not about coming up with a con job a week ago and saying, 'We have a \$700 million wish list for the federal government because in a week's time there is a budget and we had better put something out.' This is about the last

seven years of government when they have done nothing. They have known about substations that flood. They have known about water and sewerage utilities that are located in places that flood time and time again. They have known about schools that are vulnerable. They know about the inner-city west site in Perrin Park, Toowong, that floods. I took a photograph of this site as I was able to get out there during the floods. They still want to build the school there. Is their idea to fill up the site and to heck with everybody else who may be flooded as a consequence of putting in flood mitigation for the new school in a bad flooding zone and in an area that is terrible to access?

We want to see infrastructure. We want to see the dollars that come from the federal government spent correctly. It is time that those who are responsible for delivering the infrastructure—those with the boots on the ground; the state government—and responsible for how the money is spent did their job. They are not doing it. We know that this government has cut health funding by over \$400 million with the efficiency dividend. I know that the member for Mudgeeraba will outline some of the cuts this government has made to frontline services.

We also know that they have not done their job with regard to transport. This Premier was sitting in cabinet when former premier Anna Bligh tore up the project to duplicate the north coast rail line. Here we are in 2022 and finally it is about to happen.

The problem is that the money they get they misspend and mismanage. It is time that there was a transformation and the money received directly from taxpayers in Queensland was spent responsibly. I expect that I will get more of the usual nasty, mean abuse from the Treasurer when he stands up, but we want to see transformation of the infrastructure program in Queensland.

We want to see our fair share from Canberra, but we want to see this state government do its job and be fair. Do not just say that that is a blue area and that is a red area and we are not going to give money. That is what was inferred by Treasurer Dick in regard to the announcement by the federal government of \$1.6 billion for coastal rail. It does not just go through LNP seats; it also goes through Labor held areas.

We want to see transformative infrastructure rolled out across this state that benefits all of Queensland. That is why we will call out the dirty, rotten deals that this government does in the corridors with Labor lobbyists with regard to projects that do not go to tender and contracts that are let. They make life hard for those who stand up and speak up about integrity.

*(Time expired)*



**Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (4.22 pm): I am minded to move an extension of time, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Opposition members:** Please do.

**Mr DICK:** There is only so much—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): The motion was not put so there is no need to engage in debate.

**Mr DICK:** There is only so much I can subject members of this House to. I am very proud to rise in the House this afternoon to support the motion moved by the Premier. As I said this morning, the Morrison government's budget has failed Queensland and it fails Queenslanders. It is a budget for the next six weeks and not the next four years. It is designed to save the political bacon of the Prime Minister and does not set a clear vision for the future of our nation. Just like Scott Morrison abandoned Queensland during the floods, he has left our state high and dry on health, infrastructure and energy funding. Just as Queenslanders know the member for Broadwater is a phony, they know the Prime Minister is a phony because Queenslanders can pick a phony a mile off.

Queenslanders, to give them their due, put their faith in Scott Morrison in 2019 and he has taken that faith and belief and sold Queenslanders out. They knew that Scott Morrison was a 'ruthless, backstabbing autocrat', a 'bully' with 'no moral compass' and 'no conscience' who was 'not fit to be Prime Minister' long before he was called those things by one of his closest colleagues Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells in the Australian Senate. This is someone who has worked alongside the Prime Minister in the Australian parliament since 2007—for 15 years. She calls him—someone who knows him the best—a 'ruthless, backstabbing autocrat', a 'bully' with 'no moral compass'—

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Pause the clock. I am sorry to interrupt, Treasurer. Member for Everton, that is unparliamentary language. I would ask you to withdraw.

**Mr MANDER:** I withdraw.

**Mr DICK:**—and 'no conscience' who was 'not fit to be Prime Minister'. I will tell members this much—

**Mr O'Connor** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Pause the clock. I had just asked that that be withdrawn. Member for Bonney, you can go on a warning and withdraw the language.

**Mr O'CONNOR:** I withdraw.

**Mr DICK:** They are happy to give it, but they cannot take it about their Prime Minister—a 'ruthless, backstabbing autocrat', a 'bully' with 'no moral compass' and 'no conscience'; 'not fit to be the Prime Minister'. This is from someone who knows him the best. Queenslanders know that as well.

When South-East Queensland was hit by the floods, our government leapt into action. Some 7,800 homes and commercial buildings were damaged. Countless lives were up-ended. Our government announced a \$771 million support package. What have we heard from the Prime Minister? Nothing! He cannot take the step to support our people at a time of crisis—simple action that would help flood-proof our state. There is nothing.

The cuts to health are in the DNA of the LNP. It does not matter whether one is in Brisbane or in Canberra, when it comes to health care and public health care they cut and cut again. That is what we saw in the budget last night—a cut next financial year and then cuts over the forward estimates. That is cuts on top of what they already promised just four months ago. They are cutting again in their budget.

If members thought they were dangerous on health care, they are downright dismal when it comes to Queensland housing. Scott Morrison is so out of touch with the stresses that face Queenslanders that this morning he told people struggling to find a place to rent to simply 'buy a house'. I thought there was no-one lower than Joe Hockey who said in 2014 that poor people do not drive cars. To Joe Hockey's credit, he apologised, but Scott Morrison does not know the meaning of the word 'sorry' and even if he did say it he would not mean it and he would not believe it. We simply cannot trust a single word that comes out of the Prime Minister's mouth.

I will tell members this much: when it comes to the election in May Queenslanders have worked out this phony. Some 75 per cent of Queensland seats in the House of Representatives—23 out of 30—are held by lazy LNP federal MPs on fat margins who have never delivered anything for this state. They are not delivering anything in this budget. They are not delivering anything for health care. They are not delivering anything for housing. They are not delivering anything for flood recovery. Queenslanders know a phony when they see a phony. That is exactly what this Prime Minister is. He is a complete phony and will be judged by the people of Queensland and the Commonwealth in the election in May. Bring on the federal election.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The House will come to order. Treasurer, there was some unparliamentary language used. Even if you are quoting it we do not allow it. I would ask you to withdraw.

**Mr DICK:** I withdraw.



**Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (4.28 pm): Let us make something very clear in this chamber today. It should serve as a reminder for those opposite about what their roles and responsibilities actually are. State governments run public hospitals—not Scott Morrison and not the Commonwealth government; the state government.

**Honourable members** interjected.

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

**Ms BATES:** Can you pause the clock?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Mudgeeraba, I will manage the clock. The clock can continue running. You have the call.

**Ms BATES:** The state government runs public hospitals, and that is the way it should be and that is the way it has been for a very long time. Those opposite are trying to absolve themselves of all responsibility when it comes to one of their fundamental roles—running our public hospitals.

I heard the Treasurer say this morning that Queenslanders had been duded, denied and done over. He is right because it is the Treasurer who has committed the act of dudding, denying and doing over himself. The Treasurer also said of the Commonwealth budget that they had put words in the budget but no money. The rank hypocrisy of the member for Woodridge was on display for all to see. That rank hypocrisy knows no bounds.

We know the Treasurer loves looking in the mirror, but it obviously was not for long enough this morning. If he had stared at himself a little bit longer and pondered just a little bit more before his ministerial statement, he would have remembered the Hospital Building Fund, worth an alleged \$2 billion, which he announced in June last year. The Hospital Building Fund, which he announced, is non-existent. That announcement was a joke. There is no \$2 billion in the Queensland budget. There is not even a line item. The Treasurer did not even try to hide his shambolic facade. There was no \$2 billion. It is an empty promise.

The Treasurer is an empty vessel with empty promises and empty words. He is full of one thing though—himself. Only someone completely oblivious to their own failings would come in here spouting such hypocritical drivel. It was pathetic. What about the \$400 million over the last three financial years that the government has cut from our hospital and health services? Let me repeat that: \$400 million. This year alone the state Labor government cut \$17 million from Metro South, \$15 million from the Gold Coast and \$14 million from the Sunshine Coast. This was done through what the government calls 'efficiency dividends'. They certainly are doing something efficiently. They are losing control of our public hospitals at breakneck speed.

For the benefit of the House, let us look in the Treasurer's own backyard to see how state-run healthcare services are performing in his part of the world. Treasurer, did you know at the Logan Hospital ambulance ramping is the worst in the state? It is 55 per cent. We know that two patients waited eight hours to be offloaded from an ambulance at Logan Hospital. The two people who waited eight hours could have been the minister's own constituents.

In the Logan Hospital ED, only 43 per cent of patients are seen within recommended time frames. It is the fifth worst ED in the state when it comes to seeing patients on time. When it comes to seeing a specialist, 38 per cent of patients will not see a specialist. That is the second worst record in the state. The Treasurer asked me to talk about health this morning. Well, here it is. What a shameful record! This is the hospital that the Treasurer's constituents go to in their hour of need. What is the Treasurer doing about it?

**Ms King** interjected.

**Mr Watts** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Member for Pumicestone and member for Toowoomba North, stop your quarrelling.

**Ms BATES:** The Treasurer cut \$17 million from the Metro South HHS—the same HHS which the Logan Hospital is situated in. The Treasurer cut health services for the people in his own electorate. These are the facts.

When are those on the other side going to own up to their own mess? I doubt that they ever will. To do so, they would have to acknowledge a public hospital system which they are losing control of. Thirty-eight per cent of ambulances are ramping across the state; it was 15 per cent when they came to government. More than a quarter of all ED patients are not seen on time. The elective surgery waiting list has nearly doubled since Labor came into government. More than one in 10 now do not get their elective surgery on time. We have a waiting list that would fill Metricon Stadium, with nearly 250,000 people. This is their record.

The Queensland Health crisis is real and those opposite are overseeing it. It is their record for the state hospital system, which they run. It is an absolute disgrace, and Queenslanders know all about it.



**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (4.33 pm): I am so glad that I got to follow the member for Mudgeeraba. She has just gone through what she says is a list of the problems in the health system but thinks that the federal government should not put any more money in. Isn't that interesting? There are all these problems, but no—the Morrison government should not put any money in because the states are responsible for hospitals, except that we have a national partnership agreement. It was the Abbott government that walked away from the fifty-fifty funding. It was the Turnbull government that arbitrarily put in the 6.5 per cent cap. It was the Morrison government that refused to fix those cuts from previous Liberal prime ministers.

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order! Member for Mudgeeraba, you have just given your speech.

**Mrs D'ATH:** What does that show us? It does not matter which Liberal prime minister is in: they are all going to rip money out of the health system. That is the reality of it.

Members do not need to take our word for it. Health stakeholders have been voicing their opinions. The member for Mudgeeraba would certainly not put anything out criticising the health budget unless her association, NPAQ—the anti-vaxxers—put something out which I suspect they never would. The national president of the Pharmacy Guild said—

... the government had squandered an opportunity to help millions of Australians better access critical medicines, relieving hip pocket pressures for working families and reducing the burden of preventable disease on our hospitals and emergency services.

Families are being forced to choose between medicines and immediate needs like food or fuel. This is bad news for their health and wellbeing and will translate into a higher burden on hospitals and emergency healthcare.

The Australian Medical Association said—

The Budget re-state the Commonwealth will only meet 45% cent of usual hospital costs, and that the 6.5% cap on hospital funding growth will remain.

Yet hospital Emergency Departments are full, ambulances are ramping, and the AMA estimates the waiting list for essential (elective) surgery has blown out by a further 190,000 surgeries with the COVID-19 elective surgery pauses, on top of the existing waiting lists.

The AMA were ignored. The Lung Foundation said—

As the peak lung health organisation, Lung Foundation Australia expresses a deep disappointment that the government has stalled progress by not funding a national screening program.

There is undeniable evidence for the screening program that has already had initial investment into scoping, but this lack of funding means progress will stall, and thousands of lives will be lost as a result.

The Australian Council of Social Service said—

The budget ends the Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment in June, which will hurt lowest-paid workers without access to sick leave. And while all workers, regardless of income, will get a tax deduction for their Rapid Antigen Tests, the free Rapid Antigen Tests for concession card holders will end, despite them being in greatest need of support.

The Australian Dental Association said—

Another Federal Budget that is light on for oral health. Once again we see an extension to the National Partnership Agreement for adult dental services—another Band-Aid to a system that is broken.

The National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation said—

NACCHO is tiring of singular announcements in Aboriginal health while the health gap fails to close. Structural reform is required and substantial funding investment. The last three big-spending budgets were the Government's opportunity to address this. They have failed to act.

The CEO Pat Turner said, 'As long as this \$4.4 billion gap remains and as long as there are funding gaps elsewhere—in particular, in housing—we cannot expect the unconscionable health gap to close. This Budget is an opportunity lost. NACCHO calls upon the Government to close the funding gap for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.'

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation said that this budget 'let down our critical health and aged care workforce' by not acting on aged-care pay or minimum staffing levels. The Grattan Institute described the 2022-23 budget as a 'standstill year for health and aged care'.

The Leader of the Opposition says, 'This is just cheap politics.' What about these key health stakeholders? Why don't their opinions count? Why has the Morrison government ignored their calls on an ongoing basis to lift funding in these spaces?

The LNP in Queensland might think that the federal government has nothing to do with health, but Queenslanders know that the federal government has a responsibility to fund health and to put funding into aged care and into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health services.



**Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (4.38 pm): What is the modus operandi of this government? It is: if you cannot deliver the services yourself, blame someone or something else. That is what this motion is all about. It is about blaming the federal government. I am amazed that Campbell Newman's name is not mentioned in this motion. I am amazed that COVID is not mentioned in this motion. I am amazed that the Brisbane City Council is not mentioned in this motion. I am amazed that Winton, the Premier's dog, is not mentioned in this motion for biting her a couple of years ago.

It is amazing that this government consistently look for somebody else to blame when they cannot deliver the services themselves. There is no truer statement to prove that than what they have done, or have not done, with housing. Over the last seven years, the public housing waiting list has increased not by 10 per cent, not by 30 per cent and not by 40 per cent; it has increased by 70 per cent in the last seven years. There are 50,000 people on the social housing waiting list and 80 per cent of those people are regarded as being very high need. What is this government's response to that? This government in the last five years have delivered a miserly—

**Mrs Frecklington:** Measly.

**Mr MANDER:** Measly, and miserly as well. They have delivered an increase of less than one per cent in public housing bedrooms. This is a government that have failed miserably. We have even got the member for Capalaba blaming the Redland City Council for the housing crisis. If it was not so serious, it would be funny.

This motion reminds me of a Monty Python skit in the *Life of Brian*—‘What did the Romans ever do for us?’ I can imagine Minister Enoch sitting around with her advisers saying, ‘What did the feds ever do for us? Absolutely nothing.’ Then one of them says, ‘Oh, Minister, there is the National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation that delivers a billion dollars for community housing,’ and the minister goes, ‘Okay, other than the National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation, what else have the feds done for us?’ Then an adviser says, ‘Well, there is the Commonwealth Rent Assistance program which provides tens of millions of dollars every year to help them pay their rent,’ and the minister goes, ‘All right, other than the National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation and the Commonwealth Rent Assistance program, what else has the federal government done for us with housing?’ The adviser says, ‘Well, Minister, there is the First Home Loan Deposit Scheme deposit guarantee to help young people buy new houses,’ and the minister goes, ‘Well, other than the National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation, the Commonwealth Rent Assistance program and the First Home Loan Deposit Scheme deposit guarantee, what have the feds done for Queensland with housing?’


This government is a total and absolute joke. The Treasurer has come in here and talked about cuts to the health budget when he attempted to decrease the health budget—well, not decrease it; he tried to smash it to pieces—by \$1 billion. It was only because of the pressure and the leaks from his own department that he had to back down cowardly and walk away from his commitment.

**Mr Watts:** He hasn't got the numbers.

**Mr MANDER:** I will take that interjection; he does not have the numbers. How predictable was this government motion? We were surprised it did not happen straight after question time. How predictable.

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Mr MANDER:** Exactly, we could not wait for it. We have a housing crisis in this state. Rather than blame every man and his dog—or every woman and her dog—this government needs to look at itself and work out what it has to do to deliver services. This government needs to grow up and act like an adult government—not a government that simply blames everybody for its own shortcomings. This is a government that looks for every cover it can when it is engulfed in an integrity crisis. I heard the Treasurer ask earlier, ‘What’s happening with the integrity crisis?’ I can tell him, ‘It ain’t going away, trust me. You’ll get cover for a week with regards to the budget.’ Grow up and be an adult government.

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (4.44 pm): In the words of Monty Python, ‘He’s not the Messiah, he’s a very naughty boy!’ I want to thank the member for Everton for his rather remarkable speech.

As I rise to support this motion, you can hear the death rattle of a desperate Morrison government as far away as Far North Queensland. In Cairns, voters know that Scotty from Marketing is all show and no go. They can see beyond the Prime Minister and his slick talk about reef and tourism. This is a part of the state that has been devastated by ScoMo’s botched handling of the global pandemic. Voters in Far North Queensland watched on as the federal budget was handed down, with that familiar feeling that yet again we have been duded, done over and denied our share in funding.

This was a budget for the next six weeks, not the next three years. Locals in Far North Queensland rightfully feel they have been left high and dry. In the words of advocacy group Advance Cairns, Far North Queensland missed out on several mega projects, including Cairns water security. The budget did not include major infrastructure projects sought by the region including: upgrades at the Cairns port, which is a \$300 million to \$400 million project; a new CBD campus for CQUniversity, which is a \$50 million project; and urban water security for the city of Cairns, which is a \$215 million project.

The budget shows that Scott Morrison’s big promises about new dams for Queensland amount to nothing. Mayor Bob Manning has a right to be angry with Scott Morrison and Warren Entsch. He has missed out drastically on his push to get the federal coalition to commit to their share of the Cairns water security plan. I note that federal Labor has committed to this project if it stacks up.



This comes from a federal government that believes Toowoomba is at higher risk of being impacted by cyclones than Cairns. Federal Labor has said that it will support water security in Cairns if it stacks up. It has long been known that the Far North Queensland seat of Leichhardt is vulnerable, but all we are hearing from the outgoing federal LNP member, Warren Entsch, is crickets. Warren Entsch has arguably got six weeks to turn this around. I just do not think Warren has the support of his Prime Minister or his Treasurer.

Let me talk to the points in the motion. In health care, Scott Morrison will cut \$21 million from Queensland hospitals in the next financial year. The federal coalition is also cutting \$176 million from Queensland hospitals in 2023-24 and 2024-25. In flood recovery, there is no funding for Queensland's flood relief package and no funding for other important local disaster mitigation projects in FNQ. Federal Labor has committed to funding for projects in Far North Queensland, such as projects to prevent erosion in the Cairns northern beaches. There is no money in the budget for a new CQUniversity campus in Cairns. Federal Labor has committed \$50 million if it wins the election—

**A government member:** Hear, hear!

**Mr CRAWFORD:** I take the interjection from the member for Cairns.

**Honourable members** interjected.


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order, members.

**Mr Healy** interjected.

**Mr CRAWFORD:** Well, whoever it was. I thank you for supporting the member for Cairns.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Cairns, you may not have interjected but you can still be warned.

**Mr CRAWFORD:** There is no money for marine infrastructure in the Torres Strait. Federal Labor have promised \$40 million if they win the election. On housing affordability, there is not any future funding in the budget for remote Indigenous housing. As Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, I find the lack of support for Indigenous housing particularly galling. There is not one cent towards remote Indigenous housing. Our remote, discrete Indigenous townships have been completely left out. This federal government signed up to all 17 Closing the Gap targets, but they walk away from their obligation to one of the most fundamental pieces of all—that is to reduce the impacts of overcrowding. There are arguably six weeks left. Warren Entsch has been in power in Leichhardt for some 25 years. Warren Entsch has six weeks to turn this around. Warren Entsch has six weeks to deliver or he should walk away.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (4.49 pm): I rise to address the motion. As this debate has gone on, you can hear the steam running out of this government. It is a lazy third-term government that clearly has no vision, no plan and no credible economic strategy for Queensland. There is always a diversionary tactic when they come into this place. It is only due to the economic leadership of the federal Liberal National Party government that we have been able to get through the economic instability that COVID-19 has caused. The federal government have had JobKeeper, JobSeeker and HomeBuilder, and it is only their vision and their commitment to Australia that has led to Queensland remaining on track.

This is a classic example of the Premier and the Treasurer here in Queensland always looking to blame someone else. As we heard the member for Everton say, whether it is the federal government, the former government here in Queensland, the New South Wales government or the Brisbane City Council, it is always someone else's fault when things are not going their way.

Let's have a look at the federal budget this year and some of those important measures which have been implemented and which will have benefits for Queenslanders: a new one-off \$420 cost-of-living tax offset which will benefit Queenslanders; an income tax exempt payment of \$250 for all eligible pensioners, veterans and eligible concession card holders—and that will be important for those vulnerable and disadvantaged groups; and substantial relief provided through the halving of the fuel excise, saving a family with two cars an average \$700 over the next six months—and that is very important cost-of-living relief for people not only here in Queensland but also across Australia.

Under the federal LNP government, funding for public hospitals in Queensland—the Labor government should listen to this—continues to increase. In fact, it is up 133 per cent since the LNP came into government. We will return to that a bit later. More than half a billion dollars will go towards slashing the price of medicines for more than 2.4 million pensioners by reducing the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme safety net threshold. The federal coalition budget also delivers an extra \$648 million for mental health treatment, early intervention, suicide prevention and an increased health workforce.

Under the Palaszczuk state Labor government we have seen a \$400 million cut for hospitals over the past three financial years. Do members remember when Labor announced a \$2 billion hospital building fund and they did not allocate a single cent?

**Ms Pease** interjected.

**Dr ROWAN:** Those members opposite who are interjecting should listen to this, because this has real impacts on Queenslanders.

**Ms Pease** interjected.


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order, member for Lytton, your interjections are not being taken.

**Dr ROWAN:** We know that here in Queensland Labor's ambulance ramping is at record levels—at 38 per cent on average but more than 50 per cent in some areas.

I hear them talk about the AMA and AMA Queensland at times. I can tell them that when the past presidents are talking about this government and the real impacts on patients, what they are saying is that they have never seen anything worse than this government, but they do remember in the Beattie and Bligh Labor government years when there were clinical governance failures with the Patel saga back in 2005 and the Morris, Davies and Forster inquiries and reviews and all the things that had to take place; the \$1.2 billion payroll fiasco; and also the issues to do with the fake Tahitian prince. All of those issues were going on throughout that time.

I come back to the budget. I know that this motion is important, and it is important to put the facts on the table when it comes to the delivery that is occurring under the federal LNP government. The federal Morrison government is continuing to support local businesses with tax incentives. In education there is record schools funding under the Quality Schools Package, with funding increasing by over 32 per cent to 2029. The federal government has also announced more affordable child care, with an additional \$40 million in funding over the next four years for preschools.

We know here in Queensland that this government is failing on infrastructure spending and on service delivery. We only have to look at what happened during the floods in relation to my local area. When the Minister for Transport and Main Roads went out to visit Colleges Crossing, he did not come via Moggill Road, he did not come through the Kenmore roundabout—Labor is delaying that project—and he did not go via Mount Crosby Road; he got in the limo and headed straight out to Ipswich the other way, got a quick selfie and left, because there is no infrastructure investment occurring in the western suburbs of Brisbane. Just look at the upgrade to the Centenary Bridge; it has been delay, delay, delay. There are projects delayed. There is no vision and a lack of infrastructure spending. This Queensland government is failing on health, on education and on road and public transport delivery, let alone everything else it needs to do for Queenslanders. Rather than blaming other people, they should look to their own backyard.

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (4.54 pm): I rise in this House to support the motion. Why? Queensland is always left behind by the 'Prime Minister for New South Wales'. The federal budget papers prove what we always knew: the federal LNP does not care about Queensland. I was sceptical when the Prime Minister went on his press tour, throwing money at marginal seats in Queensland. I clearly had a right to be suss at the time, because the budget is full of ifs and buts, with funding stretched out over 12 years.

Since being elected in 2015, this Palaszczuk government has invested more than \$2.6 billion in water infrastructure, creating more than 2½ thousand jobs in Queensland. That is right: we promised and we delivered. That is more than I can say for this terrible federal government. If people want to see our investment they should go to Rookwood Weir, or they can head north to Big Rocks Weir or the Haughton pipeline. If they go even further north they can see the Mareeba-Dimbulah upgrades. If they head west they can see the works under the Southern Downs drought resilience package that we delivered to that community, or they can go to Bundaberg and see the local member and how we are restoring water for the community. The words 'Haughton pipeline' might haunt some of those over there, particularly the member for Nanango—

**Mrs Frecklington:** Why?

**Mr BUTCHER:** Because it is another LNP mess. It is an absolute write-off. The state government had to clean up after they tried to rip us off with GST—like they always do. They always do it. What did we do? We went alone, as we have had to do many times, and got on with the job for Queensland, as we always do, and delivered jobs in Townsville in North Queensland.

In the past two weeks, the Prime Minister has been talking a big game about building dams in Queensland. It reminded me of Tony Abbott declaring that the LNP would build 100 dams. I fear that history is repeating itself, because we know they did not build a single dam—a trend that the now Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, has followed. All we want is our fair share of Commonwealth funding, but we were failed in the federal budget last night.

The devil of that budget is in the detail. Their budget papers show that, of the \$6.6 billion worth of commitments in Queensland, the forward estimates account for only \$1.5 billion. What will we see in next year's list? A mere \$179 million that they have announced already. That is less than a third of what they committed to for Paradise Dam, and we do not even know if it is in the papers under 'Paradise Dam'. The federal government have lied to us one more time. At least Bob Katter will be relieved to know that it is not just him they continue to lie to.

**Mr WATTS:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on unparliamentary language.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): I ask you to withdraw the unparliamentary language.

**Mr BUTCHER:** I withdraw. I am not sure if I should say 'Katter' again.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** All withdrawals will be unconditional. I ask you to withdraw unconditionally.

**Mr BUTCHER:** I withdraw unconditionally. Barnaby Joyce issued a press release earlier this year saying that the funding Queensland had committed to Paradise Dam falls well short. That is laughable. Now he is telling me that they need more information to confirm their investment decision on Paradise Dam. Go figure! What a slap in the face to the people of the Bundaberg region. Where are the Queensland LNP members on this? They are seen and rarely ever heard. They need to pick up the phone and make a call to their mates in Canberra, particularly now that the former member for Callide has walked out of Queensland parliament days earlier than he really needed to. He should be here right now listening to this, but he walked away.

The federal government want more information on Paradise Dam but commit \$5.4 billion to Hells Gates, a project with an unfinished business case—more money in the never-never. The same goes for Urannah Dam—hollow promises that will never be delivered by the federal government if the LNP are in charge. Money promised for regional Queensland will disappear. The feds raise the hopes and expectations of people by not telling communities the whole story about the funding and the processes they need to go through. I will not apologise for wanting the best for Queensland and I will not step back from asking the federal government for our fair share of funding. It is clear: the federal and state LNP just do not give a damn.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Three minutes on the clock please.



**Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (4.59 pm): What Queenslanders are telling us on this side of the House is that they want a fair share. They want a fair share from this Palaszczuk government. Those people who are flying in a helicopter over the PA Hospital but cannot land because of code yellows are the people who want a fair share. The doctors, the nurses and the people working in those hospitals want a fair share from this incompetent Palaszczuk government. When it comes to running the health system there is only one side of this House that can do that, and that is an LNP government.

That is exactly what we had to do when Anna Bligh stood up and said the health system in the state was an absolute basket case. Do honourable members remember that? Where are we again now? Right now the health system is a basket case because that is what this incompetent Labor administration have given us. The people who are sitting in ambulances waiting on the ramps want a fair share. The people who are waiting in emergency services and want to actually get fixed up deserve a fair share. Who should give them a fair share? It should be the Palaszczuk government. That is exactly who should be giving them a fair share.

I will tell honourable members another thing. When this Treasurer was the health minister he refused to fund the Heart of Australia bus. I say to those regional Queenslanders who demanded a fair share: guess who gave it to them? It was the federal Morrison government who have just given the Heart of Australia bus \$17.2 million to go to an extra 32 communities in regional Queensland: Quilpie, St George, Goondiwindi, Emerald. They get to go to those towns and provide services that this incompetent health minister and her government and the Premier refused to provide for those regional communities. They are the ones who deserve a fair share.

Those hardworking doctors and nurses who are stressed out of their brains working in those rural and regional hospitals deserve hospitals that do not flood every time it rains. That has nothing to do with the amount of rain. It actually has to do with the shoddy work, the overruns on budget. Do

honourable members know the other people who deserve a fair share? It is the people who want to get mental health services in regional Queensland. They deserve a fair share. When a new hospital is built, why the heavens would they not give it more mental health services? When there is a region that has the highest suicide rate in Queensland—and I am talking about my electorate; we deserve a fair share. We deserve a government that provides health services that the people in Brisbane receive. That is who deserves a fair share. They deserve a government that works and acts for all of Queensland, not just themselves. That is who deserves a fair share.

*(Time expired)*

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

**AYES, 51:**

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

**Gm, 2**—Berkman, MacMahon.

**NOES, 32:**

**LNP, 31**—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

**PHON, 1**—Andrew.

Pairs: Harper, Janetzki; Richards, Robinson.

Resolved in the affirmative.

### Sunshine Coast, Rail Infrastructure



**Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (5.07 pm): I move—

That this House notes:

1. that the federal government has committed \$1.6 billion to the No. 1 Sunshine Coast infrastructure priority, bringing heavy passenger rail from Brisbane to the Sunshine Coast, connecting the hinterland and our coastal communities from Beerwah to Caloundra to Kawana and terminating at Maroochydore;
2. Minister Mark Bailey's comments on 17 February 2022 that Sunshine Coast's heavy rail was 'an important part of the equation'; his remarks that 'not just with the Olympic Games coming and the need to move people around, but its population growth well before that, which is driving the need for heavy rail', and his statement reported on 6 December 2021 that the project 'is absolutely viable into the Sunshine Coast in the future'.

And calls on the members for Caloundra and Nicklin to support this rail project and on the state Labor government to immediately match the federal government commitment to ensure the Sunshine Coast heavy passenger rail from Beerwah to Caloundra to Kawana to Maroochydore is delivered.

This motion calls on the state Labor government to support heavy passenger rail to the Sunshine Coast. It also calls on the state Labor government to match the \$1.6 billion that the federal Morrison government has committed to the Sunshine Coast. We saw a disgraceful set of circumstances this morning when Treasurer Dick stood up in parliament and said the \$1.6 billion promised by the federal government was fake money.

**Mr Bailey** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection from the Minister for Main Roads. He says 'fake money'. Here is the budget. I table this.

*Tabled paper:* Extract from Commonwealth Budget papers 2022-23, Part 2: Payment Measures, page 129, titled 'Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications: Infrastructure investment-Queensland' [\[450\]](#).

It says \$1.6 billion for the Brisbane to Sunshine Coast—the Beerwah to Maroochydore—rail extension. That is not fake money. That is in the budget. That is not a promise. That is money given to the state on a gold platter. The federal government has said to the state government, 'Here is the rail, \$1.6 billion.' All they have to do is commit the funding; so we are calling on the state government to commit the \$1.6 billion.

I heard the Minister for Main Roads talking this morning. He had said a while ago that it was a viable project, but now he is questioning it. They are not committing the funding. Labor is not committing the funding. Labor do not want the heavy passenger rail on the Sunshine Coast. But look what I found,

the SEQ plan for transport 2031 signed by Anna Bligh and then transport minister Palaszczuk in 2011. Guess what? It says in here 'construct the Sunshine Coast rail line from Beerwah to Maroochydore'. It is their policy. All they have to do is fund it. I table a copy of Labor's policy document.


*Tabled paper:* Extract from Connecting SEQ 2013: An Integrated Regional Transport Plan for South East Queensland, pages 1, 47 and 129, regarding delivering an integrated transport network [451].

The transport minister waved around documents this morning. He would not be waving that around. I wonder if Premier Palaszczuk told him that document exists where she signed off on the rail project. We heard last week from the member for Caloundra—and I am also calling on him to support Sunshine Coast commuters and get the rail to the Sunshine Coast. During the sitting last week he said, 'A real leader is visible and present during a crisis.' Where was the Treasurer during the flood crisis? That was an attack on the Treasurer of the state. Then Treasurer Dick came in here this morning and said not only is it fake money; this is a federal government commitment only because they are LNP federal seats.

What about the state member for Caloundra? Did the Treasurer forget one of his own colleagues is in the parliament representing Caloundra? I will tell members what the difference is: they are in different factions. That is the problem. The Sunshine Coast community is missing out on rail infrastructure because the left-wingers like the member for Caloundra are fighting the right-wingers in the Labor Party like the Treasurer. Why will the state Labor government not commit the \$1.6 billion to deliver rail infrastructure to the Sunshine Coast? The Sunshine Coast does not want light rail. We do not want a glorified tram down Nicklin Way. Sunshine Coast residents deserve rail for the Sunshine Coast community. They do not want the fantasy light rail that the Sunshine Coast Council is going on about. They deserve a proper passenger heavy rail from Brisbane to Beerwah to Caloundra to Kawana and to Maroochydore. Nothing short of \$1.6 billion from the Labor government will cop it.

The Minister for Transport says that there is no business case. That did not stop the minister signing up to the Mooloolah River Interchange and taking the federal government money when he did not release his business case—no business case sitting on his desk, no publication of the business case—but he was happy to take the federal government money and take credit for the Mooloolah River Interchange. I would say this to Minister Bailey: mate, take the \$1.6 billion gifted to this Labor government on a platter from the federal government because then we will see proper rail infrastructure on the Sunshine Coast that Sunshine Coast residents deserve, not tomorrow but now. Bring the rail to the Sunshine Coast now and fund it!

*(Time expired)*

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (5.12 pm): No wonder there was such a big swing against the LNP in Kawana at the last election with contributions like that. I move the following amendment—

That all words after 'has' in the first paragraph be omitted and the following inserted:

'announced \$1.6 billion for heavy passenger rail from Beerwah to the Sunshine Coast of which \$1.35 billion is beyond the forward estimates more than four years away from 2026-27 onwards;

2. the Minister for Transport and Main Roads is on the record as supporting a future heavy rail connection to coastal communities and has said it 'is absolutely viable into Sunshine Coast in the future' and is committed to delivering transport projects needed for population growth and to support a successful Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games via a collaborative governing state and federal framework;
3. a \$6 million Sunshine Coast rail business case is underway, jointly funded by the Queensland and Commonwealth governments, and any costings before completion are speculative;
4. conflicting versions of where the \$1.6 billion costing was sourced from based on public statements of the federal MPs for Fairfax and Fisher and calls on them to clarify the source of the costings they are using to inform Sunshine Coast residents;
5. of the \$1.6 billion pledged by the federal government in their election eve cash splash, only \$50 million will be available before the next federal election due in 2025; and

congratulates the members for Caloundra and Nicklin for their ongoing support and effective advocacy for critical transport projects needed for the Sunshine Coast.'

This is a Dixier scream motion if ever I saw one because what we have seen is a federal government that does not keep its election promises. It promised a federal ICAC and it reneged on it. It promised park-and-rides and it reneged on it. We know it cannot be trusted. This is a dodgily costed election bribe at the last minute by these federal MPs and supported by those opposite when their own budget papers show that most of the funding is off on the never-never, just like Geelong Fast Rail. There was a promise of \$2 billion from the federal government for a \$4 billion project in 2019 and then it descope it as soon as the election was over. This is what it is doing to the Sunshine Coast. The fact

is that we have two different versions from federal LNP MPs about the costings. The federal member for Fairfax, Ted O'Brien, said it was the North Coast Connect study and Andrew Wallace on ABC Radio—I love this; this is just fantastic—said—

... the costings that we've used for this project are based on the same calculations as the costings that they're relying on for the Murrarie—

which he says twice—

extension ...


I have looked up 'Murrarie' and there is no such place, but in his defence he probably meant the Kuraby to Beenleigh rail extension. We have neighbouring MPs saying the costings are from two entirely different sources and we are supposed to think that this is a legitimate election promise. They did not even rehearse! One would think that the Speaker of the House of Representatives and Ted O'Brien would get their facts straight before they put them out into the public arena. We have two different stories. What this motion—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Buderim, I see you are prepped and ready to go. Can you keep your powder dry?

**Mr BAILEY:** What this motion is really about is the LNP is in trouble on the Sunshine Coast. It had big swings against it. The member for Buderim had the biggest swing. There were big swings across Kawana and there were big swings across Ninderry. It demoted the member for Ninderry. It demoted the member for Glass House. The member for Kawana just demoted the member for Maroochydore, so I will bet that they are not getting on too well. It lost Caloundra, it lost Nicklin and it knows that in the federal election it is up against it.

The primary vote for the LNP on the Sunshine Coast is in trouble. It is sandbagging safe seats. What does that tell members about the lazy LNP on the Sunshine Coast? It never delivers for its constituencies. It had three years in power when the member for Kawana was the attorney-general. What did it do for the Sunshine Coast? Zero! Here it is sprattling away at the last minute before a federal election. At two minutes to midnight it is making big promises on the Sunshine Coast. Sunshine Coast residents will see through this election ruse and bribe. The LNP is in trouble in Fairfax and it is in trouble in Fisher, and it knows it. It happened in the state election and it knows that it is going to happen in the federal election.

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (5.18 pm): I wonder who gave the minister his riding orders today. He has gone with option A: playing politics and going slow on the Beerburrum to Nambour rail line—\$550 million going slow, \$10½ million underspend this year, a reduction of \$32 million next year. Is it little wonder that the federal government has no confidence in the state government to deliver what is a state responsibility in rail? It is time for Labor to get on board the Sunshine Coast rail. It is time for Labor to get on board with funding heavy rail from Beerwah to Maroochydore—something that in 2009 it promised would be built and opened by 2020. We are still waiting. Despite Labor's hollow promises, time and time again the Sunshine Coast is still waiting for the state government to invest in the roads and the rail that we need to support the massive population growth experienced across the Sunshine Coast in recent years.

Despite being one of the fastest growing regions in Queensland, residents on the Sunshine Coast must deal with a substandard single-lane motorway and no rail. It is simply not good enough. The state government are happy to trumpet the benefits of population growth across the Sunshine Coast, but when it comes to investing in infrastructure like roads and rail they go missing. When was the last time the member for Caloundra or the member for Nicklin stood up and publicly called on the state government to deliver on Labor's promise to build rail through to Caloundra and on to Maroochydore? Never! Along with my LNP state colleagues, I have been fighting to get the roads and the rail we need from the moment I walked into this parliament, as have my colleagues all across the coast for years. In my maiden speech I spoke of the opportunity and the challenges that population growth on the coast represented. I said we need 'investment in rail and roads so that residents have a viable option to get to and from Brisbane in a timely manner'.

Infrastructure Australia's analysis of the North Coast Connect business case states that 'growing travel demand is expected to place significant pressure on the existing transport network'. The minister likes to say they rejected it, but they rejected it because the state government would not get on board.

**Mr Bailey** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Infrastructure Australia stated that they 'recognise the need for additional investment in this part of the Queensland rail network'. In the business case evaluation they said, 'our review found the project aligns with government policies to support regional connectivity, reduce urban congestion, and improve sustainability by providing an attractive alternative to private vehicle trips'. The Minister for Transport and Main Roads says a lot, but in November he said that rail between Beerwah and Maroochydore was 'absolutely viable' and he said that the 2032 Games were 'a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to get transport infrastructure like this for the coast'. Why will the state government not get on board?

Despite these sentiments the Treasurer has thumbed his nose at the federal government's commitment of \$1.6 billion to get on with the job of building rail from Beerwah to Maroochydore. The Minister for Transport and Main Roads is playing politics rather than getting on board, getting on with the job and matching the federal government's commitment.

**Mr Bailey** interjected.


**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Miller!

**Mr MICKELBERG:** If the state government does not get on board then Sunshine Coast locals will know that the state government has gone completely off the rails. If they do not know it already, locals in my electorate and right across the Sunshine Coast will see how this Labor state government simply ignores the needs of the Sunshine Coast. Sunshine Coast locals will know that Labor seat warmers like the member for Caloundra and the member for Nicklin are nothing more than mouthpieces for the government. I know that the former and next member for Nicklin, Marty Hunt, is on board for better rail for the Sunshine Coast, but where is the current member for Nicklin? He is missing in action. He might have moved in, but he is still missing in action. He is nothing more than a mouthpiece for the state government, and Sunshine Coast residents know it. It is the end of the line for this arrogant, lazy state government.

If Labor are serious about the Sunshine Coast they will get on board and match the federal government's commitment. The facts are that heavy rail from Beerwah to Maroochydore stacks up. The existing line does not even service communities like Nambour, let alone population centres east of the highway. We need this rail line now, not in 10 years, not in 12 years. We need the state government to get on board, stop playing politics and get shovels in the ground so that Sunshine Coast residents get the transport infrastructure that they deserve.

**Mr Bailey** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister for Transport and Main Roads, I have cautioned you a couple of times with no apparent reaction. You are warned under the standing orders.

 **Mr HUNT** (Caloundra—ALP) (5.23 pm): I rise to speak in favour of the amended motion of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. The very idea that the LNP is suddenly concerned about transport infrastructure on the Sunshine Coast beggars belief. The party that struggled to deliver a single set of traffic lights in Caloundra are now going to deliver a train line? I am not kidding about the traffic lights. The residents of Ridgewood Road waited 17 years for the previous LNP member to deliver a set of lights, and they could not quite manage it. I recall the former member for Caloundra, the member for Kawana and the member for Glass House standing on the Caloundra Road roundabout in 2017—between the three of them almost 30 years in this House, all three of them former ministers of the Newman government 24 months previously—and not a single surveyor's peg was planted in any of the traffic projects around that road. The LNP represented the region including Caloundra for more than 116 years prior to 2020, but apparently they need more time—116 years was simply not enough. After 116 years I would not trust them to install the railway set that circles my Christmas tree.

I thank the minister for his commitment to the people in my electorate and the Sunshine Coast community. I support the comments from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads that we do not know where the \$1.6 billion is coming from and nor, apparently, do the federal members. It echoes the Morrison government's announcement of \$4 billion for fast rail from Geelong to Melbourne leading up to the last federal election. The Victorian government said, 'Wait up. That is a \$10 billion to \$15 billion project.' Scott Morrison has spent the last three years de-scoping the project to fit within a \$4 billion envelope. Not one sod turned, not one spade in the ground. Construction might commence in the next term of federal parliament subject to approval. This is a promise from Scott Morrison—'Honest Scotty' as we all know him. All announcement and no delivery and a man described in the Australian Senate recently by one of his own as unfit for office and a ruthless bully.

In considering this motion it is useful for the House to consider the LNP's record on road and rail. More than half a million people are expected to be living on the Sunshine Coast within 20 years and only this government is delivering the infrastructure necessary to support that population: our record \$27.5 billion roads and transport funding includes \$2.9 billion for the North Coast region. Our record investment is in stark contrast to what the LNP took to the 2020 election, which cut \$700 million from the Sunshine Coast and regional Queensland roads. I know! The LNP and cutting? Who would have seen that coming? The \$9.8 million for the Beckmans Road interjection—gone; \$3.75 million for the Ridgewood Road traffic lights—gone. They are the lights that they could not provide for 17 years and when we provided it they were going to cut the funding. The \$18 million for the upgrade of Six Mile Creek Bridge—gone; \$18 million for Steve Irwin Way—gone; \$19 million for the D'Aguilar Highway—gone. Who can forget the LNP highway hoax of \$33 billion to duplicate the Bruce Highway from Cooroy to Cairns? The LNP's costings revealed that they only had \$50 million for a consultant. They were only \$32 billion short! The residents of the Sunshine Coast saw through the LNP's slogans and backed our Premier's strong infrastructure plan resolve and our new members on the Sunshine Coast.

In conclusion, I support a heavy rail link to the Sunshine Coast. If one looks at the Palaszczuk government's record one will see a record of delivery: Beerburrum to Nambour—planned and costed; Cross River Rail—planned, costed and investment decision made, now in the delivery phase; Kuraby to Beenleigh—planned, costed, investment decision made, and now subject to detailed design; Beerwah to the coast—now in the planning phase. Through good planning, robust costings and detailed design our government is delivering for the Sunshine Coast as the LNP never could. The LNP, in particular the opposition MPs on the Sunshine Coast, need to decide if they are on the side of the Sunshine Coast or on the side of the Morrison-Joyce government.



**Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (5.28 pm): I quote—

The Sunshine Coast needs a rail service that will keep pace with population growth and provide a swift, efficient link to Brisbane.

...

Rail services must keep pace with that population growth.

...

We need to adopt the best solution possible to provide the service improvements needed for the Sunshine Coast now, and for generations to come.

...

... project to boost northern rail services and provide the vital first link in the CAMCOS high speed service to the Sunshine Coast was launched today by Transport and Main Roads Minister, Paul Lucas.

In 2015! Going to the member for Caloundra's contribution about turning the first sod, Mr Lucas goes on to say—

The project will be constructed in two stages, starting from today.

Let's fast-forward a few decades to November last year, when Mr Bailey said, 'The Maroochydore passenger line is absolutely viable.' He went on to say, 'We're committed to the CAMCOS concept and have continued to preserve the corridor for a future rail link to Maroochydore.' Fast forward to this morning when he was referring to the CAMCOS project as 'SCAMCOS'.

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is referring to me by my personal name rather than my parliamentary title.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order! When I am taking a point of order, I expect to hear that point of order in silence. Member, I ask you to refer to members by their correct parliamentary titles.

**Mr PURDIE:** This morning the minister had the hide to refer to the CAMCOS project as 'SCAMCOS'. Over the past two decades the only people who have been scammed are the people of the Sunshine Coast and that is by this government.

The people of the Sunshine Coast know better. When the federal government has put \$1.6 billion on the table and it comes time to make a commitment, this government is running for the door. It reminds me of the favourite song of the member Everton, Meatloaf's *Paradise by the Dashboard Light*. This government has been promising the people of the Sunshine Coast a commitment. They promised to love the Sunshine Coast, but when it comes time to make a commitment they are praying for the end of time. For 20 years they have been making promises and lying to the people of the Sunshine Coast. That was laid bare today when the minister referred to the CAMCOS project as 'SCAMCOS'.



As we heard from the member for Kawana, even when the Premier was the transport minister it was in their future plans. One of the excuses used today and over the past couple of days since the \$1.6 billion has been on the table is that there is no business case. It was only in December 2020, after a \$5 million funding allocation from the federal government, that the North Coast Connect project business case was delivered. That business case talks about the North Coast Connect proposal—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, you will not use that document as a prop. You will table it or read from it.

**Mr PURDIE:** I am happy to table it. It states—

The North Coast Connect proposal aims to reduce rail journey times, Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast by around 25 minutes ... a new rail corridor to connect coastal population centres including Maroochydore, Kawana and Caloundra.

Our review found that the project aligns with government policies to support regional connectivity, reduce urban congestion, and improve sustainability by providing an attractive alternative to private vehicle trips.

*Tabled paper:* Extract from Infrastructure Australia, titled 'Project business case evaluation summary: North Coast Connect' [\[452\]](#).


Today the minister says that there is no business case. Once again it was the federal government that provided the money for that business case. It is not that old. This is a project that apparently had the sod turned in 2005. Now they are running for the exits.

The minister went further. In his contribution tonight he talked about the Beenleigh to Kuraby line. Why aren't we hearing pushback on that? I understand the same methodology to make that funding announcement by the federal government was used to make this \$1.6 billion commitment to the Sunshine Coast. Why is the Sunshine Coast line a scam yet there is no pushback at all with the Beenleigh to Kuraby line? The people of the Sunshine Coast can see through this. They have been lied to for two decades and they deserve better.

That takes me to the contribution of the member for Buderim who mentioned his maiden speech. He is not the only member from this side of the House who spoke about this project in their maiden speech. The member for Maroochydore did, the member for Kawana spoke about it, the member for Glass House spoke about it and I spoke about it. Do members know who else spoke about it? The former member for Nicklin, Marty Hunt! He spoke about it in his maiden speech and he spoke about it often in this place.

Do members know who did not mention it in their maiden speech and have never mentioned it? The current member for Nicklin and the current member for Caloundra! In their maiden speeches they spent their time lauding their union masters. They made no mention of the most transformative infrastructure project the Sunshine Coast has ever seen. Every one of the Sunshine Coast members on this side of the House and former members, such as the former member for Nicklin, spoke with passion and fought tirelessly for the Sunshine Coast rail project. Today I call on the member for Nicklin and the member for Caloundra to get on board and start fighting for this transformative project. They only way we are going to get it is to bring back Marty Hunt.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr SKELTON** (Nicklin—ALP) (5.34 pm): This is going to be fun. I rise to speak in favour of the motion as amended by the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. There is no denying that the population of the Sunshine Coast is booming and the region needs critical transport infrastructure to keep up. That is why I am proud to be part of a government that is spending a record amount on roads and transport throughout the state and especially through the north coast pocket. Of the \$27.5 billion being delivered over four years, nearly \$3 billion in road and transport projects are being delivered on the north coast. That includes the business case for a future rail link between Beerwah and Maroochydore, which is underway and jointly funded by the state and federal governments.

It is this business case that will inform decision-makers about how many and where stations might be. It is this business case that will inform how much a project of that magnitude could potentially cost. It is not Ted O'Brien who will decide, despite his Facebook promo video mapping out locations for stations. It is not Andrew Wallace who will decide how much funding is needed, despite him claiming in a press conference on Monday that we will not need a dollar more than \$3.2 billion to deliver the project in full.

Let us look at another project on the federal government's books. Eight years ago the Turnbull government committed \$10 billion towards inland rail. A year ago they updated that figure to \$16 billion. In this year's budget they have just added another \$3 billion to that project.

Unlike Ted O'Brien, Andrew Wallace, Scott Morrison and Barnaby Joyce, the Palaszczuk government likes to do things the right way. We plan. We do the business case. We make investment decisions and we deliver. For example, the Beerburrum to Nambour project is another jointly funded rail upgrade for the north coast. We did the business case alongside the federal government and covered what is needed to expand capacity on the existing rail line between Beerburrum and Nambour. For the benefit of the member for Broadwater, that is an example of how governments can work together. It is from that detailed work that we mapped out the staged delivery of upgrades and committed the funding needed to get it done. The last time we were in this House, the Premier stood up and announced that early works on that project are underway. Major constructions will begin this year. That is because we knew the costings and put up the funds for it. Now we are getting on and delivering it.

**Mr McDonald:** Why didn't you talk about it in your maiden speech?


**Mr SKELTON:** I take the interjection from the member for Lockyer. I did not mention it in my maiden speech. I did mention all the railway towns that will be bypassed by this thing, although it is a great thing for the Sunshine Coast. How about members opposite think about deeds, not words.

When stage 1 is completed we will have additional capacity on the line for extra services in the future and will see time savings on local roads. The Morrison government's announcement this week is nothing short of an election pipedream in the hopes of sandbagging safe seats on the Sunshine Coast. It is all spin and no substance. As the minister said today, Scott Morrison's 'SCAMCOS' announcement does not stack up and neither does the opposition when it comes to fighting for Queensland's fair share. I also note that the only promise that those opposite have made to build a Sunshine Coast rail link was when the member for Caloundra put out his pre-election material and down the bottom of the page, marked with an asterisk and in fine print, it said 'pending funding'.

I will fight for my region and the broader region of the Sunshine Coast. I have a lot of electoral differences with people on the coast that affect my region. Another thing that has not been mentioned in this chamber is the Sunshine Coast Mass Transit strategy, which is up for review by members of the public. I do not think that we should be dictated to by anyone: the federal government, myself, those guys opposite. It is up to the people to decide—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Comments will come through the chair, please, member.

**Mr SKELTON:**—in partnership with all three levels of government. Then we can get the funding and get things done. It is like an episode of *The Simpsons*. I will explain a bit of transport infrastructure for you. Monorail: mono means one, rail means rail. That is exactly how your projects are: they do nothing, they deliver nothing, they are only an advertising trick.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (5.39 pm): Oh, my goodness! To the constituents of Nicklin who are watching this debate tonight I say: that was your member—going on about monorail when he should be standing up for the needs of his constituents and the people of the Sunshine Coast. My message to the member for Nicklin is: maybe spend less time liking my Facebook page posts—in fact, maybe spend less time on social media, full stop—and more time standing up for the people of Nicklin and the people of the Sunshine Coast.

**Mr SKELTON:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I think everyone is on Facebook. I take offence at that remark.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): The member has taken personal offence. I ask you to withdraw.

**Mr POWELL:** I will, if he withdraws the likes on my Facebook page.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Resume your seat. I will take some advice.

**Mr POWELL:** I withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you.

**Mr POWELL:** What we saw in the members for Nicklin and Caloundra is the Labor Party playbook in the state of Queensland. Let me run through this. First, the Palaszczuk Labor government do nothing but review. All we heard from the members for Nicklin and Caloundra was about all the reviews they are doing. They do nothing but review. Then they spend all their time in this House blaming everyone else and everything else for their pathetic, poor performance. They then stick out their hand, particularly to Canberra, all of the time for absolutely everything, even things that are the sole responsibility of the state. We hear it all the time: 'We want our fair share. We want our fair share.'


Let's add another element to the Labor Party playbook. When they are given more than their fair share, they knock it back. Why? By knocking it back, they can go back to the start. They are in some sort of continuous negative feedback loop whereby by knocking it back they can go back to doing nothing other than reviewing—and on and on we go. We saw that in the contribution from the member for Nicklin. Scott Morrison, Andrew Wallace and Ted O'Brien have called them out. Tonight, we the LNP Sunshine Coast team are calling out the Premier, the Treasurer, the transport minister and the members for Caloundra and Nicklin, who would rather do nothing but review instead of delivering for the people of the Sunshine Coast.

I tell the member for Caloundra that his constituents want more rail and less jail. That is what they want. As other members have said tonight, there was a day when state Labor governments believed in rail and believed in rail to the Sunshine Coast. As the member for Ninderry pointed out, then transport minister Paul Lucas kicked off the project in 2005. As the member for Kawana pointed out, it was the Premier herself, when she was transport minister, who said that it had to happen. It was happening. They had actually got duplication as far as Beerburrum and contracts were signed to take that duplication through to Landsborough. Coming up to the election of 2009, their member for Glass House chose to run away and contest another seat—another play from Labor's playbook when it gets too tough: you go somewhere else, like Maiwar to Murrumba or Greenslopes to Woodridge. Lo and behold, the LNP win the seat of Glass House and the project absolutely evaporates.

It has taken Scott Morrison, Andrew Wallace and Ted O'Brien to put money back on the table, for a state project that once was to be fully funded by the state Labor government, to ensure any duplication happens through the electorate of Glass House. Yes, it is happening. It is getting to Landsborough. That is important, because once that is done we need to continue it on to Nambour. We need to take this line off from Beerwah through Caloundra to Kawana and to Maroochydore so that the people of the Sunshine Coast can move around.

There was a time when state Labor governments were serious about delivering infrastructure across Queensland, including on the Sunshine Coast. Back then, local members actually stood up for their communities. I say to the members for Caloundra and Nicklin: it is time to get on board and deliver heavy rail from Beerwah to Maroochydore. The federal government has put the money on the table. For once, accept it. For once, get off your backsides and actually do something and deliver heavy rail for the Sunshine Coast.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Before I call the next speaker, I want to remind the House of members who are on a warning: the members for Burleigh, Bonney and Miller.

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (5.45 pm): I rise to support the amendment moved by the member for Miller. When it comes to infrastructure, Queenslanders know that only Labor governments can be trusted to deliver. Whether it is at the state or the federal level, we know that the LNP just do not know the meaning or value of infrastructure. It came as no surprise when I heard the member for Fisher say that the Morrison government's undercooked CAMCOS funding was based on the 'Murrabie' extension. I am not sure how much of Queensland the member for Fisher has seen, but I am not aware of anywhere called 'Murrabie'. Is anyone on this side of the House aware of 'Murrabie'?

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Mr MARTIN:** I did, actually. I take that interjection. I googled it. It gave me some good advice for those opposite. It said, 'Try searching for something else.'

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order! Members, I realise that we all are really keen to get to the flood fundraiser tonight so we can all work together. Let's have some peace and let's get through this.

**Mr MARTIN:** While members ponder where on the map 'Murrabie' might be, I take this opportunity to talk about the Palaszczuk government's \$1.1 billion commitment to faster rail between Beenleigh and Kuraby in my electorate. We were only able to announce our funding for this project because we have the plans and the costings. I acknowledge the Morrison-Joyce government's announcement that it will be joining us in funding the Kuraby-Beenleigh upgrade. I hope that the member for Fisher was not referring to the Kuraby-Beenleigh upgrade when he said that the CAMCOS costings were based on the 'Murrabie' extension. Of course, the two are very different projects. You cannot just take the costings from a project which is boosting capacity on an existing track and transfer it over to a project that will see new tracks built. There is a \$6 million planning study underway which will give us an actual costing on this project.


When you have robust planning in place, you can actually have governments working together. We do not want to see governments throwing cash at the wall and seeing what sticks. We do not want to see desperate cash splashes from an equally desperate government on the eve of an election. We want to see governments making sensible, well-costed investments in projects with plans in place.

The Kuraby-Beenleigh rail upgrade is a vital piece of infrastructure for South-East Queensland, especially as we look towards the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. This project will increase the number of tracks between Kuraby and Beenleigh from two to four, with modernised rail systems, station upgrades and level crossing removals. I know that commuters in my electorate of Stretton are particularly excited about the Beenleigh Road level crossing removal, which will help locals to get home from work, do the school drop-off and pickup and spend less time on the road and get home to their families sooner.

In fact, just this weekend I celebrated Neighbours Day in Kuraby in Svoboda Park with the federal member for Moreton, Graham Perrett, with whom I have worked closely on this important issue. Removing the Kuraby level crossing was certainly very popular with locals. They were very happy to talk to Graham about it. Of course, we have the plans and the costings to go with it. I note that Infrastructure Australia has listed improvements to the Gold Coast rail line between Kuraby and Beenleigh on its infrastructure priority list since March 2018. We have the business case, the costings and the planning to keep us going at a cracking pace. Because we have all those things, we now have the funding locked in.

I have been raising this issue about the Kuraby level crossing on behalf of my community for some time. It is located right next door to the Kuraby mosque and down the road from the Kuraby station. In fact, I thank the Minister for Transport for coming out to visit me in person at the crossing. When was it? That is right: it was during the Stretton by-election. In case those opposite have forgotten, that was a pretty bad result for the blue team. In fact, it was the worst result for an opposition in over two decades in a government held seat. The first electoral test for the Leader of the Opposition was a total failure. I understand that it was worse than even Jeff Seeney.

It was so bad that former LNP premier Campbell Newman described it as a disaster. Then he tore up his LNP ticket, packed his bag and left the party. Considering how badly those opposite are going at the moment, I am sure a few old Nationals might be thinking the same thing. The results are a reflection of the trust Queenslanders have in a Labor government. When it comes to infrastructure, only Labor can deliver.

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (5.50 pm): Many of us on this side would know that famous saying by Kerry Packer: 'You only get one Alan Bond in your lifetime.' On this side of the chamber, we only get one Minister Mark Bailey. I am going to conduct a bit of a straw poll with my team about option A and option B. When we look at the CAMCOS corridor we find that it has existed since 1999. The recently appointed Deputy Leader of the Opposition very eloquently referred to the document which I am also going to refer to. It is the plan for connecting South-East Queensland in 2031. The fifth paragraph states—

Rail remains the backbone of the future transport network with its ability to efficiently move large numbers of people. The rail network will be expanded into and including Maroochydhore.

That is from the now Premier. When she was the transport minister back in 2011 she had a great track record. On her watch, for three consecutive years the now Premier increased public transport fares by 15 per cent year on year. I put to my colleagues: would she be option B or option A? I will take my riding instructions from my colleagues.

This is simply another example of a minister who gets up—and he did it again this morning—with a spreadsheet with pretty tabs, some pretty little green highlights and whatnot but all he is merely doing is masking what he, the member for Miller, the transport minister, does every single time we have a budget. The QTRIP document is a lay-by document. He puts a dollar down and then shuffles it across over the forward estimates.

In my remaining 2½ minutes, I am going to go through some of Minister Bailey's budget blow-outs and failures. Let us look at the Beerburrum to Nambour rail duplication.

**Mr BAILEY:** I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. As fascinating as a historical treatise on other issues this might be, this is a motion specific to an issue around the Sunshine Coast rail announcement. He is now going on about a whole lot of other topics. He is really going off both the motion and the amendment to the motion.


**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Member for Kawana, you are on a warning. I have given advice to the House previously that I will hear points of order in silence. There is no point of order. I have granted some latitude around this debate tonight and I will continue to do that.

**Mr MINNIKIN:** My advice to the incompetent, failed Minister for Transport is: take the \$1.6 billion while you have the chance. When it comes to managerial responsibility in his portfolio, he is absolutely missing in action. I will continue to highlight the failures under this incompetent member. Remember that this is the member who was called 'foolish' by the CCC. This is the member who we now know in relation to the email trail does receive riding instructions from formerly the ETU. If we have a look, while he is trying to hold off being the transport minister, there is a \$500 million project go-slow for the Beerburum to Nambour rail duplication. Some \$10½ million was underspent last year. In fact, that underspend has reduced by another \$32 million.

I turn to Cross River Rail. The minister wants to talk about business cases. Let us talk about the business case of the former member for South Brisbane who said, 'No. Forget about the discount rate. That is all too hard. We are going to simply do it on our own.' With some creative rail track realignments in relation to train stations we have the poor, unfortunate member for Miller who has inherited that big mess. It has gone from three years ago on page 14 of the SDS being a \$5.4 billion project to miraculously about 10 months ago popping up on about page 16 of the SDS as a \$6.888 billion project and rising. We have had about a \$2 billion blowout on this signature project that this minister is meant to have carriage of.

Is it any wonder that the people of the Sunshine Coast feel short-changed. Is it any wonder that the people of the Gold Coast feel short-changed. We have two projects on the Gold Coast alone. Here is where, if the minister were on top of his brief, he could fund, or at least close to, \$1 billion out of the \$1.6 billion tip in. I will give the minister some guidance here. One of those projects is Gold Coast Light Rail stage 3A—a \$300 million blowout. Then we have—wait for it—the second M1 and a \$600 million blowout. There is \$900 million of the \$1.6 billion. This minister is more fixated on emails and theatrics than doing his job.

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (5.55 pm): I rise to support the motion as amended by the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. I start by acknowledging my two incredibly hardworking colleagues the member for Caloundra and the member for Nicklin. I am confident in saying that the people of Caloundra and Nicklin have never before had members of this calibre—such hardworking and committed representatives who get great results for their communities. The Morrison-Joyce government appears to agree. I am sure they have been looking at our election results, looking at what the members for Caloundra and Nicklin have achieved in 18 months and worked out that they might be in a bit of trouble. Members heard it here first: these formerly blue ribbon seats are at risk and the federal LNP know it. After decades of negligence under the LNP, the Sunshine Coast has had a gutful and are getting ready to replace the members for Fisher and Fairfax.

What has the Morrison-Joyce government done in response? They have not gone out and found new candidates who will work for their electorates. They have not told the members for Fisher and Fairfax to stop taking their communities for granted. They have done what they always do which is throw a big cash promise at the problem. It will not work. The Sunshine Coast voters can see right through it. They know the LNP are all about announcement and no delivery.

They know that from experience. Under the Newman government, five Sunshine Coast MPs served in cabinet—the member for Kawana; the member for Glass House; the former member for Caloundra, Mark McArdle; the former member for Buderim, Steve Dickson; and the former member for Noosa. Even with all of that representation around the cabinet table, those opposite still took the Sunshine Coast for granted and left them behind. The people of the Sunshine Coast are sick and tired of a lazy LNP government and lazy local members. They know that only Labor governments can be relied on to deliver for them.


The future CAMCOS project—whatever form it will take and however much it will cost once planning is done—will only be possible because of this government's investment in projects like Cross River Rail. By unlocking the rail bottleneck in the centre of Brisbane, we are opening up capacity across the entire South-East Queensland network, paving the way for further upgrades. That would not be possible if those opposite were in power. Tony Abbott slashed the federal funding for Cross River Rail. Campbell Newman cancelled the project altogether. At successive elections we saw those opposite commit to cancelling the project again.

Thank God for the Palaszczuk government that is not only building Cross River Rail but also funding it solo after the federal LNP refused to restore their funding. We asked Canberra for the funding and they knocked it back. Do members know why the federal LNP knocked it back? They said Infrastructure Australia was still waiting on planning documents even though we had secured all the necessary approvals.

Here we are, five years and a pretend Prime Minister later, with a \$1.6 billion commitment for a project with no business case. The people on the Sunshine Coast will see this for the cheap political stunt that it is and they will see this thanks to the amazing members for Caloundra and Nicklin, who have shown them what actually delivering for a community looks like.

The Palaszczuk government is delivering for the Sunshine Coast with projects like the Mooloolah River Interchange, after those opposite did nothing to progress that project; the Bells Creek Arterial Road; and the Beerburrum to Nambour rail upgrade. These projects are only funded thanks to the work of this government.

We are delivering \$27.5 billion worth of roads and transport infrastructure that our rapidly growing state needs because that is what Labor governments do. We deliver. I look forward to us continuing to deliver infrastructure for our state and for the Sunshine Coast alongside an Albanese Labor government who will never take the Sunshine Coast for granted.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (5.59 pm): It is time to back rail, not block rail, to Maroochydore. Who would think that since August 2005, when the Labor government announced a \$480 million project giving the 'green light' to establish a high-speed line from Beerwah to Caloundra by 2015, and up the coast to Maroochydore by 2020, bringing rail to the Sunshine Coast and the coastal area that we would have a Labor government in this place throwing money back at the federal government and making excuses for why they do not want to deliver on that plan. It is time. It is time to bring rail to Maroochydore.

For the information of Treasurer Dick, who thinks that it is only about LNP seats—which apparently is his criteria for not doing things—there are Labor seats that will benefit from rail in the CAMCOS corridor. I also realise that some of the backbenchers of the Labor Party were perhaps sold a pup when they were told how wonderful they are and how they are building things. Let me give them a history lesson.

In 2009, Anna Bligh went to the election not only having promised to duplicate the north coast line to the Sunshine Coast—which is the spine of Queensland—but also having gone to market and briefing the market that the next stage of the rail duplication would continue. Then what happened? As my colleague the member for Glass House outlined, after the election they ripped that up. They threw it out and they realigned funding to other areas. That is the record of Labor on rail on the Sunshine Coast.

We are going to stand up to the bullies such as the Premier and some of her hack ministers who want to blame the people of the Sunshine Coast for not voting for them. People do not like bullies and they do not like that sort of deceit when they promise one thing before the election in 2009 and mislead the public and then rip it up afterwards.

I am delighted that the federal government, unlike this government, has said, 'This is in the budget. This is part of our plan to build the rail through to the coastal area of Maroochydore,' even though this Labor government had it in their original plans. Now they do not want to do it. They are using weasel words and finding all the excuses for why they do not want to do it. They can waste money with blowouts on other projects, but they will not commit to this project which must happen. It needs to happen. If they are serious about the 2032 Olympics, let alone the population growth on the Sunshine Coast, these projects have to start now.

It is about an infrastructure pipeline where the planning is done and the infrastructure is delivered. This government has had all of these years and now they are saying that they have not done the planning. They are making all of these excuses saying, 'We cannot take the \$1.6 billion from the federal government because we have not done the planning.' I bet there has been more planning done on CAMCOS than has been done on the billion dollar Gabbra upgrade for an extra 8,000 seats. They have committed themselves to other projects, yet they are claiming they have not done the planning for this project. I do not believe it. It is time they committed to it. Stop throwing the money back, start actioning it and make it happen. Stop blaming the people of the Sunshine Coast for saying that they want it. Stop saying that they are going to punish the people of the Sunshine Coast because we back them and we are standing up for them.

Our message is this: it is time to back rail rather than block rail to the Sunshine Coast. It is time to build infrastructure rather than to stop building infrastructure. It is about a government that needs to be for all of Queensland rather than for their mates and those who line their pockets. Someone said earlier that maybe they would start building things if Anacta was the preferred lobbyist and was going to get a cut. Apparently the business case model that they listen to has a little bit of money shuffled in via—

**Mr Minnikin:** That is option B.

**Ms SIMPSON:** Yes, that is option B. They are consultants now. They are not lobbyists; they are consultants. They are really lobbyists by any other name. They are funnelling money to this government and not into the projects that Queenslanders want and that the Sunshine Coast knows they need. If you want a livable region, if you want people using public transport, you need to invest in it and you need to see the projects that have been laid down coming to fruition.

We want to hear no more excuses from this government that wants to bully and punish people who are standing up and saying, 'It is a right not only for the Sunshine Coast but for South-East Queensland and all of Queensland to have infrastructure built in places of need.' This is an area of need and it is time it was delivered by this government.

*(Time expired)*



**Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (6.04 pm): I also rise to speak in favour of the amended motion moved by the minister. I take up a couple of issues that have come from across the chamber. The member for Kawana has said, 'The money is there. It is on a platter. It is there for us.' I would like to remind the LNP what has been offered before. I remind members of the example that the member for Caloundra gave.

Exhibit A: at the last federal election Scott Morrison promised the people of Geelong a fast rail link to Melbourne and made a \$2 billion funding commitment for a \$4 billion project. Lo and behold, it was worth up to \$15 billion—\$15 billion. That is a bit of a difference there. As mentioned, it is now three years later and nothing has happened—not a shovel in the ground, not a sod turned—absolutely nothing. Why would you rely on what Scott Morrison has said? You just cannot trust that man.

I do feel sorry for the member for Maroochydore. She has been in government twice and nothing has happened with this project before. That must be very frustrating. She says, 'It is time to deliver the project.' It has been time twice before. Nothing has happened. She also said that we want to punish the people of the Sunshine Coast. We would not want to do that. They have suffered enough under the LNP members for years and years.

This LNP motion is emblematic of the slow decline of the LNP in this House. They could have chosen to move a motion about health issues: 'No. We don't want to talk about that.' They could have moved a motion about the federal budget: 'No. We better not talk about that either.' They could have moved a motion about the lack of federal transport infrastructure funding. We could have talked about Cross River Rail. The question for the member for Chatsworth, as we have heard before, is: where is the LNP on this? We funded this project. It is one of the most important projects in Australia. We have seen nothing from the federal government for this infrastructure project.

This motion is merely about the strange figures they have come up with for one project. Do you remember the old LNP? When we came here in 2015, there was Lawrence Springborg, Jeff Seeney and Andrew Cripps. They were substantial. They were a bit intimidating for us new members coming through. They would not have wasted their time or effort on such an unsubstantial motion as this.

Today the LNP has descended into low-impact irrelevancy under the member for Kawana, and that is a shame as well. This motion reminds me to congratulate the new leadership team of the LNP. I think it is a balanced team. It represents both wings of the LNP—the Sunshine Coast and the Gold Coast. I am afraid to say that all other parts of the LNP have become isolated rumps. The country members are stuck down the back. They are more like a non-Katter remnant. It must be galling for them to see how the KAP members are doing a better job at being country members than they could ever be.

This motion is about the \$1.6 billion rail line, or thought bubble that we have heard today, from Beerwah to Caloundra. The truth is that that money would not even build a line from Beerwah to the highway. The truth is that it looks like they have plucked this figure out of the air. We have already heard that the member for Fisher has said that it is based on costings for the 'Murrabie' rail extension. We

have established that we think he meant the Kuraby to Beenleigh rail duplication. We did the planning and business case for that to put the dollars on the table. That project is very different. I will pull up the member for Ninderry on this.

That project is an 18-kilometre duplication and is on an already established rail corridor, costing \$2.6 billion. The Beerwah to Maroochydore project is 40 kilometres of new rail line through residential areas and farm land, and it has a number of different drainage issues it has to cope with. It is very different. We are committed to the corridor on the Sunshine Coast. Well done to the members for Nicklin and Caloundra for helping to deliver \$3 billion worth of infrastructure investment. They are doing a great job. That is in real contrast to the enfeebled LNP and their limpid motion here tonight.

*(Time expired)*

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

**AYES, 50:**

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

**PHON, 1—**Andrew.

**NOES, 31:**

**LNP, 31—**Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

Pairs: Harper, Janetzki; Richards, Robinson.

Resolved in the affirmative.

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

**AYES, 50:**

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

**PHON, 1—**Andrew.

**NOES, 31:**

**LNP, 31—**Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

Pairs: Harper, Janetzki; Richards, Robinson.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Motion, as agreed—

That this House notes:

1. that the federal government has announced \$1.6 billion for heavy passenger rail from Beerwah to the Sunshine Coast of which \$1.35 billion is beyond the forward estimates more than four years away from 2026-27 onwards;
2. the Minister for Transport and Main Roads is on the record as supporting a future heavy rail connection to coastal communities and has said it 'is absolutely viable into Sunshine Coast in the future' and is committed to delivering transport projects needed for population growth and to support a successful Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games via a collaborative governing state and federal framework;
3. a \$6 million Sunshine Coast rail business case is underway, jointly funded by the Queensland and Commonwealth governments, and any costings before completion are speculative;
4. conflicting versions of where the \$1.6 billion costing was sourced from based on public statements of the federal MPs for Fairfax and Fisher and calls on them to clarify the source of the costings they are using to inform Sunshine Coast residents;
5. of the \$1.6 billion pledged by the federal government in their election eve cash splash, only \$50 million will be available before the next federal election due in 2025; and

congratulates the members for Caloundra and Nicklin for their ongoing support and effective advocacy for critical transport projects needed for the Sunshine Coast.



## ADJOURNMENT

### Coomera Electorate, Events



**Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (6.17 pm): I had the privilege of attending the Ormeau Little Athletics presentation day last Saturday, 26 March. Centre manager, Neil Sperling, and his dedicated team did a great job of it, presenting awards to athletes and making special presentations to coaches and managers. Ormeau Little As are a very strong centre with around 110 athletes. They had their most successful medal tally to date at the state championships at the end of a difficult year, with weather events and COVID impacts reducing the number of meetings. Congratulations, Ormeau Little As.

Also on Saturday, a brave decision was made by Pimpama State School to have their 150th jubilee. They are the oldest school on the Gold Coast, I am reliably informed. A team of volunteers have been working on this event for longer than COVID has been around, knowing that this special day had to happen. A ragtag team of volunteers was ably led by Cassandra Sandersan, a teacher aide at the school, parent from the past and also past P&C president. I was joined on the day by the Leader of the Opposition and member for Broadwater, David Crisafulli, and the regional director, John Norfolk.

The day started with a welcome to country at 10 am and the crowds were already huge. At 10.30, a 20-year time capsule was opened by the then principal, Craig Larden, who was principal from 1989 to 2007, and Michelle Challes, a teacher of over 20 years service at the school, and now I believe at Shailer Park State School. All sorts of bits and pieces were disclosed, including a brick of a mobile phone. All will be put on display at the newly opened 150th jubilee Pimpama State School museum for all to see. Principal Heidi Mackenzie has told me that the whole day was a huge success, with a bumper no reserve auction that raised over \$12,500. To top things off, the raffle with the major prize of an MG was won by one of the teachers, with a \$6,000 travel voucher as second prize and a \$3,000 Red Balloon voucher as third prize. Congratulations, Pimpama State School, on your 150th jubilee.

I go from the old to the new. Last week we saw the opening of the 'never to be built' Pimpama Police Station and the retirement after 44 years of Assistant Commissioner Brian Wilkins. AC Brian Wilkins put on record the more than four-year journey for the delivery of this desperately needed asset for the northern Gold Coast. On behalf of all of us, I thank AC Wilkins for his 44 years of service to the Queensland community and for his support over the past four years. He never gave up on the station, ensuring that when Katarina Carroll came in as Police Commissioner he was there on her doorstep saying, 'This has to be done.' He also joined the fight for 36 additional police for the fast-growing northern Gold Coast, taking us from 81 members in the police force up to 117. I wish him a long, healthy and happy retirement. Job well done.

### Bundamba Electorate, Infrastructure




**Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (6.20 pm): I am very pleased to announce to the House that an architect has been appointed to design the brand new, full service Transport and Main Roads customer service centre in our local community at 28 Brisbane Road, Bundamba. Following a tender process, the brand new service centre will be designed by PDT Architects, with a focus on inclusive, accessible and comfortable customer experiences for all. This new TMR customer service centre will offer a full range of transport services, including licences and registration, and is set to open as soon as possible. It is all being delivered as part of the Palaszczuk government's record \$27.5 billion transport plan, which includes over \$1 billion for Ipswich alone. This new customer service centre is a massive win for locals and frontline Transport and Main Roads workers alike.

We also continue to invest in world-class education for our local community. Work has officially started on our new state school at Augustine Heights which will support over 230 local jobs. Last week I was proud to join the education minister and member for Jordan, alongside founding principal, Kendall Secombe, to turn the sod at the site of the new \$85 million down payment on more world-class local education for our community. Our local community is growing fast, and this new school will be a welcome addition to nearby Fernbrooke State School, Redbank Plains State School and Augusta State School. It will be supported by another new school in Ripley that is set to open in 2023, a new primary school in Bellbird Park and a new high school in the Collingwood Park-Redbank Plains area, which are both set to open in 2024.

Our community is walking the road to flood recovery together, and assistance continues to come from all areas. I would like to thank the Gailles Golf Club, which will host the Goodna Flood Recovery Golf Day on Thursday, 21 April, raising money for our local junior sports clubs that have been impacted by the recent floods. I would like to thank Frank and the team for making this day happen. I invite everyone to get behind this wonderful initiative and support our ongoing flood recovery.

Our local flood recovery took a massive hit in last night's federal budget, with Scott Morrison failing to deliver on equal funding for flood victims in Queensland and New South Wales. Flood victims in New South Wales get \$3,000, while flood victims in my local community get only \$1,000. Every day that continues, the Prime Minister stands condemned.

### Common Ground

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (6.23 pm): I rise this evening to tell the House about the establishment of Common Ground on the Gold Coast. Those who keep up to the date with the Register of Members' Interests will have seen that I recently updated mine to include directorship of Common Ground Gold Coast, a company which has been set up under the umbrella of Common Ground Queensland.

For those members who are not aware, Common Ground's vision is to end homelessness one person at a time in the communities in which they operate, under their philosophy of supported housing. I have been an advocate of this model of supported housing since visiting with Common Ground's founder, Rosanne Haggerty, at their site at Times Square, New York in 2008. I would encourage all members to do further research into the Common Ground model of care.

Our goal is to replicate what Common Ground Queensland has achieved in South Brisbane for the Gold Coast. In partnership with directors from the Queensland board, we hope to secure the land and funds for our first project of 200 dwellings at a single site, with supports and services suited to address long-term homelessness and disadvantage.


The Gold Coast foundation board will be made up of representatives from Common Ground Queensland—Peter Pearce, Joelle Ogilvie and Sonya Keep—and foundation members of the original working group established to explore options for the Gold Coast—architect Barry Lee, Tony Cosser, Sheila Ponting, Mat Jutsum and Di Kozij. I also want to make special mention of Jackson Hills, who has been a driving force in pulling this project and team together. Jackson has kept us focused, organised and on task, and I am so pleased that he will continue his voluntary work with us as secretary of Common Ground Gold Coast.

Common Ground is a groundbreaking model of care. It provides long-term supported accommodation to individuals experiencing homelessness with complex and chronic illnesses. The Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union, in addressing the Health and Environment Committee earlier this year, spoke at length about the value of nurse-led models of community health care and praised the work and collaboration of Micah Projects and Common Ground Brisbane.

We need Common Ground on the Gold Coast. We have identified the ideal site and have written to the Premier asking that part of this site be set aside for Common Ground in the future. We are working on our business case. The capital cost will be upwards of \$50 million, but the whole-of-life benefits and cost savings make it more than worthwhile. My call to this House is to get behind Common Ground Gold Coast. It is a fantastic model of care. I believe in it, and I believe that once it has been established on the Gold Coast we need to further explore this model of care being established in every major population centre around the state of Queensland.

In closing, I would like to add my comments and congratulations to those of the member of Coomera in respect of Assistant Commissioner Brian Wilkins and his 44 years of service. I had the privilege of attending high school with Brian. We were in the first cohort at Keebra Park.

### Live Music Industry

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (6.26 pm): I rise with pleasure to talk about the successful launch of the Parliamentary Friends of the Live Music Industry last sitting week. It turns out that the Green Deck is a great venue for a live music concert, and I thank the Speaker for his indulgence in letting us host such a remarkable event right here at Parliament House last sitting.

I want to thank Sahara Beck and Jem Cassar-Daley for their awesome performances on the night. They literally rocked the house. I give a huge thankyou to Kris Stewart, the CEO of QMusic, the QMusic board and the team that worked with us to pull the event together. We had well over 100 attendees and, judging by the photos, I think it is safe to say that everyone enjoyed themselves thoroughly.

Thanks to everyone here who came along to support this important industry. I am sure we all have a live music venue in or around our electorate, a club or a pub that has done it tough in recent years. I am going to claim the Sandstone Point Hotel. As a fellow concert-goer, I hope the member of

Pumicestone will not mind sharing with me. I send a shout-out to Rob Comiskey and the Comiskey Group for creating such a fantastic outdoor music venue. I know that the member for Pumicestone loves it as much as I do and it is in her electorate.

**Ms King:** I love it more, member for Kurwongbah!

**Mr KING:** Anyone who does not know the Sandstone Point Hotel would be a south sider. The Comiskey Group also own and operate the Eatons Hill Tavern. It was great to have Rob and his entertainment director, Jonathan, with us for the launch the other day. I want to thank them for continuing to bring live music opportunities to the Moreton Bay region. I also want to put on record my thanks to QMusic for the work they do every day to progress and support the live music industry in Queensland, from grassroots artists to the biggest concert venues in the state.

Moving forward, the Parliamentary Friends of the Live Music Industry will be a great vehicle to help promote live music activities right across Queensland and to listen to what the industry needs from government, especially now as we seek to help artists, venues and the people working in all those jobs needed to make the industry work to recover from the enormous adversities of COVID-19 which all but decimated the live music scene at its peak.

With great shows happening like the band I saw with the Minister for Tourism, Stirling Hinchliffe, and the federal candidate for Petrie, Mick Denton, at the Bracken Ridge Tavern a week or so ago—the Filthy Animals are an Aussie supergroup of sorts, made up of current and former members of great bands like Mondo Rock, John Butler Trio, Eurogliders and rock guitar legend Brett Williams from the mighty Choir Boys, and Richard Champion, the former AFL player, singing; he is pretty good—as well as concerts like Under the Southern Stars the other day at the Riverstage, live music is back.

Finally, thanks goes to my co-chair, the member for Bonney. Music brings together people from all walks of life and from all sides of politics. Our launch last sitting was a testament to that, and I look forward to sharing many more musical adventures with him in the future.

### Federal Budget, Sunshine Coast



**Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (6.29 pm): I have risen on a number of occasions in this chamber to talk about how lucky I am to live on the Sunshine Coast and, in fact, how lucky every local on the Sunshine Coast is to live in our beautiful region. Last night we were reminded yet again, with the federal budget showcasing just how much investment is being delivered locally.

I would like to take this opportunity to particularly thank the member for Fairfax, Ted O'Brien, for all of his hard work and advocacy to ensure residents across my electorate of Ninderry and the wider Sunshine Coast receive their fair share. Never before has the Sunshine Coast received so much federal government funding. There would be very few residents who will not directly benefit from the cost-of-living support and other measures unveiled in the Morrison government's budget last night.

This includes more than 77,000 pensioners, disability support recipients, carers and jobseekers who will benefit from the \$250 one-off cost-of-living payment and over 200,000 motorists who will benefit from cheaper fuel, saving 22 cents a litre. More than 3,000 young people from across our region will benefit from incentives for apprentices and trainees while more than 138,000 low- and middle-income earners will receive tax relief of up to \$1,500 this year.

The federal government is also doing the heavy lifting when it comes to investing in our roads and rail infrastructure with an investment of over \$3.2 billion for upgrades to the Bruce Highway, \$390 million for the Beerburum-Nambour rail duplication and this week's announcement of \$1.6 billion for the long overdue Beerwah-Maroochydore rail line.

In the last six years that Ted O'Brien has been the member for Fairfax he has delivered and secured almost \$5 billion in infrastructure funding alone. This is in stark contrast to the six years of the Labor Rudd-Gillard-Rudd years prior to the election of Ted O'Brien to the electorate of Fairfax. The federal government is also doing the heavy lifting when it comes to housing affordability, extending the home guarantee scheme with an additional 50,000 places each year.

As we approach the eve of the critical time frame to prepare our region for the single most significant event in our lifetime, the 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games, it is this type of local federal government representation the Sunshine Coast needs and deserves. When Queenslanders go to the federal poll in May the choice is very clear. While Labor is more concerned about how things look than how they are, it is the Morrison government that is managing the economy by investing in infrastructure, getting Queenslanders into work and training, bailing out our failing health services and supporting the most vulnerable in our community by easing cost-of-living pressures.

### Algester Electorate, Community Organisations



**Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (6.32 pm): In the Algester electorate there are so many community organisations that contribute so much to the fabric of our community. These organisations are filled with volunteers and participants from right across the Algester electorate who give their time so generously to help others and keep us all connected. During the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent flooding event these organisations have played an even more critical role in our community. I am very pleased to support their efforts, whether that be via the donation of new marquees for the Algester-Parkinson Lions, the Algester Men's Shed and the Algester Little Athletics or support for community events like the recent Forestdale Neighbourhood Watch motor show and country fair, which I have to say was a huge success. It is something I think the member for Kallangur would have liked to have attended. There are also the upcoming Queensland Day celebrations.

Over the last year community organisations in the Algester electorate have been successful in receiving many government grants including over \$216,000 from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund to support initiatives in our community. In round 108 the scouts association in the Algester electorate received \$12,607 to install a shed and purchase equipment that will support activities in youth development, resilience and confidence for the joeys, cubs and scouts. Let me tell honourable members that they are incredibly happy to be receiving that funding.

In round 110 Calamvale Special School P&C received \$33,542 to update their kitchen which is utilised as a canteen and as a hospitality training area for students to learn how to prepare, cook and serve meals. That is an incredible opportunity for these students. I was fortunate to visit the school to congratulate the P&C on receiving this funding and hear about their plans for the newly renovated kitchen and how it will transform student and staff morale.

The successful recipients in the Algester electorate over the past year also included the Belong Community Centre at Acacia Ridge, Rural Aid, Life & Legacy in Hillcrest, Brisbane Maratha Warriors Cricket Club, Logan City Gridiron Football Club in Browns Pains, C&K Calamvale outside school hours care among others. I have been privileged to meet with and visit many of these wonderful organisations.

I also want to take this opportunity to acknowledge a very special volunteer in the Algester electorate. Bob Hetherington from the Algester Men's Shed recently stepped down as the shed's president after many years of working hard to establish the shed and helping find their new temporary home in the Algester electorate. It has not always been an easy journey for Bob but he has never wavered in his determination to support the many members of the Algester Men's Shed. Just last week I joined with the federal member for Oxley, Milton Dick, in congratulating Bob. I would like to take this opportunity to publicly and formally acknowledge the hard work of Bob Hetherington and everything he has done and continues to do for so many across the community and in particular for the many men who are members of the Algester Men's Shed and who rely very heavily on the support they receive there.

### National Parks, Stray Cattle




**Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (6.35 pm): I rise to speak about a huge issue which has largely escaped the public eye in the form of killing cattle in national parks in Cape York. For years Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service have been performing shoot-to-kill operations, indiscriminately killing unbranded and branded cattle, often with little or no notice to surrounding landowners who own most of the cattle. These landowners who are rarely notified are then held up by government bureaucracy, often waiting months before they can obtain a permit to collect their branded cattle. Meanwhile parks and wildlife have already shot their cattle.

This is a huge economic loss to the region. I have seen firsthand in these remote areas how ringers and contractors muster cattle, which provides jobs and economic flow-on benefits right through to the local meatworks. Plus it is exciting work and it provides Indigenous ringers work opportunities which the government is currently denying them. Over the last three years more than 5,000 cattle worth more than \$6 million on today's market have been shot on the orders of the department of environment. The question has to be asked: why are neighbouring properties to Cape York national park given only one week's notice or no notice before the killing of the cattle occurs? When adequate notice is given, it is always during the wet season when it is far too difficult and dangerous to muster cattle. It is quite obvious that this government wants to drive pastoralists out of the region so they can lock it up to meet their environmental agenda.

I have been advised of local reports that cows, calves and bulls have been indiscriminately shot in the gut, the leg or elsewhere during these operations when they should be one-shot kills. The carcasses provide an easy food source for thousands of feral pigs and wild dogs living unmolested in a haven in the national parks. We have been trying for years to get the government to commit more funding to feral pig programs and to allow access for hunters in national parks to reduce pig numbers as it is a massive environment issue. However, it appears the government would rather spend a huge amount of taxpayers' money on killing perfectly good cattle instead of reducing the environmental threat that feral pigs and wild dogs pose.

I call on the minister to fix this longstanding issue, streamline the permit process, instruct the department to provide adequate notice and work with landowners to muster valuable cattle instead of destroying this income stream.

### Health System, Investment


 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (6.38 pm): I am proud to be part of a government that is committed to high-quality health care for Queenslanders. The Palaszczuk government has put forward a record \$22.2 billion health investment in Queensland that focuses on recruiting frontline staff, building health infrastructure, reducing emergency and surgical wait times and continuing to keep us safe from COVID-19. This health investment is made possible by our strong economic recovery from the pandemic. Strong and healthy Queenslanders make for a strong and healthy economy, so it stands to reason that we should return some of those dividends to keep Queenslanders healthy.

There are a number of major initiatives that make up our record health investment including building seven satellite hospitals in an Australian first initiative. That is a \$265 million investment that will reduce pressure on our major hospitals and create more than 700 jobs during construction. One of these satellite hospitals will be located at Eight Mile Plains. It will deliver convenient community focused care closer to home and provide ongoing secure jobs in my local area.

This is great news for my community and will improve the quality of life for people who live in our growing area. Like all members on this side of the House, I will always fight for high-quality universal health care that is accessible to everyone. Another initiative that I am proud of is the additional 26 beds that are being provided at QE II Hospital by June this year as part of a \$12.1 million expansion program. We will deliver additional capacity which is needed as demand for health services on Brisbane's south side is growing. We are also increasing capacity of our health system by hiring more staff, with 108 new frontline ambulance officers who will help provide important care for our community. In addition, 795 new junior doctors have also joined the front line to help strengthen our public health system. I was pleased to meet a few of these new doctors recently at QE II Hospital and I wish them all the best as they start their careers.

A good public health system requires investment both at the federal and state level and the Palaszczuk government has put forward record health investment in Queensland, and we call on the Morrison government to do its bit by committing fifty-fifty funding. The LNP had its chance to do the right thing by Queenslanders last night in the federal budget, but it failed. A lack of affordable bulk-billing GPs, rising private health costs and Scott Morrison's failure to deliver proper funding for our hospitals is not helping. Right now Queensland picks up the majority of the cost. Increasing the federal contribution means that we can create more beds, hire more frontline staff and deliver more services. Queenslanders deserve a fair go from the Morrison LNP government. This includes urgent ongoing support to help Queenslanders recover from the floods by matching us fifty-fifty on our \$771 million resilience package along with a commitment to a fairer fifty-fifty funding model for Queensland Health.


### Great Barrier Reef

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (6.40 pm): With UNESCO scientists on a monitoring trip to our state over the last week, tonight I want to talk about government actions to protect our precious Great Barrier Reef. It is our most significant natural asset—a mosaic of ecologies the size of Europe. With climate change causing more frequent and severe bleaching events from rising temperatures, the risk to it is real. We must do all we can to protect it. There is no time to waste on blame games. Blaming others is not going to convince UNESCO to not downgrade it, nor is taking a year to reannounce old commitments as the minister did last week. All we have seen from the state government is spin. It asks for a matching of funds that it has not even spent. It ignores the fact the federal government is spending three times as much as it is on the reef. It talks big but delivers little.

Queensland trails the nation on emissions reduction, in our recycling rates, and in our protected areas estate. On water quality, to help farmers meet best practice standards there has been very little investment. I visited the Burdekin last week and heard that in that region alone there are around 530 sugarcane growers but just one agronomist funded by Canegrowers—only a single one of these vital experts to support over 500 farms. How does that help growers to put in place best practice? We are at real risk of having the reef downgraded by UNESCO and if this happens it will be a devastating blow for Queensland. It will impact tourism and the jobs in that sector, but most importantly it calls into question the health of our reef for future generations. If it is downgraded I am not going to put all of the blame at the state government's feet and, likewise, for it to put it all on the federal government would be equally wrong. The state and federal governments share responsibility for the reef and both levels of government need to pull out all stops to protect it. Playing the blame game does not help do that. Making announcements, especially recycled ones, also does not. We need outcomes. We need to start meeting targets, to make progress on reducing our impact.

Finally, once again I raise the Scientific Consensus Statement. This important document is put together every five years, with a new one due this year. I urge the minister to make this process as open as possible and to do more to promote it. Transparency on how this is put together and explaining how it is compiled and the research to people, particularly regional Queenslanders—even doing things like pop-up stalls and public meetings—is really important. We need better communication of the science so that all Queenslanders can understand this statement, what it means and how it was put together. That will greatly help with action to protect the Great Barrier Reef.

### Organ Donation, Gift of Life Walk

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (6.43 pm): I begin by thanking the Speaker of the House for allowing me to wear this T-shirt in the chamber tonight because I know that it is not the normal garb that we would wear in the parliament. Last year Queenslanders rallied behind organ and tissue donations, with a record surge in people registering with the Australian Organ Donor Register. Friend of mine and Wynnum resident Margie Kruger knows all about the importance of registering to be an organ donor. Sadly, in 2007 Margie's partner Debbie passed away while waiting for a lung transplant. Interestingly enough, whilst Debbie was waiting for her lung donation for herself, she was also registered as an organ donor and was able to give the gift of sight through an eye donation when she passed away. Ever since, Margie has been a strong advocate for raising awareness around organ and tissue donation and tomorrow morning she will be hosting a Gift of Life walk in Manly.

The Gift of Life walk is about raising awareness for organ donation. Unfortunately I will not be able to be there because I will be in parliament, but that is why I wanted to talk about it tonight and wear this T-shirt. It is really important to talk about waiting for lifesaving transplants and to ask members of the community to consider registering on the organ donor register, and tomorrow on the walk there will be people waiting for a transplant. I know that these conversations can be sometimes very difficult because we do not want to look at our own mortality, but it will be a chance for my community and also the broader community to have a walk and a chat about this really important issue not just for my community but for all Australians.

Last year 86 Queenslanders became organ donors just like Debbie and that saved the lives of 253 Australians. What an amazing legacy to leave! Whilst COVID has seen a little bit of a decline in the number of transplant recipients, still 62 per cent of Queenslanders consented to organ donation last year. Some 419 Queenslanders donated their eyes and 102 donated tissue, providing life-changing procedures to recipients. Almost 40,000 Queenslanders registered as potential organ donors in 2020 and there are now 1.2 million Queenslanders on the Australian Organ Donor Register, or the AODR. Interestingly, seven in 10 Queenslanders support donation but less than one in three are actually registered. We need to close this gap, so if you want to support organ donation please register. Further, nine out of 10 families proceed with the donation once their loved one is registered. However, this drops to four out of 10 when the family does not know of their loved one's wishes. My message today is to register and let your loved ones know what your choices are at end of life.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Thank you, member, for being a champion for such an important issue.

The House adjourned at 6.47 pm.

**ATTENDANCE**

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Camm, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Gilbert, Grace, Hart, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Katter, Kelly, King A, King S, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, MacMahon, Madden, Mander, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke, Palaszcuk, Pease, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Skelton, Smith, Stevens, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Watts, Weir, Whiting