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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 12 May 2022

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THURSDAY, 12 MAY 2022



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, yesterday afternoon I received advice from the member for Burleigh, Mr Michael Hart MP, as to his absence from the sittings of the House yesterday and today. The member's notification complies with standing order 263A.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Member for Mansfield, Request for Withdrawal



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, yesterday, in the second reading debate on the Public Trustee (Advisory and Monitoring Board) Amendment Bill, the member for Mansfield rose on a point of order indicating that she took personal offence in relation to an interjection by the member for Clayfield. The Deputy Speaker in the chair indicated that she did not hear the interjection and advised that she would consult with me with a view to checking the audio of the proceedings. I have listened to the recordings. There is nothing on them that would indicate that the member for Clayfield either identified the member for Mansfield nor that he made any personal reference to her. Accordingly, there is no point of order that can be ruled upon.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Australia's Biggest Morning Tea



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, after the conclusion of question time, I invite all members to the Lucinda Bar for Australia's Biggest Morning Tea—one of the most important fundraising events for the Cancer Council. This May, right across Australia, all of us are trying to have a cuppa and a bite to eat to raise awareness and funds for cancer research, prevention and support services. I encourage all members to support today's event. We will be joined by Her Excellency the Governor of Queensland, the Premier and multiple members. I encourage everyone to attend. Very importantly, I hope that members can go back to their electorates and support Australia's Biggest Morning Tea at some time. I advise members that the Lucinda Bar shall be open to all persons and not just members during this time, which is out of step with our usual arrangements. Given that we have other matters on this morning, I thought members should be aware of that.

ME/CFS and Fibromyalgia International Awareness Day




Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, today is ME/CFS and Fibromyalgia Awareness Day. People talk about conditions such as chronic fatigue syndrome. It is a debilitating disease. It is characterised by widespread pain, cognitive impairment and disabling fatigue. More than 75 per cent of ME patients cannot work or attend school and 25 per cent are housebound or bedridden for years. Fewer than 10 per cent ever fully recover. Sufferers are so devastatingly sick that they are invisible and

effectively lost to the community. Currently, there is no cure and no approved treatment for ME, but researchers from Griffith University, working with Queensland Health, have developed the first laboratory-based diagnostic test.

To mark this day, Parliament House will be lit blue. Blue ribbons have also been distributed to members in the chamber. I commend the awareness day to the House and ask that people always think twice when they look at things in our community that are potentially invisible. People will quite often be suffering from a condition that none of us are aware of. It is very important that we remember that.

Parliament, Mace

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, it is very rare as Speaker that I have to record an apology, but today I wish to place on the record my apologies to the Sergeant-at-Arms. Michael leads me to the chamber every day and announces me. I made this morning a very difficult morning for him. He had a few heart palpitations earlier this morning. Unfortunately, he was unknowingly a guinea pig for testing the realism of our new replica mace.


As members are aware, we have school tours and do a range of different things around Queensland. Ordinarily we would use a wooden or brass version of the mace. There have been improvements in 3D technology. In my role as screen champion, I have a lot of contacts in the movie industry. We have produced a much higher quality replica of the mace. As part of my engagement with the industry I reached out to Duncan Jones from Myriad Studios and we now have a 3D replica mace which looks extraordinarily like the actual mace.

For members' awareness the Sergeant-at-Arms went to the cabinet to unlock the cabinet and the cabinet had a very light mace in it. It did not weigh the usual eight kilograms. There was a moment when he looked around and thought 'There's been a heist!' Michael, I apologise, but it was worth it just to see the reaction. Very importantly, we will be displaying that mace in the cabinet today for members who wish to view it.

The Clerk: There will be a video.

Mr SPEAKER: The video may well be posted. I cannot confirm that. Clerk, that is another thing!

School Group Tours

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise members that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Meringandan State School in the electorate of Condamine and MacGregor State High School in the electorate of Toohey.

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

De Lacy, Hon. KE, AM

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.37 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. Keith Ernest De Lacy AM, a former member of the parliament of Queensland and minister of the state.
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.

Keith De Lacy was born in Cairns on 7 August 1940 and was educated at Dimbulah Primary School and Townsville Grammar School. He attained a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Queensland and a Diploma of Agriculture from the Queensland Agricultural College in Gatton. Mr De Lacy had a wide variety of occupations, including tobacco farmer, tin miner, college principal, newsagency proprietor and agricultural education consultant for an international aid agency.

In 1970 he joined the Cairns branch of the Australian Labor Party. At the state elections of 1977 and 1980 he ran unsuccessfully for Barron River against the National Party's Martin Tenni. In 1983, the Labor member for Cairns, Ray Jones, retired, and Mr De Lacy won that seat in the October election. He served as the member for Cairns for almost 15 years, until June 1998, winning further elections in 1986, 1989, 1992 and 1995.

After six years in opposition during the eighties, including front bench roles in primary industries, finance and regional development, Mr De Lacy was part of the historic Goss government victory in 1989. He was sworn in as treasurer and minister for regional development in the first ALP government

in this state in 32 years. As treasurer, on 5 September 1990, he delivered the first Labor budget in Queensland in 34 years. Recognising its significance, Mr De Lacy said it was a budget which was principally about reform, responsibility and economic growth. He stated—


This Budget commences the task of introducing the most comprehensive and detailed policy reforms ever put forward by a political party in this State. It delivers those reforms while at the same time strengthening the financial position of this State.

On the eve of the 1990 budget the *Australian Financial Review* interviewed Mr De Lacy and wrote that 'the state's economy is in better shape than the national economy'—a familiar story which echoes down the years. At that time, in the 10 months to April 1990 the state's exports were worth \$8.8 billion, a 23 per cent increase on the previous year. It was good news then but nowadays 10 times more, which I am sure Mr De Lacy would appreciate. He delivered another five state budgets as treasurer until February 1996, when there was a change of government. He retired at the state election in June 1998.

Mr De Lacy then had a very successful business career as director and chairman of various companies in the private sector. He was president of the Queensland division of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and he had key roles in Ergon Energy and the Queensland Investment Corporation, serving at times as chair and director of each. In 2001 he was awarded the Centenary Medal for his distinguished service to business and the parliament. In 2006 he was made a Member of the Order of Australia for service to the Queensland parliament, business and public administration and the community of Cairns, which he loved.

Mr De Lacy had a varied career and life from tobacco farmer to state treasurer, from miner to company director. As I said to the House when he passed away late last year, he was a big champion for Cairns and the Far North of our state. His family should be incredibly proud. I acknowledge here today his daughter Jonnie, son-in-law Brett Heyward, grandson Sam, his brother Ian and nephew Michael.

The Hon. Keith Ernest De Lacy AM passed away on 26 November 2021, aged 81. I place on record the government's thanks for the years of service Mr De Lacy gave to the Queensland community, and I take this opportunity to extend my sympathy and that of the House to Mr De Lacy's family and friends.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.41 am): Our state has lost one of the genuine champions of the Queensland parliament with the passing of Keith De Lacy. As the member for Cairns from 1983 until his retirement in 1998, he worked tirelessly for his community and the people of the Far North. As treasurer from 1989 until 1996 he exercised firm control over the state's finances and recognised the need for government to promote investment to help generate economic growth.

Keith De Lacy's contributions as minister and parliamentarian were grounded in his diverse background and experience. There are very few members of this place who could lay claim to a background which includes work as a tobacco farmer, miner, agriculture officer, agricultural college principal in PNG, and newsagent. With this background it is little wonder that Keith De Lacy was able to transfer his myriad of skills to the political arena.

Keith De Lacy's journey to this place was one of tenacity. He suffered two extremely narrow defeats in Barron River before his success in Cairns upon the retirement of the long-serving member Ray Jones in 1983. In his autobiography titled *A Philosophical Journey*, published shortly before his death, Mr De Lacy wrote of the challenges of campaigning. He said—

I never felt comfortable doorknocking. I felt like a fraud, like a religious evangelist who didn't believe in God. However, I did come away with a renewed respect for Jehovah's Witnesses and their doorknocking commitment to their cause. But of course, they had the reward of eternal life, while I, at best, a temporary seat in the rather less ethereal Parliament of Queensland.

Keith De Lacy entered the parliament at a time when Labor was in the doldrums; however, upon the election of the Goss government in 1989 Keith De Lacy rose to prominence as treasurer and established a reputation as an effective manager of the state's finances. Indeed, two of the most respected figures in the business and financial spheres in Queensland, Sir Leo Hielscher and Jim Kennedy, rated Keith De Lacy as an exceptional treasurer. The key to his success was outlined in his autobiography when he wrote—

I believe that you deliver on your social policy commitments through efficient spending and efficient delivery of programs ... well ordered priorities, a strong economy (which increases revenue) and a strong balance sheet, as opposed to splurging today and paying tomorrow, increasing taxes (which weakens the economy) and seeking to please the undeserving entitlement-seekers lining up outside the door.

After the Goss government lost in 1996, Keith De Lacy decided not to seek re-election and to pursue a new career in business. In his post-political life Mr De Lacy played a leading role in the business community. Indeed, he demonstrated that former politicians could make a valuable

contribution to the life of the state once they leave this place. His political achievements were many, but his contribution after politics was significantly equal in its magnitude. He became chairman of Macarthur Coal, Ergon Queensland, Queensland Sugar, the Cubbie Group, Trinity Property Group, CEC Group, Hynes Lawyers, Nimrod Resources, China Oil and Foodstuffs Corporation, and Integrated Food and Energy Development. He continued to serve the people of Cairns through his chairmanship of the Reef Casino Trust and as founding chairman of Advance Cairns. He was president of the AICD and became a Member of the Order of Australia in 2006. Mr De Lacy supported Queensland's then attorney-general, the present Deputy Leader of the Opposition, in his efforts to reform Queensland's directors' liability laws and restore the presumption of innocence.

How a member of this House is regarded is best judged not by what his or her allies say but what their opponents say about them. Those who would normally have been numbered against Mr De Lacy held him in the highest of regard, a clear testimony to his ability to cut across the political divide. Former premier Rob Borbidge said—

He was a giant of the Goss era Labor Party. He made a substantial contribution to public affairs in this state. I remember him as a passionate, deep thinker and he never hid his views, a rarity in politics.

His FNQ parliamentary colleague Warren Entsch, the member for Leichhardt, said—

We weren't on the same side of politics, but I always found Keith to be honest, affable, sincere and a man of the utmost integrity.

Keith De Lacy has left a legacy of which his family, who are here today, can be justifiably proud. From humble beginnings, he has left a significant mark on the Queensland political, economic and social landscape. On behalf of the opposition, I acknowledge Mr De Lacy's contribution to Queensland. We extend our deepest condolences to his family.



Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.46 am): It is a singular honour to serve as a Queensland Labor Treasurer in a Queensland Labor government. Great modernising, progressive reforms—reforms that transformed Queensland for the better, reforms that are only ever introduced and implemented by Labor governments—are only made possible through the sound economic stewardship of those Labor governments. One of the best examples of this was the Goss Labor government, including the man who was its treasurer for every single day of that government: Keith De Lacy.


After more than three decades of conservative rule, the Goss government came to office facing significant challenges, but it also grasped the historic opportunity presented by that magnificent win in 1989 to change Queensland for the better: to make significant infrastructure investments in schools and public housing; to employ thousands of additional teachers; to build and rebuild public hospitals; and to protect our unique and precious natural environment. To do all of this and more, the Goss government had to assure Queenslanders it had the fiscal discipline necessary to deliver such an ambitious program. To a significant extent, that task fell to Keith De Lacy.

The task was monumental: reform the electoral system; modernise the Public Service; transform policing; and fundamentally improve the delivery of health, education and social and community services—services for so long ignored, neglected and denied to Queenslanders—while at the same time instituting fundamental human rights reforms. All of this had to be done while assuring Queenslanders that the Labor government had a firm hand on the financial tiller, a Queensland public that for years had been fed the myth by the Liberal and National parties that those on the right of politics were somehow more entitled or better able to manage public finances.

Keith De Lacy was able to do so much more than just steer the financial and fiscal ship. With his premier, he set about an ambitious program to bring more major companies and more major events to Queensland. The validation of that strategy is that it is mirrored in so much of what our government—our Labor government—does today. Keith De Lacy was not afraid of confronting difficult decisions. It takes strength and determination for a former tobacco farmer to advocate an increase in the tobacco levy to fund a signature Goss government initiative: a 10-year hospital redevelopment program. As a proud regional Queenslander who had worked in some of our state's traditional industries like agriculture and mining, Keith De Lacy understood the importance of regional development, of having tailor-made plans to support job creation and economic growth in a way that suited the different conditions in each of our regions.

After the Goss government, Keith continued to show his passion for those great strengths of the Queensland economy, serving on the boards of a number of significant Queensland companies, especially in the agriculture and resources sector. Along with the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition

and all members of this House, I express my condolences to the family of the late Keith De Lacy. Today we remember and recognise Keith De Lacy's significant contribution to Queensland. Vale, Keith De Lacy.

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (9.49 am): Let me begin by offering my deep and sincere condolences to Keith's daughters and family, some of whom are in the gallery today. Life has forever changed for your family and my heart goes out to you all.


I would have only spoken with Keith De Lacy a dozen times in my life. These conversations were exclusively during his corporate career and particularly during his tenure as president of the Queensland division of the AICD between 2010 and 2014. I especially recall a number of occasions where I spoke with him at ASIC stakeholder functions, often lamenting the dead hand of unnecessary or misguided regulation or, alternatively, regulator inaction which allowed poor conduct to flourish. The fact that we talked at all said everything you need to know about Keith. I was a nobody and he was Keith De Lacy—corporate leader and certainly in my mind Queensland's leading ASX listed director. Funnily enough, we never talked politics—never. Once he learned I grew up on a Darling Downs dairy farm, he probably knew my politics and I certainly knew his.

Other speakers have traversed the details of his personal and political successes and failures, of which there were very few. Notably, Keith oversaw the introduction of the Government Owned Corporations Act in 1993 which modernised governance and accountability in Queensland. This triggered his interest in how companies, like political parties or governments, are managed and ultimately make decisions—the people, the personalities, understanding what motivates them. It sounds eerily like politics.

He was without peer when measured against other Queensland company directors of the time. He guided three companies through IPOs. He was chairman of Macarthur Coal when the company floated with a market cap of \$128 million. Ten years later, Peabody Energy paid nearly \$5 billion for it—all achieved with generous dividend distributions for shareholders along the way.

One of my mentors was Keith's company secretary when he chaired Ergon Energy. He recounted that Keith listened to all points of view in the boardroom and supported any decision that was made, even if it was not his favoured position. His loyal nature then expected others in the room to do so too. His one-liners were legendary and he was simply 'Keith' to everyone—equally at home on the shop floor or in the boardroom.

I read his book *A Philosophical Journey* over summer. One could not help but respect him even more and his ability to maintain philosophical consistency in the face of the passing years, trends and fads. Reading it I was reminded of what previous generations endured to build our state. Keith grew up on the land with what today is unimaginable hardship—no electricity, no fridge, no hot water, no car and, in a problem for a farmer, no tractor. The fact that a man like Keith could rise from these humble tobacco fields of his childhood to tin miner, to Treasurer and to national captain of industry says everything about what is possible in our great state. Truly his was a life well and fully lived. Vale, Keith De Lacy.

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (9.53 am): I rise today to pay tribute to Keith De Lacy. As we have heard, Keith Ernest De Lacy was born on 7 August 1940 in Cairns. Keith grew up on a tobacco farm in the Dimbulah area and received the Diploma of Agriculture from Gatton College. Later he earned a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Queensland as a mature age correspondence student.

Keith had many jobs prior to entering politics, as we have heard, including being a tobacco farmer, being a miner and working up in Papua New Guinea. He then owned the Railway Newsagency in McLeod Street, Cairns, which kept him in contact with many in the community. Keith also served in the Citizen Military Forces in the 1950s.

Keith came from a staunch Labor family. Members of my branch of the Labor Party recall his dedication to the party over many years. When Keith reached the position of the state Treasurer, it was not below him to return to Cairns at the end of a busy parliamentary sitting week to work behind the bar of the Workers Club on a Friday night with his beloved wife, Yvonne.

It would be fair to say that I personally did not know Keith that well. We did speak on a number of occasions. During COVID I recalled that he was the member for Cairns at the time of the pilot strike, which was extremely detrimental at the time, so I had a chat with him then. I do recall the time when I called Keith to inform him of my intention to run for the seat of Cairns, hoping that he might pass on some sage words of advice. His response to my intentions was blunt and to the point: 'Politics is only

one peg up from a used car salesman.' It was at that stage that I decided not to mention the fact that I had indeed been a used car salesman. I may have even felt comfortable knowing that my career path was heading in the right direction based on his assertion.


Keith De Lacy served the Cairns community and Queensland with consummate skill and devotion. During Keith's time in office, the Far North and indeed the state underwent great transformation and positive reforms that were very much needed. Keith was first elected to the state parliament in 1983 following the retirement of the former member, Ray Jones. Cairns in 1983 had a population of approximately 63,000 people. By the time Keith passed the baton on in 1996, the city had grown to 110,000 and had become a modern provincial capital, the gateway to the Great Barrier Reef and a major economic driver for the tourism sector in Queensland—not just in our little part of the world in Cairns.

Keith was instrumental in guiding and shaping this growth and oversaw significant investment in key infrastructure in the Far North. Under Keith's watch, Cairns welcomed its first international passenger flights, its first five-star hotel and the opening of our world-class Convention Centre. Also, a university campus was established and the Cairns Marlin Marina and trawler facilities were upgraded and expanded. These were the economic foundation stones of our city's existing and new economy.

When Keith De Lacy took over the management of the economy and the finances of Queensland as treasurer in 1989, there was a huge debt, but over the next six years Keith certified Labor's fiscal credentials by paying this debt off while still expanding the state and delivering for every Queenslanders. It is not surprising that Keith was so well regarded on both sides of politics. He was an outcomes based politician. I am confident in saying that his strong Labor economic pedigree lives on to this day with sound monetary policy prevailing in uncertain times.

It was the disciple Luke who said, 'For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.' To that end let us remember Keith De Lacy, the committed family man. Keith had a deep and abiding love for his late wife, Yvonne, who died four years prior, after they had been married for 56 years. In 2014 Yvonne was battling kidney failure and as a result Keith donated a kidney to his wife.

Keith De Lacy's contribution to the city of Cairns and the state of Queensland can best be described as enormous. I would like to pass on both my and the Cairns community's deepest condolences to his three daughters, Jacquie, Jonnie and Toni. I know many of the family members are here with us in the gallery today. Vale, Keith Ernest De Lacy.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (9.58 am): It is with a great deal of sadness that I rise today to pay tribute to a great man and a great Queenslanders, Keith Ernest De Lacy, the former member for Cairns. In 1983 Keith was elected to the Queensland Legislative Assembly as the member for Cairns. In 1986 he became opposition spokesman on primary industries, moving to finance and regional development in 1988. Following Labor's historic victory in 1989 with Wayne Goss leading the party, Keith became state Treasurer and minister for regional development. He remained as Treasurer until 1996 before retiring in 1998. Today I would like to give a snapshot of Keith's amazing life both before and after politics—and when I say 'amazing' I mean amazing.

Keith was born in Cairns and raised on his parents' tobacco farm in the Mareeba district. He ventured south in his teens to attend high school at the Queensland Agricultural High School and College at Gatton from 1957 to 1959. Also known as Gatton College, it is currently the University of Queensland—Gatton Campus, or simply UQ Gatton.

A gifted sportsman, in high school Keith was a member of the college Rugby Union First XV, the college cricket First XI, as well as a member of the Citizens Military Force.

It is via UQ Gatton that Keith and I shared the same world but in different eras and it is why I nominated to make a contribution to this condolence motion. Like the members for Chatsworth and Buderim, I am a graduate of UQ Gatton. I am also a former president of the UQ Gatton Past Students Association. Notable UQ Gatton graduates who have entered politics include John McVeigh, the former member for Toowoomba South; Paul Antonio, Mayor of Toowoomba; and Doug Anthony, former deputy prime minister of Australia.

Keith had a variety of occupations after leaving Gatton College in 1959. He share-farmed with his father before drawing his own farm in an irrigation ballot with the Tinaroo Dam irrigation scheme, but he sold this to work as an underground miner at Irvinebank in North Queensland.

He spent eight years in Papua New Guinea, first as an agricultural officer and then as principal of the Highlands Agricultural College at Mount Hagen.

Back in Cairns, he and his wife bought a newsagency and he worked concurrently as an agricultural consultant before entering parliament in 1983.

After retiring from politics in 1998, the next phase of Keith's life was his corporate career. He went on to chair a wide variety of companies including Ergon Energy, Queensland Investment Corporation, Securities Exchange Guarantee Corporation, Macarthur Coal, Trinity Property Group, CEC Group, Queensland Sugar, Global Sugar Alliance, Cubbie Group and COFCO Australia. He also chaired many non-profit groups and remained on the advisory board of both Queensland Leaders and the Graduate School of Management at Queensland University of Technology. In Cairns, he chaired the Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal and was Director of the Cairns International University.


For his services to Queensland, Keith was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in 2006, was awarded a Centenary Medal in 2001, the University of Queensland Gold Medal in 2000 and honorary doctorates from both James Cook and Central Queensland University.

To cap off his talents, Keith was also a writer. His novel, *Blood Stains the Wattle*, was published in 2002 and tells the story of the industrial disruption at Mount Isa Mines in the 1960s.

UQ Gatton never forgets or fails to acknowledge the achievements of its past students. In 2001, Keith was awarded the highest award that UQ Gatton can bestow on its graduates, the UQ Gatton Gold Medal. This recognised his distinguished service to Queensland and its primary industries in various parliamentary, public and private roles.

While I never met Keith, and my political career is dwarfed by his, it seems that we are men of the same heart and cut from the same cloth. We both share a passion for agriculture, both graduated from UQ Gatton, both served in the Army Reserve and both proudly served in the Queensland Legislative Assembly with the Australian Labor Party.

Keith died of cancer on 26 November 2021 at the age of 81 in Brisbane. My condolences to his family. Vale, Keith Ernest De Lacy.

 **Mr SPEAKER:** I wish to also make a brief contribution to this condolence motion in honour of Keith De Lacy. As one of Queensland's longest serving treasurers, Keith made an indelible mark on politics in our state. Whether it be in the Far North Queensland community, here in the Queensland Parliament or in the boardrooms across our state and beyond, Keith's plain spoken intellect earned through his life experience was appreciated, even if you disagreed with him.

As a fellow Far North Queensland and Labor Party member, my father Warren and I were often in the trenches metaphorically with Keith. I can say that even under the greatest of pressure, Keith was affable, but determined.

I can also say as someone in my current role as Speaker, there are comparisons to William McCormack who was the Speaker and treasurer from Cairns, Far North Queensland, about 100 years before I am currently undertaking this role, but it is more often that I am compared and contrasted with Keith De Lacy as a treasurer from Far North Queensland. I remember as a high school student receiving a letter from the then treasurer of Queensland, recommending me a reference for a job, and many years later having that and becoming the treasurer was quite a bond that we shared.

Keith was born in Cairns in 1940. He grew up on a tobacco farm near Mareeba—Dimbulah. After leaving school, he struck out on his own as a tobacco farmer in his own right and it was then he met the love of his life, Yvonne. They married in 1962. Keith worked as a tin miner in Herberton-Irvinebank and as an agricultural officer and later principal of an agricultural college in PNG before joining the Australian Labor Party in 1970.

For five years prior to entering the parliament, Keith and Yvonne ran the Railway Newsagency in McLeod Street and, anyone who knows McLeod Street in Cairns, it was very clear they would be a local retail staple of Cairns life.

Keith was elected as member for Cairns at the 1983 election after two narrow misses in terms of attempts in the seat of Barron River in 1977 and 1980. Not one to shirk multiple simultaneous challenges, he also enrolled as a student at the University of Queensland in the same year and Keith earned an arts degree, another thing that we share in common.

After becoming treasurer upon the election of a Labor government in 1989, Keith De Lacy was instrumental in passing a number of laws to reform fair trading, public superannuation, government owned corporations, gambling and workers compensation. Keith's financial management as the sole

treasurer of the Goss government laid the foundation for long periods of Labor governments following that 1989 election win. His financial management also delivered the progressive social dividends with increased health and education funding.

Keith also left a legacy in the Far North, playing a key role in establishing the James Cook University's Cairns campus. I was one of the first students at that campus. My life is intrinsically linked to Keith De Lacy as a beneficiary of his legacy and I am eternally grateful for that. He was also involved with the Cairns Convention Centre, the Cairns Art Gallery and, as we have heard, related to his role with the Reef Casino Trust.

After leaving politics, Keith was a director and chairman for a range of companies, stepping down from the Reef Casino Trust a few weeks before he passed away.

Keith was the president of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, and in 2006 was awarded the Member of the Order of Australia for services to Queensland.

In his later years, Keith and Yvonne dealt with their health issues. In 2014, Yvonne received a transplant of Keith's kidney, a sign of devotion if there ever was one, and it could be argued that it may have been a kidney, but it was also a heart. Sadly, Yvonne passed away from pneumonia in 2018 and is still missed today.

In closing, I want to say that I was honoured to attend Keith's memorial service in New Farm last December. It was testament to the high regard he was held the number of attendees who came to pay their respects. There was one anecdote that was told at the memorial by one of his children which I believe summed up Keith best. Keith had a saying he would use often: 'The path of life is rarely paved.' This was exemplary of the commonsense wisdom that Keith De Lacy applied in so many ways during his life.

Life is not easy, but one can forge a path forward with hard work and a degree of acumen. These were simple but powerful qualities which Keith had in spades.

I wish to place on record my condolences to Keith's family who are with us here today: his brother Ian, daughter Jonnie, son-in-law Brett, nephew Michael, and grandson Sam. By the way, look out because Sam is someone who I am sure will be troubling a whole bunch of people in this room at some stage. My condolences to the remainder of his family who cannot be with us today, including daughters Jacquie and Toni. Vale, Keith De Lacy.

Will honourable members show their respect by standing in silence for one minute.

Whereupon honourable members stood in silence.

TABLED PAPERS

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

REPORT BY THE CLERK

The following report was tabled by the Clerk—

[645](#) 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—

Public Trustee (Advisory and Monitoring Board) Amendment Bill 2021

Amendments made to Bill

Short title and consequential references to short title—

Omit—

'Public Trustee (Advisory and Monitoring Board) Amendment Bill 2021'

Insert—

'Public Trustee (Advisory and Monitoring Board) Amendment Bill 2022'

MINISTERIAL PAPERS

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Minister for Resources (Hon. Stewart)—

[646](#) Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, explanatory notes: Erratum

[647](#) Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, explanatory notes: Replacement

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Weather Events



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (10.10 am): Heavy rain has impacted many parts of our state in the last 24 hours. I am advised the SES have responded to 114 calls for assistance since 3 pm yesterday with the majority of these incidents in the south-east. Swiftwater rescue crews have responded to five requests for assistance since 3 pm yesterday but, thankfully, no rescues were required.

The Queensland Police Service advised that one house in Kelso near Townsville was inundated with ankle-deep water yesterday. As a precaution officers are doorknocking locals in the lower Grantham area today. Multiple roads are currently being impacted by flooding right throughout Queensland. I urge motorists to please be careful and take note of road closures.

Wet weather has also caused flooding and access problems for a number of schools throughout the state. Education Queensland advised me that 14 schools are closed today. Parents can find updates on school closures on the Education Queensland website.

We have seen some very high rainfall totals overnight including 206 millimetres at Wonbah Forest, inland from Bundaberg; 154 millimetres at Ocean View; and 139 millimetres at Woodford. The Bureau of Meteorology advised: severe thunderstorms with heavy rain and damaging winds are possible across Central Queensland and the southern interior of the state today; severe thunderstorms with locally damaging winds are also possible around North Queensland; and rain will continue across the south-east and Central Queensland over the next couple of days. At this stage the weather is expected to ease on Saturday.

Numerous flood warnings have been issued across the state including a major flood warning for Laidley Creek at Mulgowie, the Bremer River at Spresters Bridge and the Brisbane River at Kholo. A flood watch continues for catchments across Northern, Central and Southern Queensland. I urge motorists again: if it is flooded, forget it.

Floods, Resilient Homes Fund



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (10.12 am): As Queenslanders, we deal with more than our fair share of natural disasters. We only have to look out the window. For the second time in three months widespread heavy rain is leading to floods and loss of life. What is worse is that these events are becoming more frequent and more severe. While we cannot stop the rain from falling, we can help the people of our state recover and be better prepared for whatever comes next.

Today I can announce the biggest home resilience scheme that Australia has ever seen. The \$741 million Resilient Homes Fund will allow flood-affected Queenslanders to raise, repair, retrofit or have their homes voluntarily bought back. It will apply in 37 local government areas affected by floods since November last year. The Deputy Premier will provide more details shortly.

Our government has always been about building back better. We now extend that to people's homes. Initial assessments from the February event show more than 7,000 homes with some degree of damage. These grants literally lift them out of harm's way or replace materials with those that are more flood resilient. In some cases properties can be bought and demolished and the land handed back to local councils as green space.

I stress that no-one will be forced out of their home. It is entirely up to the homeowner. We have seen the effectiveness of this scheme in places like Grantham. Following the devastating 2011 floods Grantham was literally moved to higher ground. None of these new properties flooded in February. Those who choose to stay can gain access to grants that replace floor coverings with more flood resilient finishes like tiles or polished concrete. Power outlets can be raised. Buybacks will be on a case-by-case basis based on a range of factors including the frequency and severity of flooding and future flood risk.

I know there are many people who live in flood-prone homes who will never leave. As the member for Bundamba knows, I speak of people like Lois from Goodna. She and her neighbours in Mill Street lost everything but they love their home, they love their community and they love their neighbourhood even more. At least now they have a choice.

I thank the Deputy Premier; our state recovery coordinator, Major General Jake Ellwood; and the Queensland Reconstruction Authority for their work in preparing this package. I also acknowledge that the Prime Minister finally agreed to our request to fund half of this package. It is never too late to do the right thing, but it is all about what we do next.

What I announce here today is in addition to the measures already delivered. They include 46,004 emergency relief payments totalling \$20.3 million, benefitting 95,450 people. Queenslanders know that we can rely on each other. The \$741 million Resilient Homes Fund is just one more example of that. When Queenslanders find themselves in strife, we will always be there to help.

International Nurses Day



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (10.15 am): Every minute of every day in our hospitals, healthcare centres, aged-care facilities and clinics, nurses and midwives care for and treat Queenslanders with skill, compassion and dedication. Today we acknowledge International Nurses Day and note that International Day of the Midwife was last Thursday. The theme of this year's International Nurses Day is invest in nursing and respect rights to secure global health.

The International Day of the Midwife celebrates 100 years of progress. Of course we know that Queensland nurses have been on the front line of the COVID pandemic in vaccination and testing clinics, in hospital wards and in intensive care clinics. On behalf of all members of the government, I extend a very happy International Nurses Day to them for the great commitment, care and work they do each and every day.

NRL, Magic Round



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (10.15 am): Finally, I have one message for the Premier of New South Wales: hands off our Magic Round. The sharks were circling in Sydney, but today I can confirm the winner is Queensland. I am pleased to announce we are signing a new agreement with the NRL to keep Magic Round in Queensland for another two years.

Queensland is the rightful home of Magic Round. We play an important role in developing a format and we have seen strong crowds here since its inception in 2019. In total, this deal will inject more than \$22.5 million per year into local businesses, helping to rebuild our tourism industry and our economy, which was hit hard during the pandemic.

If you are a Rugby League fan there is only one place to be this weekend: Suncorp Stadium. As we gather here today, players, coaches and footy fanatics are on their way to Queensland for NRL Magic Round 2022. If ticket sales this week are anything to go by, we can expect this spectacle to grow from strength to strength over the next two years. More than 89,000 tickets have been sold to the game this weekend, with one-day passes for Saturday's triple-header already sold out. More than 69,000 footy fans are expected to pass through the gates, many of those making their pilgrimage from New South Wales.

I am pleased to report that tourism operators are already reaping the benefits of this weekend's Rugby League blockbuster. Minor Hotels Australia and New Zealand have confirmed that all 11 of their Brisbane based Oaks Hotel and Resorts are fully booked this weekend. The latest data shows that Brisbane accommodation is at 88 per cent capacity this weekend, and the remaining rooms are filling up fast.

Magic Round is a spectacle like no other: all 16 teams, all eight games across three action-packed days. People cannot see that anywhere else except here in Queensland. I look forward to welcoming fans to Queensland this weekend and I look forward to seeing Magic Round back in Queensland for many years to come. Go the Broncos!

Mr Harper: The Cowboys!

Mr SPEAKER: Order, Premier!

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right; we will go for the Queensland teams: Broncos, Cowboys and Titans.

International Nurses Day; Floods, Resilient Homes Fund



Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (10.18 am): As the Premier has already acknowledged, today is International

Nurses Day and last week we saw International Day of the Midwife. I would like to take a moment to thank the nurses and midwives who look after Queenslanders every day. They are true health heroes and we thank them. Since 2015 the Palaszczuk government has hired 9,626 more nurses and midwives. We will always support and invest in frontline healthcare workers.

Queensland is the most disaster impacted state in Australia, with flooding being the highest risk to our community. The recent flood emergency saw parts of the south-east suffer disaster damage not experienced since 2011. We know from initial assessments following the South-East Queensland floods that there were nearly 7,000 homes with some degree of damage and more than 3,600 left uninhabitable. So many Queensland homes were inundated by floodwater, leaving behind a big clean-up job for communities and significant damage to homes. From Dallarnil to Rocklea, Goodna to Gympie, many communities have had a tough summer.

While we cannot stop floods from occurring, we can take steps to reduce their impact. After the floodwater receded, we got to work developing a residential resilience package that would make a real difference. Today, Queenslanders can register for the \$741 million Resilient Homes Fund. The fund will help Queensland home owners who are devastated by floodwaters to make their homes more resilient to future flooding. It is the largest household resilience program of its kind to ever be delivered in Australia.

Through the Resilient Homes Fund, Queenslanders whose homes have been damaged by flooding in the 2021-22 wet season will be able to apply for funding to repair and retrofit their homes, raise their house, or consider moving from harm's way through a voluntary buyback program. Incorporating resilient building design can significantly reduce the effort, cost and time taken to return people to their homes following a flood. This is a nation-leading program which has the potential to truly change people's lives by improving their resilience to future flooding or removing them from harm's way altogether.

The Queensland government has worked closely with insurers and representatives of the building industry to create the best program for Queenslanders. Similar programs have even delivered benefits to insurance affordability. Queenslanders whose homes were directly impacted by flooding are now able to register online. This includes over 37 local government areas impacted by the South-East Queensland rainfall and flooding event in February, ex-Tropical Cyclone Seth, and Central, Southern and Western Queensland rainfall and flooding in late 2021. This is not just about building back; it is about building back better. The Palaszczuk government is committed to building safer, stronger and more resilient communities.

International Nurses Day; Exports



Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (10.21 am): I join the Premier and Deputy Premier in acknowledging the mighty work that nurses and midwives do across Queensland. Earlier this morning I had the opportunity to meet with a number of nurse navigators. The nurse navigator program and the nurse-to-patient ratio program, while opposed by some, are significant health reforms in this state—reforms that were committed to by our Premier while in opposition and reforms that have been delivered by a Labor government that will fundamentally transform the delivery of health care in Queensland. We are so proud of what nurse navigators, nurses and midwives do every day across Queensland.

Data released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics a week ago shows that the value of Queensland's merchandise exports in the three months to March this year was \$27.5 billion. That is a 98.6 per cent increase—almost a 100 per cent increase—on a year earlier. For the year to March 2022, the value of Queensland's merchandise exports rose to \$94.1 billion. That is the highest 12-month total ever recorded. When you add services exports, Queensland is a \$100 billion export economy.

In the year to March, almost one in every three export dollars earned in Australia was earned in Queensland. One in every five jobs in Queensland is supported by exports. We export more goods by value than New South Wales, South Australia and Tasmania combined. That is why it is so important that we acknowledge the success of our exporters and encourage more businesses to tackle more markets overseas. That is why our government is today delighted to launch the Premier of Queensland's Export Awards for 2022.


Our Queensland exporters continue to innovate and display optimism, perseverance and resilience. In 2021, Gold Coast based Next Level Racing was named Queensland's Exporter of the Year. Exporting racing simulators to more than 50 countries, Next Level Racing exemplifies the industry-leading talent and innovation that is present in Queensland. Next Level Racing supplies

simulators to the world's pre-eminent electronic games racing events. These locally designed and made simulators are so highly regarded internationally that they are also sought after by elite motor racers as a training tool to enhance their on-road performance. It was a pleasure to have Next Level Racing join me in Dubai on my recent trade mission, where I had the opportunity to promote some of Queensland's best businesses and industries.

Export success stories like this show how vital Queensland exporters are to our economy. Winning these awards can be a launch pad to global recognition and success. In 2019, Queensland based global design firm Populous was named Australian Exporter of the Year. Populous won the right to compete at the nationals after winning the professional services category at the Premier's Export Awards. Populous is now one of the largest architectural firms in the world and generates around 80 per cent of its income from exports, creating jobs in Queensland—a company proudly based in the McConnel electorate. They have just been awarded the contract to re-enliven Seoul's 1988 Olympic Stadium. Some of Populous's greatest work will be on display during Magic Round this weekend. They are the firm behind the greatest Rugby League stadium in the world: Suncorp Stadium—built by Labor.

Of the 7,000 exporting companies in Queensland, more than 40 per cent are based in our regions, and the strength of those regional exporters is particularly highlighted through the awards program. The Premier of Queensland's Export Awards are an important part of our government's support for exporters. Award nominations are now open and I encourage our exporters to get involved, with this year's winners to be announced at a celebration event in October.

International Nurses Day; Racing Industry

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (10.25 am): I acknowledge the nurses in the gallery and wish everyone a very happy International Nurses Day. I join with the Premier and others in giving a special shout-out to all nurses. It was great to attend the morning tea and to hear of the great work they do day in, day out. I especially thank the nurses who are working in our state schools every day, including those working as part of our GPs in Schools program. You all do a fantastic job—welcome to parliament!

The Palaszczuk government recognises the important economic contribution of Queensland's racing industry. The new independent *Size and scope of the Queensland racing industry* report, produced by IER, demonstrates just how valuable that contribution is. Since the election of the Palaszczuk government in 2015, the economic contribution of Queensland's racing industry has soared 60 per cent to a record \$1.9 billion—a truly great outcome. We are seeing these dramatic increases across all three codes. Thoroughbred racing has risen from \$959 million to \$1.43 billion—an increase of 49 per cent. Harness racing has risen from \$142 million to \$184 million—an increase of 30 per cent. Finally, greyhound racing has risen from \$113 million to a whopping \$245 million—an increase of 116 per cent.

We know that racing is the lifeblood of many rural and remote communities. These racing events are often the largest or second largest events in town. They support thousands of local jobs—14,000 in the last financial year alone. I am proud to report that nearly half of our record \$1.9 billion economic contribution directly benefits regional economies in Queensland. Labor is still supporting the National Party in this state! That support includes \$145 million for the Toowoomba, Darling Downs and Maranoa region, where the industry is supporting 1,145 jobs; \$41.2 million for the Wide Bay-Burnett, supporting 332 jobs; and \$26.4 million for Mackay-Isaac-Whitsunday, supporting 216 jobs. With close to 30 race meetings held across the state every single week, with total annual attendance of more than 675,000, it is clear that racing is thriving in Queensland. Thanks to this government, 35 per cent of revenue from the state's point-of-consumption tax goes directly back into racing. I probably have to thank the member for Mermaid Beach for his contribution to that as well. I know that he is a very keen punter!

This report shows that the industry has performed incredibly well, despite the challenges of the pandemic. Supporting this industry is a critical part of the state's COVID-19 economic recovery plan. What better way to support this important industry than by attending one of the many events coming up during Stradbroke Season and the TAB Queensland Racing Carnival, which is now off and running. Staged over 10 action-packed weekends—

Mr Stevens interjected.

Ms GRACE: I will be there with you, member for Mermaid Beach—and with more than \$21 million in prize money on offer, including eight Group 1 features, the electrifying TAB Queensland Racing Carnival is the place to race this winter. I wish good luck to all those involved over the coming weeks. The Premier and I look forward to seeing you trackside during Stradbroke Season.

International Nurses Day



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (10.29 am): Today we celebrate International Nurses Day which also marks the birthday of one of the founders of modern nursing, Florence Nightingale. Just a week on from International Day of the Midwife, which we celebrated on 5 May, we are reminded once more of the vital role nurses and midwives play in our community. I want to join with the Premier and everyone on this side of the chamber in saying thank you to Queensland's nurses, including those who are visiting in the gallery today and particularly our nurse navigators who are joining us.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mrs D'ATH: I acknowledge Beth Mohle, Secretary of the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union, for her strong advocacy on behalf of her members. To all of the nurses—our enrolled and registered nurses, our midwives, our nurse practitioners—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left, the level of interjection is too high. The Minister for Health has the call.

Mrs D'ATH: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am trying to recognise the nurses who work so hard across our state each and every day. To our nurse practitioners and our nurse navigators, we say thank you for all of the work that you do. Whether you work in our busiest tertiary hospitals or whether you work in the most remote health facility in this state, whether you work in disabilities or aged care, we say thank you for the great work that you do.

Government members: Hear, hear!

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Leader of the Opposition!

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, member for McConnel and member for Thuringowa! The House will come to order!

Mrs D'ATH: That is why we have hired more than 10,600 full-time-equivalent additional nurses and midwives since 2015. This includes more than 2,560 graduate nurses and midwives starting in Queensland hospitals in 2022. Nurses and midwives play such a valuable role in our community and I do want to single out aged care as there is a public discussion going on about nurse-to-resident ratios which we wholeheartedly support and also the fact that aged-care workers deserve a decent wage because they are looking after our most vulnerable in the community. Nurses bring new Queenslanders into the world, they care for them in our hospitals or our community and the most vulnerable, they support people during the most difficult and trying times.

As I spoke to some of our nurses this morning, I made the point that they are there when we take our first breath and they are there when we take our last breath and we say thank you for the incredible work they do each and every day. We thank them for what they did through COVID over the last two years—the testing, the vaccinating, the endless work in the hospitals and again in aged care dealing with our most vulnerable people with disabilities and managing all of that with COVID as well. Throughout the pandemic our nurses have been at the very forefront of protecting Queenslanders and keeping them safe.

One of the Palaszczuk government's proudest achievements is the introduction of nurse-to-patient ratios in Queensland, becoming one of the first jurisdictions in the world to do so. Research published in the *Lancet* has estimated that Queensland's nurse-to-patient ratios meant 145 fewer deaths, 255 fewer readmissions and 29,222 fewer hospital days. In addition to better quality of care and patient outcomes, the savings due to fewer readmissions and shorter lengths of stay in hospital was approximately \$70 million.

I want to acknowledge the nurse navigators and the great work that they do. It was the Palaszczuk government that committed to employing up to 400 nurse and midwife navigators as part of our program. This program consists of senior advanced practice registered nurses working with patients and their carers to help them navigate, understand and manage their healthcare needs.

Importantly, navigators ensure the most complex and vulnerable clients are supported close to home and in their communities, and again this morning I heard of the great work our navigators are doing with our First Nations people in the cape and Torres and also on the Gold Coast. The work that our nurse and midwife navigators is doing is saving children from going into the child safety system and going into foster care, so thank you again for all of the great work that you are doing.

To all of our nurses and midwives across the state, we will walk with you, we will listen, we will learn from you. We will face these challenges in our health system together because, without you, we cannot achieve the best health care for all Queenslanders. Today on this International Nurses Day we say thank you on behalf of all Queenslanders.

International Nurses Day; Housing



Hon. LM ENOCH (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (10.35 am): I join in acknowledging all of the nurses and nurse navigators in the gallery for International Nurses Day and of course all nurses across our state. In particular I acknowledge my deadly sister Rochelle Pitt, who does a fantastic job with many others supporting good health outcomes for First Nations communities across our state. Love ya, sis! She is a deadly singer too!

The Palaszczuk government is investing \$2.9 billion in social and affordable housing, the largest concentrated investment in Queensland's history. This will increase the social and affordable housing supply by almost 10,000 dwellings over the life of our Housing Strategy, including 7,400 new homes to be commenced over the next four years. Since the Palaszczuk government came to office in 2015, we have already commenced 4,105 new social homes. This was after inheriting from the previous LNP government a net decrease of 428 social homes. Our investment means that we can house more vulnerable Queenslanders sooner. I have had the chance to travel across Queensland from Mackay to Meridan Plains visiting brand new social and affordable homes being delivered by the Palaszczuk government. I have seen firsthand sites where we are building secure, modern and affordable homes. I have seen them in construction or already tenanted to see our record investment in social and affordable housing in action.

Last week I joined the Treasurer and the Minister for Health in Redcliffe to announce 118 new social and affordable homes for Brisbane's north side—the first announcement from the Palaszczuk government's \$1 billion Housing Investment Fund. I joined Minister Scanlon in her electorate to inspect our investment of \$3.3 million to deliver 12 new social housing homes in Nerang. I met up with the member for Capalaba to inspect progress on the 11 new social housing homes we are building in his electorate, investing \$3.4 million and creating jobs. I was also pleased to drop into the member for Kawana's electorate to inspect the Palaszczuk government's \$6 million investment in 20 new social housing homes in Meridan Plains, and there are many more sites I visited in Cairns, in Bundaberg, in Townsville, in Logan, and the list goes on.

I can also update the House that the Palaszczuk government is investing \$10.5 million to partner with the Gympie Regional Council in fast-tracking a local housing action plan in the aftermath of the flooding event earlier this year. I was able to visit the Gympie community earlier this month and see firsthand how we are supporting impacted residents through our housing response. I met with Mayor Glen Hartwig about the challenges facing the Gympie region and we are working together to address local housing needs. I will acknowledge the member for Gympie, whom I have had conversations with around this, and I acknowledge his work with the council on delivering this local action plan. As a government we are working hard to respond to the pressures of the housing market in communities like Gympie and right across Queensland. It is the Palaszczuk government that is committed to more housing and more jobs, and with our record investment we are getting on with the job.

NRL, Magic Round



Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement) (10.38 am): Queensland invented the Magic Round and Queenslanders love it! Suncorp Stadium is the home of Magic Round and, despite some desperate headline grabbing elsewhere, Magic Round is not going anywhere. As the Premier has confirmed, the Magic Round is confirmed for Suncorp Stadium for 2023 and 2024 and this is terrific news for Queenslanders, but tomorrow Rugby League returns to its true Australian heartland with Magic Round 2022: every match of round 10 of the NRL premiership season will be played, as the elite game should, at the world's most rectangular stadium, Suncorp Stadium.

It simply does not get any better for Queenslanders. That is why it is called the 'Magic Round'. All 16 NRL teams, including their 272 player rosters plus coaches and support staff, are in town seeking out those premiership points. This year's Magic Round is already smashing records. In a Magic Round first, Saturday is sold out, three-day passes are sold out and tomorrow night is almost sold out. There are still tickets available for Sunday so I encourage members to get theirs.

Last year more than 15,000 fans came from interstate for Magic Round and we know that just as many, if not more, are on the way this weekend. They will need a place to stay, somewhere to eat, somewhere to drink and they will be spoiled for visitor attractions. Magic Round will support 6,000 jobs inside Suncorp Stadium and sprinkle almost \$23 million across the greater Brisbane visitor economy. Brisbane accommodation providers are revelling in their own league magic, with 88 per cent of rooms booked out.

Harnessing league's economic benefits is exactly why the Palaszczuk government is also backing QRL's Activate Queensland! Country Week in July. The Hostplus Cup will take Queensland rugby league's best-on-field to seven regional towns, including, for the first time, Cunnamulla, Springsure and Monto. It means filling local motels, restaurants and hotels and boosting local visitor economies. Queensland is rugby league's true heartland, the heart and soul of the game.

Mr SPEAKER: Hear, hear!

International Nurses Day; TAFE, Infrastructure



Hon. DE FARMER (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.41 am): I welcome the nurses in the gallery and say Happy International Nurses Day to all the nurses. My nanna was a nurse, my mum was a nurse, two of my aunties were nurses, my sister is a nurse and two of my cousins are nurses. I have the highest regard for nurses. They have a special place in my heart.

Mr Dick: What are you doing here?

Ms FARMER: I was the black sheep in the family. With skills and training even more important than ever, as we see how critical they are to facing labour shortages, I am happy to report the latest actions the Palaszczuk government is taking to make sure TAFE Queensland students across the state have modern, fit-for-purpose facilities, including cutting-edge training spaces for next generation skills. Late last month I visited the Bowen and Whitsundays campuses for some significant infrastructure milestones. Construction is now underway for Bowen's agricultural centre of excellence which will deliver high-quality training for the region's rural workforce.

The new facilities will include a high-tech growpod, science lab, smart centre, farmbot—and if you know what that is you are going well—and mixed reality training room, along with general learning spaces and a workshop space to cover small engine maintenance and repairs. All up, the Bowen agricultural centre of excellence will support training in more than 70 qualifications and courses. Construction is due to be completed in August this year. With a Central Queensland architecture firm and a Bowen contractor also engaged on this project the benefits are already flowing through the local community.

We have committed \$3.4 million to this project as part of the Equipping TAFE for our Future initiative, which has a total budget of \$100 million over three years. This is an exciting development for the region and Queensland's vital horticultural and agricultural sector. I know the minister is just as excited as I am about the opportunities for the region.

Mr Furer: Overwhelmed!

Ms FARMER: I take his interjection. I also officially opened the Bowen Health Hub, the first ever local nursing training facilities, and the student-industry collaborative learning centre. The health hub includes a new simulated three-bed ward and patient amenities, space for additional aged-care training and increased capability for online training with other regions. This \$200,000 upgrade was part of the fast-tracked funding from the Palaszczuk government's Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs plan. I was also pleased to open the new student-industry collaborative learning centre at TAFE Queensland's Whitsundays campus, which was a further \$250,000 accelerated investment from Unite and Recover. Bowen is targeting high-end manufacturing and Whitsundays has a focus on tourism and hospitality, while health and community care skills are in demand across the state.

There is an exciting pipeline of work ahead of us, including more projects through Equipping TAFE for our Future, as the Palaszczuk government builds the training infrastructure that will skill the workforce that growing and emerging industries in Queensland need. That includes the \$2 million we

are investing for a new aquaculture training centre to provide training in areas like commercial fish farms and hatchery and pond management at Cannonvale TAFE in the Whitsundays. It was great to be able to visit the campus a couple of weeks ago and see the plans and location of this new and exciting centre due to start construction later in the year. These trade activities are essential in training the workers that are needed to support Queensland's growing aquaculture industry. I look forward to returning to the Whitsundays when the new aquaculture training centre is complete and I am sure that the minister would love to visit as well as a champion of this industry.

Stein, Mr G; Holocaust Museum and Education Centre



Hon. LM LINARD (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.44 am): On behalf of all Queenslanders, I extend our sympathy to the family of George Stein, a survivor of the Holocaust, a fearless Queensland, a loving husband, father and grandfather, a storyteller and a respected leader who passed away on 18 April aged 95. It is humbling to pay tribute to this extraordinary person, a man with an indomitable spirit.

Born in the Hungarian city of Oradea in 1927, he was only a teenager when he and his family were taken to a ghetto, then transported to Auschwitz concentration camp following the Nazi occupation of his homeland. His crime—being Jewish. On arrival at Auschwitz he was separated from his family and sent to work at a labour camp in Germany. It was the last time he saw his mother, father and sister. When the Allies destroyed the Dora labour camp he survived, only to be transported to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. The camp was liberated by Allied forces and, remarkably, he survived.

In 1955, Mr Stein, now joined by his wife Gertrude, migrated to Australia and made Brisbane their home and the place they would raise their children. Mr Stein's life here was dedicated, in part, to teaching others about what happened in the Holocaust. This included delivering lectures at schools, clubs and organisations in Queensland and other parts of the nation, including the Sydney Jewish Museum. He also worked on documentaries and videos with German TV, the BBC and Canadian TV.

Mr Stein returned to Europe several times to revisit the sites that became familiar to him during the war and continue adding to his own, personal history bank. In his obituary, his son Michael wrote of his father's passion for his community and his desire to build a state-of-the-art and modern synagogue. Michael writes that his father built the synagogue 'basically brick by brick with the work being done by Dad after hours. It included a 20-foot menorah, which still stands proudly at the entrance yard.'

Another of his aims was to establish a place of remembrance and education in Brisbane. To this end, in the 1970s he organised the first Holocaust exhibition in Queensland at Brisbane City Hall. Work is well underway to establish this place of remembrance. The Palaszczuk government has committed \$3.5 million to the establishment of a Holocaust museum and education centre in Brisbane, matching the Australian government's commitment of \$3.5 million and Brisbane City Council's pledge of \$500,000.

Based in central Brisbane, the centre will comprise exhibitions, education and training resources around the Holocaust and will also include exhibitions focusing on genocides committed in other countries. These stories of lived experiences are powerful tools, which will help educate Queenslanders and visitors about the importance of standing up against racism and prejudice of all forms and to point out the devastating human toll wreaked by bigotry and human rights abuse. To his grieving family, the Palaszczuk government expresses our profound condolences on his passing. His life's work and dedication will ensure that we never forget. Vale, George Stein.

Drought Declarations




Hon. ML FURNER (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (10.48 am): I rise to inform members that the drought-declared status of a number of areas of the state will be revoked from today due to a strong wet season and improvements in conditions on the ground. The result of these revocations is that the proportion of the state that is drought declared will fall from 61.1 per cent to 44.9 per cent. I think all members of this chamber would welcome that improvement in conditions. Drought declarations will be revoked in the following areas: Balonne Shire Council, Maranoa Regional Council, Murweh Shire Council, North Burnett Regional Council, Western Downs Regional Council, Quilpie Shire Council, and the part-declared areas of Flinders Shire Council.

All of these revocations have been recommended by the local drought committees in those regions and I have accepted those recommendations. They follow the end of the drought-declared status of 11 South-East Queensland council areas last month. Primary producers in those areas can now access freight subsidies for restocking or returning livestock from agistment under the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme.

These decisions are not made on the basis of a single rain event. Our local drought committees carefully weigh up the entire wet season and the full impacts of conditions on the ground. Where drought conditions remain, so too do the drought declarations. Of course, a significant weather event is underway at the moment and it could further impact conditions and future drought declarations. This morning I was speaking to Carl Walker from the Bowen Gumlu Growers Association who said that while some of the rain was welcome there will be some flow-on effects for the winter season.

Importantly, our drought support reforms mean primary producers no longer need to wait for drought declarations before accessing support. Our focus is now firmly on drought preparedness and there is a range of grants and low-interest loans available through QRIDA to facilitate that. My department will be running regional forums on the new Queensland drought assistance programs and on farm business resilience planning to help our farmers make the most of those programs. As always, whether or not we are in drought, the Palaszczuk government is standing shoulder to shoulder with our farmers.


Federal Election, Youth

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (10.50 am): Queenslanders are 10 days away from the biggest federal election of our time and one thing is clear: young people will not back down from being heard. As youth affairs minister I was happy to see that three million Australians aged between 18 and 29 have enrolled to vote at this election and that includes 644,000 young Queenslanders. They make up 26 per cent of voters in the division of Brisbane, 25 per cent of voters in Griffith and 22 per cent in Herbert and Ryan. The Electoral Commission confirmed that the majority of people who enrolled to vote when the election was announced were young people.

However, unfortunately, under the Scott Morrison government young people have been denied the opportunity to be a part of forming policies and making decisions that impact their futures and their lives. The Abbott government abolished the office of youth introduced by a previous Labor government and there has been no framework for direct engagement between Australians and the federal government. In my position I have been fortunate to meet with young people from across our state, from the Far North to the south-east and from Central to North-West Queensland. Time and time again I have heard the same themes: they want action on housing affordability, cost of living, jobs and wages, the environment and climate change. That sentiment is being felt across Australia.

Even prior to the pandemic, under this federal government young Australians were at risk of being the first generation in the history of our nation to be worse off than those who came before them. With devastating bushfires, a global pandemic and unprecedented floods, younger people now face a future with increased cost-of-living pressures and a rent and housing affordability crisis thanks to the Morrison government. We cannot leave a whole generation behind. However, in the Morrison government's most recent budget we saw young people being treated the same as they have been treated for over a decade: ignored, forgotten and denied the opportunity to succeed. If the wave of young Australians enrolling is anything to go by, they are sick of being ignored. To the 644,000 young Queenslanders who will vote in this election I say: show Scott Morrison that you want a government focused on the issues that matter to you, not one that is focused on the next photo-op, the headline in tomorrow's paper or the next slick marketing campaign.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.53 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 24 May 2022.


Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, today question time will conclude at 11.53 am.

Health System, Data Reporting

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (10.53 am): My question is to the Premier. We are 132 days into 2022 and yet the most recent ambulance ramping and ED performance data released by this government is from last year. Why won't the government tell Queenslanders what is going on with their hospitals?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. I will tell the member very clearly what is wrong with hospital funding: not getting enough from the Morrison government. That is exactly what is wrong. That is a fact. I say very clearly that there is unprecedented pressure on hospitals right across Australia. That is why every health minister has raised the issue of funding. It is why every Premier across the political divide has also raised the issue of funding.

Secondly, as we said yesterday in this House, currently there are 500 people in hospital who should not be there. This is not just about ramping; it is about the whole hospital system. We need to move those 500 people out of the hospitals, but we cannot move them out unless the federal government comes to the party. Yesterday data was released about people in hospitals across the state. Currently, there are also 400 people with COVID in hospital. Therefore, if you add 500 to 400 there are over 900 hospital beds occupied and, of course, the 400—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, I am sorry to interrupt. Members to my left, the interjections are fast and they are furious, but at the end of the day the Premier is being responsive to the question as asked.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I acknowledge that today is International Nurses Day. We are putting on more nurses. Imagine the state of Queensland if the LNP had been in office given all of their savage cuts to nurse numbers.

Honourable members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right: maybe some of the many nurses who were here today are new nurses put on by our government because we value the work of our nurses, our doctors and our health professionals. Let us not forget that it was this opposition that wanted to open the borders—

(Time expired)

Ambulance Ramping, Data

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Secret emails show that the government wants to change the way that ambulance ramping data is calculated. Is the government's solution to the worst ambulance ramping in the country to fudge the figures, not fix the ramping crisis?

Mr SPEAKER: Member, I suggest that there are certainly inferences in the question as asked. I will give the Minister for Health latitude in terms of her response.

Mrs D'ATH: I think the people of Queensland know that there is only one political party that they can trust to invest in the health system and that is Labor, at both a state and a federal level. In relation to the email, I am aware that across the country there are varying methods for recording patient off-stretcher times. For example, it is 40 minutes in Victoria, 30 minutes in Queensland and it is 15 minutes in other jurisdictions. I am aware that department officers, the hospital and health services and the Queensland Ambulance Service were having frank and honest conversations around measurements and I am sure that, over the years, they have all had conversations around targets and measurements for patient off-stretcher data.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left.

Mrs D'ATH: I will say this—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Nanango, I have just called the House to order. You are warned under the standing orders.

Ms Palaszczuk interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The Premier will cease her interjections.

Mrs D'ATH: Firstly, there has been no change in the patient off-stretcher-time measurement at all.

An opposition member interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: I take that interjection. There is a claim from those opposite that it has. I am happy for those opposite to put up any facts to support that, but there has been no change in the patient off-stretcher time measurements or targets set here in Queensland.

I was made aware of these discussions. My response was pretty clear: it is not about the measurement; it is about the people. As the health minister and as a government, our priority is getting the people off the stretchers, into the ED and into hospital beds and getting ambulances back on the road. That is our priority. It always should be, because the aim is to get people off the stretchers as quickly as possible.

We have been working tirelessly to invest in recruit pathways and patient flows through our EDs and into our hospitals, but we know that we need more investment. The AMA knows that we need more investment, and has called for it again in the report card that it has just released. The AMA, GPs and the primary and allied healthcare sector recognise that there needs to be more investment in health by the Commonwealth to help take pressure off our hospital system. If the opposition were serious about wanting to see improvements in the health system, they would back in our call.

(Time expired)

Cross River Rail

Mr KELLY: My question is of the Premier and Minister for the Olympics. Will the Premier update the House on the Palaszczuk government's No. 1 infrastructure project, Cross River Rail, and is the Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Greenslopes for the question and also acknowledge his great work as a nurse in this state. Once again I put on record, especially from this side of the House, my thanks to all nurses across Queensland. We know how hard they work. We also know how important Cross River Rail is in terms of connecting different regions of our state and the increased capacity that it will bring. It will make travel times faster and achieve connectivity, but it is also a big, bold infrastructure project being delivered under our government.

We know that successive LNP governments have refused to fund Cross River Rail. That is why our government took the decision to go it alone. The Morrison government never came to the party when it came to Cross River Rail. This election is really important: it is about not just the future of our state but the future of our country. We actually need a Prime Minister who has vision, who is prepared to work with the states and not fight with us. That is exactly what this Prime Minister has done over the past three years.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: This Prime Minister has picked fights time and time again, backed in by those opposite as well. We have stood our ground, stood strong and got on with the job. Queenslanders have a prime opportunity not this Saturday but next to cast their vote for a vision for a better future, a better Australia and a better Queensland. We need someone we can work with hand-in-glove to get more funding for hospitals and infrastructure and to make sure that our workers are recognised across the state for the great work that they do each and every day.

We also know with Cross River Rail that a lot of progress has been happening in terms of the new station box for the new Albert Street station, completed 50 metres beneath Brisbane. Not this Sunday but next, there will be a public open day where the public will be able to go through a section of the tunnel and see firsthand how the underground is coming to life.

(Time expired)

Ambulance Ramping, Data

Mr BLEIJIE: My question is to the Minister for Health. When was the minister made aware of secret plans to change the way ambulance ramping data is calculated and reported?

Ms Grace: That's just imputations.

Mr SPEAKER: That's my call, not your call, member for McConnel.

Mrs D'ATH: I cannot recall the date that it was raised with me but, as I just said, it was raised with me that there is discussion about it and I made it clear what my response was.

Flood Mitigation

Mr SMITH: My question is of the Deputy Premier. Can the Deputy Premier outline to the House what the Palaszczuk government is doing to protect Queenslanders' homes and businesses from floods and is the Deputy Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Bundaberg for the question. Queensland is the most disaster-prone state and the community of Bundaberg is one of the most exposed communities in our state. Unfortunately, because of that practice, we lead the world in disaster response. We lead the world in disaster reconstruction. As of today, we lead the world in building resilience. The home resilience fund, which opens today, will make sure that the next flood results in less devastation, less damage and less heartbreak.

The Palaszczuk government is absolutely determined that out of every disaster we build back better. We respond, we reconstruct and we build resilience. That is why we continue to have on the table a commitment for \$42.5 million to build the No. 1 flood resilience project in this state, the Bundaberg East flood levee. It is assessed by the experts as the most important resilience project. It will protect more than 600 homes and businesses in the Bundaberg region. It has been the result of detailed planning and engineering. It is the recommended project by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority. It would create 679 jobs in construction and protect those 600 homes and businesses.

Unfortunately, the LNP in Canberra continues to refuse to match our funding and instead last week announced \$60 million—more than would be required to build the levee—to fund an evacuation route. It was not what was recommended by the experts. There was no detailed plan, no costing and no matching funding. Again, we see it prioritising projects in other states—three levees funded in New South Wales and two levees funded in Victoria—but they will not fund the No. 1 flood resilience project in our state.

Of course it is important that we have evacuation routes, but wouldn't it be better if we could stop the flood in the first place? Why will they not support this project recommended by the experts, fully costed and developed by engineers? It really demonstrates the difference between our approaches, doesn't it? The Palaszczuk government is absolutely determined to learn from every disaster and protect our communities from future disasters wherever we can.

Ambulance Ramping, Data

Ms BATES: My question is to the Minister for Health. Will the minister categorically rule out the government changing the way it calculates and reports ambulance ramping?

Mrs D'ATH: I have already said there is no decision at all to change the patient off-stretcher time.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my right, I would like to hear the question from the member for Maryborough.

Cost of Living

Mr SAUNDERS: My question is to the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment. Will the Treasurer tell the House what action the Palaszczuk government is taking to address cost-of-living pressures and is the Treasurer aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Maryborough for his question. He, along with all members of the government, take those cost-of-living pressures on Queensland working families very seriously. That is why we have in place effective, proven measures to address those costs. Our electricity bill rebate is a proven, effective measure for taking the pressure off one of the big bills Queenslanders pay. We gave Queenslanders a \$200 dividend to address the financial pressures of the pandemic in 2020. We have given them another \$50 dividend this year.

Let us compare that to Scott Morrison's attitude. Supporting growth in the minimum wage that keeps track with the cost of living—not his job. When Scott Morrison does flick a policy lever, we know it is for one reason and one reason only—short-term political gain. That is why the fuel levy rebate and the low- and middle-income tax offset both cease to exist after next week's election.

It is not just Scott Morrison; Australians have had nine years of this. They have had nine years of broken promises, stolen hope and lost opportunity. Who can forget the greatest hits of the Abbott-Truss, Turnbull-Truss, Turnbull-Joyce, Turnbull-Joyce, Turnbull-McCormack, Morrison—this is my leader; I am ambitious for him—McCormack, Morris-Joyce again—can you believe it?—government? How can we forget those greatest hits? We know Malcolm and Barnaby do not like Scott, Michael cannot stand Barnaby and Warren is probably just glad to be shot of the lot of them.

It would be humorous if it were not so serious. The decomposition of successive LNP governments has meant one thing and one thing only for Queenslanders. We fail to consistently get our fair share for Queensland. Whether it is a lack of a coherent energy policy—22 national energy policies; nine years later we still do not have a coherent national energy policy; no wonder there is no productive growth in this country—or whether it is the brazen favouritism that the ‘prime minister of Sydney’ shows to Sydney and New South Wales when it comes to infrastructure, we fail to get our fair share.

After nine years, the people of this country have nine days to make a decision. In nine days time Australians can change the government of this country. As Paul Keating used to say: change the government and you change Australia. In nine days time the people of this nation have an opportunity to say to Scott Morrison: enough is enough. The people of Queensland, who have been left behind, who have been denied infrastructure, who have consistently had funding cut to public hospitals by Scott Morrison, including a \$20 million cut in his last budget, have an opportunity to change this nation for the better and vote for a federal Labor government.

Ambulance Ramping, Data

Mr MOLHOEK: My question is to the Minister for Health. Has the minister seen Queensland ambulance ramping data from 2022?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for his question. The Queensland Ambulance Service regularly updates me on the patient off-stretcher time, yes.

Schoolteachers

Ms McMILLAN: My question is of the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. Can the minister update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is supporting Queensland teachers and advise if there are any alternative approaches?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for Mansfield for her question. I know she is a proud member of the teaching profession and a proud supporter of students in her electorate and was a very proud and excellent principal in her days in schools. Teachers have done a remarkable job during COVID and our students have been particularly resilient. We always back our teachers.

Since coming to office we have employed over 6,000 teachers. We are on track to meet our 2020 election commitment to employ over 6,000 new teachers. We have already employed 2,500 teachers. We have some excellent programs such as the Turn to Teaching program. We have centres for learning and wellbeing in Mount Isa, Atherton, Emerald and Roma. We are decluttering the curriculum so we can give teachers more time in the classroom. We welcome federal Labor's \$146 million teacher recruitment plan, its \$440 million school bounce-back plan and its \$77 million for Respectful Relationships. I know that federal shadow education minister Tanya Plibersek will do an excellent job for students, teachers and school staff. I know that Labor can do better.

I have had the honour of being the education minister in this state for just over four years. During that time I have seen four federal education ministers. I have seen Birmingham, Tehan, Tudge—who is in witness protection at moment; we do not know where he is, but we do know that he is still in cabinet and he is still a minister—and Robert. There is one thing members will never hear from me—that is, me denigrating the profession of teaching. We have an acting federal minister, Minister Robert, who has been around five seconds—five minutes; I will give him five minutes—and the first thing we hear from him is that teachers are dragging the chain and he is denigrating them and suggesting they are duds. That is something I will guarantee Tanya Plibersek will never say should she become federal minister for education.

We know that they failed to protect students in terms of sexual and gender identity. Even the federal member for Brisbane—a member of the LGBTIQ community—could not cross the floor with his colleagues to protect students when it comes to gender identity. Shame on him! We see more examples

of priests and doctors being used unscrupulously in propaganda put out saying that they support their local members. This lot needs to be turfed out. We need a better federal education minister because Labor can do better.

(Time expired)

Health System, Data Reporting

Mr MICKELBERG: My question is to the Minister for Health. People in New South Wales, Western Australia and South Australia can see up-to-date health data. Victoria has released data from this year. Some 132 days into 2022 and Queenslanders can still only see data from last year. When will Queenslanders see how deep the Queensland health crisis currently is?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for his question. Our quarterly data will be published shortly, as I understand. Real-time data is shared across our HHSs and with the Queensland Ambulance Service. That is the data that should be shared. They need to see internally what is happening in real-time. From the examples that those opposite give—and particularly of South Australia—they seem to think that real-time data being released is some kind of panacea to fixing the patient off-stretcher time for the public. They think that if patients know what the wait time is then they are going to be able to go to another ED—

Mr Hinchliffe interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: Or they will decide not to go. I will take that interjection from Minister Hinchliffe. The fact is that, even with that real-time data, in South Australia they are seeing fewer than 50 per cent of their patients off stretchers within 30 minutes. They are recording slower times than Queensland.

Those opposite run around with their four-point plan. They have to stop misleading the people of Queensland that somehow they have all the answers for a quick fix to the health system. The professionals, the health workers, the hospitals, the state health ministers, the premiers across the country all know that there is no quick fix. What would help is a proper injection of funds into the health system. That is what the health ministers will continue to call for.

Health System

Mr HEALY: My question is of the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Can the minister update the House on how the Palaszczuk government supports our Queensland Health system and if there are any alternative approaches?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for Cairns for his question. I know the member for Cairns is very pleased with the investment that is going on in his HHS in the Cairns hospital, including the mental health facility that is being built. We know that mental health is critical when it comes to demand pressures on our health system and we need to invest in and support more people in the community with mental ill health so they do not end up having chronic episodes, needing to come into our EDs and be hospitalised, because we know that is not the best place for them to be and that there is more appropriate care for them.

We are very proud that we have recruited more than 13,000 new staff since coming to government. This has allowed us to bring online more than 1,300 new beds, with another 992 to come online by 2026. We do this because it is Labor governments that invest in the health system. It is Labor that understands the importance of providing a universal health system. It was Labor that introduced Medicare. It was Labor that introduced the NDIS. It was the coalition that messed it up. It is an LNP federal government that continually seeks to dismantle Medicare, to bring down or remove the subsidies being provided not just to the public but to doctors, which has seen a shortage of GPs right across the country.

I will go back to the question asked by the member for Buderim. You do not have to take our word for it to find out what is happening across the country. The AMA just released their 2022 report card on public hospitals across the country. That report card makes it clear there is stress across the entire public health system in Australia. In his report, the federal AMA president spells out that this year's data demonstrates the growing pressure on our emergency departments, on elective surgery. It goes on to say—

There just isn't enough capacity to meet the growing demand and little appreciation—

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: Those opposite might want to listen.

Ms Simpson: Where's the data?

Mrs D'ATH: Where is the data? I will take that interjection. The AMA has produced the data. You might want to have a look at it.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The interjections will cease.

Mrs D'ATH: The president of the AMA nationally said—

There just isn't enough capacity to meet the growing demand and little appreciation of the role primary care can play in keeping people out of hospital.

It is key! That is why we had the parliamentary inquiry: to shine a light on the fact there is a failing in the primary and allied healthcare sectors in this country, in this state and in the regions.

Health System, Data Reporting

Mr O'CONNOR: My question is to the Premier. It is 132 days into 2022 and Queenslanders can still only see hospital data from last year. Will the Premier instruct the Minister for Health to release the data today, or is the Premier so out of touch she can no longer comprehend how bad the health crisis has become?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find that personally offensive and ask that it be withdrawn.

Speaker's Ruling, Question out of Order

Mr SPEAKER: Two things: the Premier has found the question personally offensive. I ask you to withdraw those comments.

Mr O'CONNOR: I withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: I also will not allow an opportunity to rephrase the question because it clearly contained imputations. I rule the question out of order.

Housing

Mr McCALLUM: My question is of the Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts. Will the minister please update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is delivering housing for Queenslanders, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for Bundamba for his question, his conviction and his support for social housing in his own electorate and right across Queensland.

As I said in my ministerial statement, the Palaszczuk government is getting on with the job of delivering our record \$2.9 billion investment for social and affordable housing in Queensland. It is the largest concentrated investment in Queensland's history. This will increase the social and affordable housing supply by almost 10,000 over the life of our housing strategy, including 7,400 new social and affordable homes commenced over the next four years. As I said, since the Palaszczuk government came to office in 2015 we have commenced some 4,105 new social homes right across Queensland.

I have had a chance to have a look at lots of those different places. In fact, in Inala we have already seen 27 new social homes constructed by this government. On top of that, there are a further 16 that are being built right now. In addition to social housing construction, this year alone we have provided over 251 forms of private market assistance totalling over \$355,000 through the Inala Housing Service Centre. I am also advised that quite a number of social housing tenants in Inala have become home owners as a result of being able to purchase their social homes. What a great outcome in Inala!

I want to acknowledge the Premier for her incredible conviction for social housing and the way she supports the people of Inala. She is an incredible local member of parliament. Not only that but she is also an incredible Premier. I am very proud to work underneath her. This is in stark contrast to what we saw from the LNP when they were in government.

Mr Mander interjected.

Ms ENOCH: Honestly! The member for Everton, with his 'Shouty McShoutface' routine, coming in here trying to be the champion for social housing, when under his leadership—

Mr Mander interjected.

Ms ENOCH: Could he take this routine to his national friends, to Scott Morrison and others, and try and get a better outcome for Queensland? No, because he could not even deliver for Queenslanders. What we saw from him—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The level of interjection is too high. I need to hear the Minister for Housing, as does Hansard.

Ms ENOCH: There is a reason why he has not gone to Canberra. If he looks at his own record, under his leadership there were 428 fewer social homes. He oversaw zero construction in Logan. He oversaw a 90 per cent decrease in the construction of social homes. They are no good for social housing. We do everything we can to support social housing in this state, and we are doing it through a—

(Time expired)

Housing Investment Fund, Social Housing

Dr MacMAHON: My question is to the Treasurer. In relation to the 2020 budget forecast that \$40 million would be generated each year from the Housing Investment Fund, how much has been generated in actual terms to date, and how much of this has been allocated towards building social homes?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for the question. We will update that in the budget. You do not have to wait too long, member for South Brisbane; you will be seeing that.

Mr SPEAKER: Through the chair, please, Treasurer.

Mr DICK: We are getting good returns on our billion dollar investment. I am bit disappointed, because I did a ministerial statement in the House. Maybe you were not in the House; I am not sure. I talked about the more than 110 homes we are going to build in Redcliffe and Chermside. I explained that very clearly. I talked about the Build-to-Rent program that has delivered hundreds more affordable homes for Queenslanders which we started as a government.

I appreciate getting a question from the Greens political party, as I always do, because this shows the very clear contrast. There is only one political party in this state that always delivers social and affordable housing. I have read the fantasy policies of the Greens political party: building tens of thousands of public homes without any costing. Or if the costing is there, it is tens of billions of dollars without any economic basis upon which that can be delivered.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the member for Everton. That is another political party. As the Minister for Housing has made so clear, when they had the opportunity when they had the single biggest majority in the history of this state they did nothing for social housing.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the Attorney-General. Not only did they do nothing; they chased people out of their homes. They said that strangers had to come and live with them. Long-term public housing residents in places like Woodridge and Inala had to open their homes to strangers and let them in. They could not have a holiday. That is what the member for Everton did. The hide of the member for Everton to criticise this Minister for Housing and our Premier, who stood up every day to invest in public housing because that is what Labor governments do—

Mr Mander interjected.

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

Mr DICK: We have the single biggest concentrated investment in public and social housing in this state's history—\$2.9 billion, for the first time ever. I would have thought the Greens political party might have said, 'Thank you for setting a billion dollars aside.' Why have we set a billion dollars aside? So we have a permanent, constant, never-ending stream of funding for public housing—at least \$40 million a year—because that is what Labor governments do. We heard about Keith De Lacy and what Labor governments did today, and our government under the leadership of our Premier does exactly that. Labor is delivering—not a party of protest, like the Greens; not a party of cut, sack and sell, like the LNP; not a party of denying facts and science, like One Nation. There is one party that builds a better Queensland, a progressive Queensland, an inclusive Queensland, including social housing, and that is the Australian Labor Party.

Community Safety

Ms PUGH: My question is to the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services. Will the minister please advise how Queensland is supporting community safety and whether there are any alternative approaches to dealing with these issues?

Mr RYAN: I thank the member for the question and for her support of the Queensland Police Service and this government's historic investment in the Queensland Police Service, which will see more than 2,000 extra police personnel delivered right across the state by 2025, including 150 extra police personnel in every single police region across the state. When governments back up their words with action, they actually get voted in. They get re-elected. I wanted to reflect on some comments from the Queensland Police Union following the 2020 state election. This comes from the summer 2020 *Police Journal*, where the regional representative from the North Coast region said—

Well I have to say those providing support (commitments) and security got re-elected.

The LNP unfortunately had the books open and the cupboard was bare ... Yes, you guessed it—no real commitments and no security ...

...

The LNP in Debs 2020 six point plan did not contain any Law and Order consideration ...

...

I'm sure there is a winning formula out there, but it seems the ALP is the only party with a clue.

Maybe next time, the LNP will have a strategy which involves Law and Order and job security.

Well, the next time is the federal election, which is coming up in only a week and a bit. Mr Speaker, do you think the LNP have learnt their lesson? Do you think the LNP have listened to what the QPU have said? No.

I have come across a document by the Australian Federal Police Association called *Operation Recognition*. One would think it came out of the Leader of the Opposition's office, but no. *Operation Recognition* is about the Australian Federal Police begging the LNP federal government to look after them and to stop cuts being inflicted on the Australian Federal Police. Mr Speaker, you might recall during the last sitting I revealed that the federal government in their budget had allocated a \$234 million cut over the forward estimates to the Australian Federal Police—the equivalent of hundreds and hundreds of police officers being sacked. Where have we heard that before? It was when those opposite were last in government, when 110 officers were sacked under them. Let us have a look at what the Australian Federal Police have said about this ALP—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr RYAN: Well, we know what they say about the ALP: that we have a clue. When it comes to the LNP federally, *Operation Recognition* says—

- Lack of PPE
- Lack of vehicles
- Defective vehicles
- Inadequate office facilities
- WHS issues ...
- Inadequate IT equipment and infrastructure

They are calling for an independent review to highlight the devastation that the LNP federal government has inflicted on the Australian Federal Police.

(Time expired)

Cape York, Cattle Management

Mr ANDREW: My question is to the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs. It has been brought to my attention that valuable branded and unbranded cattle were indiscriminately slaughtered by this government during a recent aerial cattle shoot on Cape York. Why were these cattle not given back or repurposed to local graziers or First Nations people, instead of being left to rot on the ground?

Ms SCANLON: I thank the member for the question. What he is referring to is the cattle management strategy which was actually initiated in 2014 under those opposite, so it was interesting to see some comments from the member for Gympie in the paper recently.

Can I clarify for the purpose of the House that this program does not target branded stock. It targets feral cattle and pigs. We provide 14 days notice to landholders for them to get that stock off the national park, which is a protected area for very good reason. Those cattle should not be on protected areas because they damage the ecosystems and the other threatened species within those national parks. That is why we have that program in place.

This is what I can advise in relation to the particular property that I think the member is referring to. The member for Hill contacted my office, we spoke with the department and an administrative review was put in place for that particular location. They suspended that particular program. They have continued though the program targeted at feral pigs and unbranded cattle, but we make sure we do adhere to those 14 days. If there are ways that we can improve this strategy, we will do so. I think it is fairly logical that we provide that time period for those adjacent landholders to get those cattle out of the national park. We have also installed hundreds and hundreds of metres of fencing to try to keep those cattle out of the national park to begin with. We will continue to work with those landholders and make sure we put in place proper processes so they can remove their valuable cattle and also protect our national park.

Seniors

Ms RICHARDS: My question is to the Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. Can the minister inform the House of the Palaszczuk government's plans for seniors expos this year? How is the government creating awareness about issues that really matter to older Queenslanders, like health, cost of living and the insidious problem of elder abuse?

Mr CRAWFORD: I thank the member for Redlands for the question. Last Wednesday I joined the members for Redlands and Capalaba for our latest Seniors Expo. It was wonderful to spend time speaking with their constituents down in the Redlands. I want to acknowledge the team at the Donald Simpson Community Centre where we held the expo. They provide a myriad of activities to keep seniors occupied, active and connected.

At the Redlands expo I was personally surprised at the number of older Queenslanders who were unaware of the full range of concessions, discounts and rebates that are available to them. Concessions and rebates can help seniors save thousands of dollars on everyday costs, like electricity, other utility bills, rates and health related expenses. It really helps older people address the cost of living. I encourage every member of this House to let their constituents know about this financial support—and we budget over \$400 million a year for this support—particularly with the cost of living on the rise.

Undoubtedly, the elephant in the room when you talk to seniors at the moment is aged care. Many of them have elderly parents or relatives who are in aged care. Many seniors know that one day they will be in aged care. In 2022 so far more than 1,000 aged-care residents have died from COVID in Australia. That toll is more than the previous two years combined. We are witnessing the mass exodus of exhausted, underpaid workers from the aged-care sector, systemic problems, massive funding gaps and reported neglect of aged-care residents.

Under Scott Morrison, the royal commission found 50 per cent of residents were not getting the nutrition they need. That is an absolute disgrace. We need to stop the neglect, we need to reverse the staff losses, we need to improve the pay and conditions of workers, and we need to increase care hours and provide better food and nutrition. Of course, this is not just rhetoric; this call came from the royal commission. They simply titled it in one word: neglect.

They have paid their dues. They have paid their taxes. They have ploughed the fields. They even went to war. They deserve the right to grow old with dignity. Scott Morrison has no plan to rectify that. Federal Labor under Anthony Albanese I believe have a plan: registered nurses on site 24/7; more carers with time to care, raising the standard; a pay rise for aged-care workers; better food for residents; and transparency to ensure that residential aged-care providers publicly report on what they are spending their money on. I say to older Queenslanders: if you want to change aged care, you have to firstly change the federal government.

Ambulance Ramping, Data

Mr MINNIKIN: My question is to the Premier. Leaked emails show the QAS pushing back against a Queensland Health suggestion to change the way ramping data is collected to make the state government look better without fixing the problems. Will the Premier categorically rule out her government ever changing how ambulance ramping is calculated and reported in the future?

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There are statements made in that question that I believe are factually incorrect and make inferences about the government. I know you are ruling around individuals, but there is factually incorrect information and it is an obligation on those asking the question to make sure they have verified those statements before they ask their question. I ask that it be ruled out of order.

Mr POWELL: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. If the Leader of the House is concerned about the reference to emails, I table said emails.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, regarding measurement of ambulance ramping data [\[648\]](#).

Mr SPEAKER: There are two things here. We have a point of order from the Leader of the House which talks about factual inaccuracies. There is a suggestion that there is now something to back up the question, which is one of the things that will always be taken into account. A point of order is not usually an opportunity for you to table those matters, but you have risen, you have tabled it and it is now part of the House record. In doing so, I will allow the question, but I wish that the opportunity is provided to the minister concerned to view the said emails.

Members, authenticating the facts of the question are, as I mentioned, a critical piece to ensuring that a question is allowable. What has been tabled, which I have only just viewed, does not necessarily do that. I will allow the question, but I will also give latitude to the answer being provided.

I also say to the Leader of the House that if you have concerns about factual inaccuracies, I would encourage you to write to me as Speaker regarding that matter.

Ms PALASZCZUK: If the facts of the question cannot be authenticated, that is a problem with those asking the question.

Dr MILES: It goes to credibility.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Absolutely, but what I will say in relation to the emails, the Minister for Health has addressed those issues on numerous times in question time today.

Vocational Education and Training

Mr WALKER: My question is of the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development. Will the minister update the House on the Palaszczuk government's support for TAFE and the vocational education and training sector and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms FARMER: I thank the member for his question. I know how proud he is of the Pimlico TAFE where we have done major upgrades for nursing and allied health, café and hospitality, and for hairdressing. On this side of the House, we know that skills and training is absolutely critical, but as we face labour shortages in every sector and every region, we know it is more critical than ever. It is why we invest about a billion dollars a year in skills and training. It is key to our economic recovery and to making sure that every Queenslanders can access the best quality of life, including our most vulnerable Queenslanders.

It is one of the many really important reasons that the decisions that Australians make on 21 May is absolutely critical. It will be the difference between whether or not Queenslanders are able to access the training they need, and that we all need them to have, for industry and our human services in the future.

For the last 18 months, national skills ministers around the country have been negotiating in good faith with the federal government over the national skills agreement. We have had grave concerns. The federal government, under Stuart Robert has not budged.

We go to this election with these choices: we face, if the Morrison government is re-elected, massive hikes in student fees across every single qualification. It is the simple truth that if the fees are higher, then people will walk away from enrolling.

I want to tell the House what that means for some of the jobs we are hearing quite a lot about at the moment. If you want to do a Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care, your fees will go up—up to 950 per cent. If you want to do a Certificate III in Individual Support which trains you to work in disabilities or aged care, your fees could go up—up to 600 per cent. We are talking about the lowest paid workers in the state—and let's not even go there about wages growth—facing enormous hikes in fees to be qualified.

Not a week goes past that we do not hear a terrible story about an aged-care home where residents are neglected because there are not enough trained staff to look after them. We have just heard what the minister has said about that. We do not have a week go by without hearing about a person with a disability who is left on their own because there are not enough trained staff. Not a week goes past when we do not hear about a person stuck in a hospital bed sometimes for years on end because of the bungling of the Morrison government. There are not enough facilities and not enough trained staff to look after them. We are talking about over 500 people stuck in hospitals when they could be looked after in an aged-care facility. We need these people, instead of engineering the crisis, to ring ScoMo and ask for our fair share of—

(Time expired)

Premier and Minister for the Olympics, Media Conferences

Mr POWELL: My question is to the Premier. At media conferences, why does the Premier listen to her chief media adviser's advice when he yells, 'Gotta go!' rather than stay and answer journalists' questions?

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

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Before ruling on the point of order, members, for the dignity of the House, it is important to ensure that we maintain certain standards. What is your point of order, member for Pumicestone?

Ms KING: My point of order goes to the inferences and imputations contained in that question under 115(b) of standing orders and I ask that it be ruled out of order.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I will allow the question, but giving again latitude in terms of the Premier's response.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Obviously they have run out of things to ask. 'Quick! Write a question!'

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Oh my goodness! I am more than happy to get a figure on how many press conferences I have done in the last two years.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members!

Ms PALASZCZUK: I remember when Campbell Newman had a hot issue, we would not see them for weeks! They went underground! The member for Kawana went into witness protection for six months.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana!

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The House will come to order. Premier you have the call, but latitude goes so far.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I can remember attending a recent press conference with the Prime Minister at the Gabba and the Prime Minister's media adviser said, 'That's it. We are outta here!' What is going on here?

Mr Fumer: He wouldn't allow the press in Lismore when they were flooded.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. When Australia was burning, was the Prime Minister around for press conferences? He was in Hawaii!

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Bleijie: You were on the cruise ship!

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, you know what is coming. You are warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am more than happy for the member for Kawana to stand up every single day and hold a press conference. We on this side of the House encourage him to do so.

Ms Grace: We'll fund it!

Ms PALASZCZUK: We will share it. Let me finish by saying this. This is a desperate opposition that has no ideas and no policies. I have not seen any of them going out there supporting Scott Morrison. They do not care about jobs. They do not care about cost of living. They do not care about floods. They do not care about people.

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Southern Downs, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I was happy to organise the carting of water to the member's communities when they were running out of water. We were happy to do that. What the opposition has shown clearly today is that they are not fit to govern. They never will be. They are not even fit to be in opposition.

Brisbane River, Vessel Berthing

Ms PEASE: My question is of the Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement. Can the minister please tell the House what the Palaszczuk government is doing to help tour operators on the city reach of the Brisbane River secure overnight mooring options, and is the minister aware of any other approaches?

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I thank the member for Lytton for the question and note her really strong advocacy for bayside tourism and operators on Brisbane's bayside. I also note her advocacy and support for the city's famous river. The Brisbane River is a vitally important part of Brisbane's visitor economy. We know that the river city's river tourism operators are facing an uncertain future despite Queensland tourism's record-breaking visitor and economic recovery. That is why today I am announcing that the Palaszczuk government will be providing a \$1.1 million package of support for current Brisbane CBD river tourism operators to help them secure alternative short-term berthing options.

The owners of the iconic *Kookaburra Queens* are reeling after they were told to leave Waterfront Place to make way for a \$2.1 billion private redevelopment of the precinct, which has also suffered some flood damage. There are also difficulties with commercial activities at the Dockside Marina at Kangaroo Point, affecting the operators there. That is why we have put \$1.1 million on the table today to help riverboat operators with a short-term solution to secure suitable berths while we work on a longer term resolution.

At the heart of the challenges for tourism operators working the Brisbane River's reaches is the desperate shortage of suitable overnight mooring berths. It demonstrates the popularity of tourism experiences on the Brisbane River. With Brisbane getting the nod to host the biggest show on earth, the river city will need some new marina facilities well and truly before the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. In fact, A city marina with berthing for at least 12 vessels is needed right now. That is the assessment we have done as part of the work we have done with industry and the sector. That is why the state government is exploring long-term on-water solutions.

Very importantly—and it is disappointing that I have to say this—we have to urge Brisbane City Council to get on board with this. The LNP administration has effectively abrogated their responsibilities in terms of access to the river. While they highlight and have a strategy focused on talking about access to the river for short-term berthing, there is no redressing of the issue of overnight mooring. That is why it is important that we continue to work with and show leadership to the industry and the sector to get this right. The reality is council controls most of the land along the river's inner city reach and they need to be part of the solution.

With the river city ready for a great 10 years running up to the Olympics and Paralympics, river tourism continues to grow—

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired. Before calling the minister, I remind members that Australia's Biggest Morning Tea event will be occurring in the Lucinda Bar. I encourage all of you to attend.

ANIMAL CARE AND PROTECTION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction



Hon. ML FURNER (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (11.54 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001, the Animal Care and Protection Regulation 2012, the Disability Services Act 2006, the Racing Integrity Act 2016, the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1936 and the Veterinary Surgeons Regulation 2016 for particular purposes. I table the bill and explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the State Development and Regional Industries Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022 [\[649\]](#).

Tabled paper: Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022, explanatory notes [\[650\]](#).

Tabled paper: Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[651\]](#).

Today, I am pleased to introduce the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022. For many Queenslanders, animals are members of our families; are integral to agricultural production; are involved in sport and recreational activities; and provide valuable assistance to individuals and services in quarantine, detection and inspection. Animals are also important to the economy, international trade and research. The Palaszczuk government is committed to providing standards and legislation that protect the welfare of all animals and meet community expectations. Queenslanders love their animals, support high animal welfare standards and consider that there should be strong laws in place to protect them.

While the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001 already provides a strong framework for animal welfare in Queensland, it has been operating for 20 years without a significant review. That is why in late 2020 the Palaszczuk government committed to a review of the Animal Care and Protection Act. The intent of the review was to ensure the legislation keeps pace with contemporary animal welfare standards and practices and community expectations.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Queensland and other key stakeholders have been engaged in the review of the act. The public was also consulted through a discussion paper that was released for public and stakeholder comment between April and May 2021. There was an overwhelming response to the discussion paper, with a total of 2,353 responses received. This was a thorough, inclusive and representative consultation process. More than half of the responses to the discussion paper came from rural and regional areas of Queensland.

Participants from a range of age groups, representing a wide range of interest groups and involvement in different animal activities, including agriculture, animal welfare and advocacy; community, compliance and enforcement; education and research; professionals—for example, veterinary professionals—horse sport; recreation and entertainment; and other animal related industries provided feedback to the discussion paper. In December 2021, a consultation outcomes paper was released to provide a summary of all the responses to the discussion paper.

The Queensland government remains committed to improving the safeguarding of animal welfare in Queensland and this bill will achieve this by strengthening the framework of the act, introducing new penalties and enhancing inspectors' powers. The bill will also implement key Queensland government commitments including some of the recommendations from the Martin inquiry and the recent audit by the Queensland Audit Office on regulating animal welfare services.

The bill introduces a new offence that will apply to a person who commits an 'aggravated' breach of duty of care. This is an extension of the existing breach of duty of care offence under the act and will apply in circumstances where the breach results in the death, serious deformity, serious disablement or prolonged suffering of an animal. This offence carries a maximum penalty of 2,000 penalty units, or three years imprisonment, in recognition that an animal suffers significant pain and distress when it dies from malnutrition, dehydration or neglect or injuries.

This maximum penalty aligns with the maximum penalty under the act for animal cruelty and is intended to cover situations such as those we saw in late 2019 where a number of horses died after prolonged neglect. This bill will ensure that our animal welfare legislation meets the expectations of Queenslanders. The bill will introduce a provision that prohibits a person from performing firing or blistering on the leg of a horse or dog, that is, applying extreme heat or cold, acid or caustic chemicals to the leg of a horse or a dog for the purpose of causing tissue damage or scar tissue around the

tendons and ligaments of the leg. While intended to induce healing by creating inflammation, there is no scientific evidence that it provides any benefits. These procedures have long been considered by veterinarians and horse owners to cause unnecessary pain, and to be an obsolete practice. The Australian Veterinary Association and the Australian rules for thoroughbred and harness racing do not support firing or blistering, and the procedure has been prohibited in other jurisdictions.

The bill will clarify that rodeos are not prohibited events by removing the current provision, as it is not clear that under these provisions all events conducted at a rodeo would not be considered as a prohibited event. Therefore, this amendment will make it clear that rodeos will not be a prohibited event. However, the conduct of rodeos will continue to be subject to the code of practice for rodeos, which commenced earlier this year.

The bill prohibits the possession and use of prong collars without a reasonable excuse. Prong collars are considered to be inappropriate as a training aid because they cause pain and fear in dogs and are used as a punishment. Research has shown that using aversive training methods, including the use of prong collars, can cause pain and distress and can compromise the dog's welfare. Prong collars can also cause physical injuries such as bruising, scratching and puncturing the skin of the dog. Over time, this may lead to scar tissue developing on the dog. In extreme but rare cases, prong collars can be associated with spinal cord injuries and other severe injuries. I know that there have been views expressed on those provisions by certain animal trainers.

The bill will amend the act to prohibit the use on feral or pest animals of poisons that include the ingredients carbon disulphide and phosphorus—that is, CSSP pig poison. Carbon disulphide and phosphorous are toxic to a wide range of bird and animal species. It is generally slow acting and inhumane and causes a long, painful death. It can cause secondary poisoning of non-target animals. There are other poisons on the market that can be used to control feral pigs.

The bill will enhance the enforcement powers of inspectors and address specific risks to animal welfare. New powers will be provided to allow for inspectors to enter a place other than a residence without consent to provide relief to an animal from adverse weather conditions or another animal that is aggressive. This extends the existing powers of entry to provide food or water or to disentangle an animal and, importantly, avoids any delay in responding to situations where animal welfare is clearly at risk. This does not, however, provide an inspector with unlimited access. The inspector must reasonably suspect that the animal is exposed to extreme weather conditions or is at risk of being injured or killed by another animal acting aggressively towards it and that the person in charge of the animal is not at the place. Inspectors must leave a notice with their contact details and details of actions taken.

The bill will provide provisions to expand the use of animal welfare directions for inspectors to give directions in circumstances where an inspector considers that a code of practice requirement, such as a protrusion in an empty livestock truck, needs to be removed to prevent injury to animals that will be loaded onto that truck.

The bill will require a person who has been supplied an animal that has undergone a regulated procedure, such as tail docking and debarking, to retain a signed veterinary surgeon's certificate stating that the regulated procedure has been performed in accordance with the act and to make the certificate available to an inspector upon request. The act already requires that the supplier provide the certificate, so adding an obligation on the receiver to keep the certificate will increase his or her accountability and is also expected to act as a deterrent to persons requesting animals that have undergone a regulated procedure and a person responding to a demand by continuing to perform such procedures other than for welfare reasons. An exemption will apply to a pound or shelter if it is not provided with a veterinary surgeon's certificate when they take possession of an animal.

The bill will clarify provisions related to abandonment of an animal by removing any doubt that the person in charge of an animal remains responsible, even in circumstances where another person such as a neighbour is temporarily providing the animal with food and/or water.

The bill will prohibit the transportation of unsecured dogs on the back of a tray of a vehicle or a trailer attached to a vehicle, except for dogs assisting in moving livestock, and prohibits the transportation of a dog whose body, other than its head, is protruding from a moving vehicle. Although current cruelty provisions in the act implicitly cover the appropriate transport of animals, including dogs in vehicles, this amendment will make it clear that the welfare of the dog being transported must be protected by ensuring they are appropriately secured. The bill does not, however, provide any new restrictions that would impact on the use of dogs for livestock management on farms or for feral pest management.

The bill will make some changes to provisions relating to the use of animals for scientific purposes to extend the term of scientific use registration to a maximum of four years from the current fixed three-year term, providing flexibility and alignment with independent audit cycles. Amendments will also be made to align the definition of 'scientific purposes' with the scientific use codes and require the scientific use registration holder to notify the chief executive of any changes to the information provided in their registration application.

An offence exemption for a veterinary surgeon who may be required to euthanise a sick or injured animal where the owner cannot be readily located will be provided under the bill. This is to allow veterinary surgeons who are unable to find the owner of the dog to euthanise an animal whose pain and suffering would otherwise be prolonged or exacerbated if there were a delay in euthanising the animal because the owner could not be located. The veterinarian will be required to make reasonable attempts to locate the owner prior to euthanising the animal.

The bill will implement some of the key recommendations from the Queensland Audit Office audit on regulating animal welfare services to enhance the oversight and accountability of inspectors and deliver high-quality animal welfare services under the act. The amendments will apply to all inspectors appointed under the act, and the grounds on which an inspector's appointment may be cancelled or suspended will be defined. The bill introduces requirements for an inspector to declare a conflict or potential conflict of interest and to undertake prescribed training. The bill will also introduce restrictions on the commencement of prosecution proceedings under the act to provide that they may only be commenced by a person authorised by the chief executive.

In 2019 the Palaszczuk government acted swiftly by establishing the Martin inquiry in response to unacceptable cruelty towards retired racehorses in Queensland that was reported on by the ABC's 7.30 in November 2019. The bill will implement six recommendations from the Martin inquiry by amending the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001 and the Racing Integrity Act 2016. Two new obligations for livestock slaughter facilities that process horses will be created under the Animal Care and Protection Act. There will also be a new power of entry to a livestock slaughter facility by an inspector. Livestock slaughter facilities will be required to use closed-circuit television equipment at all critical animal handling and processing points to record clear surveillance of animals from arrival to slaughter, but only when horses are at the facility. Requirements of the CCTV equipment, use and signage, as well as the storage and retention of recordings, are also included in the bill.

The bill will introduce requirements for the owner of a livestock slaughter facility to give the chief executive officer notice of the arrival of any horse at the facility no later than two business days before the horse arrives at the facility. A new power of entry for an inspector will be introduced that will allow an inspector to enter a livestock slaughter facility without consent. This power may only be exercised during regular business hours and when horses are being unloaded, handled and slaughtered.

The bill will amend the Racing Integrity Act 2016 to extend the purpose and functions of the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission to protect the welfare of retired racehorses while they are still in the care of racing industry participants. It will clarify that a standard for a breeder licensing scheme for a code of racing can be made for horses.

The bill imposes reporting obligations on suppliers of horses to a livestock slaughter facility and imposes recording and reporting obligations in relation to horses on the owners of the livestock slaughter facility to enable the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission access to information to verify whether retirement and rehoming requirements for retired racehorses have been reported correctly. These amendments will ensure the greater protection of the welfare of retired racehorses.

The bill includes amendments to the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001 and the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1936 that will provide cattle producers with a greater choice of service providers for the two key animal husbandry procedures of pregnancy testing and spaying by establishing new provisions for the approval of cattle procedures accreditation schemes. Pregnancy testing of cattle plays an important role in enabling international market access for live exports of Queensland cattle. It assists in herd management and can contribute significantly to the productivity of beef and dairy herds. These changes will be important in remote areas of the state where access to veterinarians to provide these services can be limited. However, the amendments will ensure that the service providers approved under these schemes will be competent and the welfare of the animals is appropriately protected. I want to thank AgForce for its contribution in advocating lay pregnancy testing for our cattle industry, in particular President Georgie Somerset as well as Bim Struss and cattle board chair Will Wilson.

The bill will also make further amendments to the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1936 to allow non-veterinarians to perform acts of veterinary science—for example, administering anaesthetics on animals used for scientific use purposes, provided they are performed in accordance with the Australian

Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes and under the supervision of an animal ethics committee. This will create greater flexibility for research institutions that have had difficulty in accessing veterinary services to assist with conducting routine procedures while providing appropriate oversight of researchers to prevent or minimise any risks to animal welfare.

Recognising that disability services workers may work directly with animals or assist their clients to care for their animals, the bill will also make amendments to the Disability Services Act 2006 to prescribe the new offence of aggravated breach of duty of care as a current serious offence under schedule 2. Queenslanders expect strong animal welfare laws that are practical, enforceable and have appropriate penalties. The amendments in this bill will ensure that the framework for animal welfare law in Queensland remains strong and meets community expectations. Animal welfare laws work best when they reflect what the community expects. I want to thank the thousands of Queenslanders who made submissions to the review of the Animal Care and Protection Act or completed surveys to make their views known. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. ML FURNER (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (12.11 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to State Development and Regional Industries Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the State Development and Regional Industries Committee.


POLICE SERVICE ADMINISTRATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 11 May (see p. 1101), on motion of Mr Ryan—

That the bill be now read a second time.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Before calling the member for Lytton, I take this opportunity to remind the following members that they are still on warnings until the lunch break: the members for Nanango, Chatsworth, Kawana and Southern Downs.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (12.12 pm), continuing: Given that today is International Nurses Day, I want to acknowledge the great work that all of our frontline nursing staff do and thank them for their tremendous care and support of people in our community. I was fortunate enough to meet with some of the nurses and midwives who were on the precinct this morning, and my young niece is a nurse as well. I know what hardworking members of our community they are. It is not a job for these people; it is a vocation. They serve and they love what they do in taking care of people, so I thank them very much for their service.

Returning to the bill before the House, when I finished last night I was acknowledging the great service by Queensland Police Service, QFES and SES workers and also the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service officers. Unfortunately for those people who work in those services, they see the very worst of people at very difficult times because the people they are assisting have generally experienced some tremendously difficult times. I also thank them for their ongoing service and kindness and care to those people in our community who are experiencing hard times.

All workers have a duty to take reasonable care for their own health and safety and not adversely affect the safety of others. Unfortunately, we have become a society constantly looking for someone to blame for our behaviour or misfortune, even when it is no-one's fault other than our own, and too often we look to place the blame at the feet of someone else. In every workplace it is the responsibility of the employee as well as the employer to ensure safety. At the end of the day, we must be confident that the employee will return home safely, and that is everyone's right.

To ensure a safe workplace, it makes sense for the sensible and/or prescribed use of alcohol and drugs. Drug related workplace accidents, lost productivity and absenteeism cost Australian businesses billions of dollars every year. The use of drugs or alcohol can affect the individual and put at risk the welfare of work colleagues and those with whom the individuals interact. Drug and alcohol testing allows employers to protect both the employees and the business by mitigating the risks of employees using recreational drugs and alcohol. It is proposed in this bill that the alcohol and drug testing regime be expanded to include protective services officers.

The Police Service Administration Act 1990 allows for alcohol testing and targeted alcohol and drug testing of police officers, watch house officers and staff working in critical areas. Protective services officers are authorised to use force in certain circumstances and unfortunately the use of force on another can result in dire consequences. Currently, any investigation involving a critical incident involving a protective services officer would be hampered as these officers may not be subject to an alcohol and drug testing regime. The rationale for alcohol and drug testing of QPS staff ensures that the health, welfare and safety of QPS members is supported, public confidence in the QPS is promoted and the integrity of the QPS is enhanced.

Alcohol impairment has a domino effect, resulting in low productivity, increased down time, risky behaviours and a huge impact on safety which would generally increase safety risks. Therefore, employers must minimise all factors that may lead to harm. Drug and alcohol testing in the workplace traditionally has been mainly implemented by industries where drug affected employees pose a serious safety risk to themselves and others such as transport and mining or construction. With reports showing that two in three users use some form of drugs at work, including illicit ones, the need for drug screening is fast becoming universal.

Contrary to popular belief, random testing does not aim to catch offenders; instead, it is actually a means of preventing drug abuse by deterring employees from using illicit substances. Random selection is effective in curbing drug use since employees will not know beforehand if they will be tested. It is a means by which the employee and employer can be protected, so it is a very important procedure to make sure that the staff are protected, the employer is protected and our community is protected.

I want to acknowledge all of the great protective services officers taking care of our buildings. The white shirts, as they are commonly referred to, do a great job. For a period of time my daughter was a federal police officer and worked as a federal protective services officer. Although that is a slightly different role than the protective services officers in Queensland, it is a similar job in that they put themselves at risk and put themselves on the front line, so what we can do as a society to protect them to ensure that they are looked after and respected in our community is paramount and something that good government should do. That is why I am really proud to be able to rise in support of the Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021.



Mr ANDREW (Mirani—PHON) (12.19 pm): I rise to speak on the Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Bill 2021. Before I do, I offer my thanks and praise to all of the security officers here in the parliamentary precinct who all work so hard and diligently to keep us safe. I have always found these officers to be extremely professional, hardworking and diligent. I have always enjoyed my many interactions with them and consider them to be good, trustworthy colleagues. Nothing I have to say on this bill should be taken as a reflection on them personally or the work they do, which I know is extremely valuable.

The amalgamation of protective security officers and senior protective security officers creates a new category of officer called protective services officers or PSOs. The bill invests these newly created PSOs with greatly enhanced powers, which in his introductory speech the minister described as mirroring those of Queensland police officers. They belong to the Protective Services Group, PSG, which describes itself as a business unit operating under the umbrella of the QPS. The actual governance and chain of accountability for the unit is fairly obscure. However, it seems to be one of those hybrid organisations governments are so fond of nowadays, but which also provides much less transparency and accountability than the regular police force.

The officers provide security services to around 80 Queensland government buildings, including the Queensland Cultural Centre, Queensland Courts, Mineral House, Legal Aid Offices and about 47 or so other government owned or leased buildings across the state—all on a fee-for-service basis. The website says PSG currently offers clients a wide range of security, technical and consultancy services, including mobile patrols throughout the state through third-party providers. It is evident, therefore, that the PSG unit is a group whose activities extend much further than simply providing security for

Queensland state buildings, as the accompanying documents in the bill describe their work. This is concerning, particularly as the powers the bill is investing in PSOs are significant powers that mirror those of regular police officers and particularly because provisions in this bill indicate a for-profit aspect to their work. Clause 36 states a function of PSOs to be—

providing services, on a commercial basis, for a building (other than a state building) under a contract entered into by the State.

This raises significant questions around how and when these new police-like powers will operate. Will they apply only when providing security for government infrastructure, or are they a permanent feature of their new role? I also note that the definition of a state building in clause 549 of the bill is ambiguous. According to clause 549(1)(ii), the meaning of a state building is—

a building, or part of a building, prescribed by regulation for the purpose of this definition;

This definition essentially means that a state building will mean practically any building or venue the government decides it means.

The experience of Victoria is very instructive. Victorian PSOs have undergone a similar upgrade of their powers. Over time their powers have grown considerably and the officers are authorised to make arrests and carry weapons. PSOs in Victoria can now be seen patrolling all sorts of unexpected areas, including privately owned or managed shopping centres. This raises a number of questions as to whose interests are being served by contracting out PSOs with police powers to the corporate sector. The possibility that PSOs will be exercising these newly acquired police powers, including the use of force, while contracted out to non-government and private interests is a grey area of the bill. What happens, for example, if a PSO were to seize an item that may be later deemed as evidence of an offence while acting on behalf of a corporation rather than the government? The bill does say that these commercial for-profit services will be subject to a government contract, but there are still a lot of unanswered questions in my mind as to the conflict of interest these officers could be confronted with in exercising these police powers in a commercial, privatised context.

On the issue of the use of force and the expansion of circumstances under which force may be used by a PSO, I believe the threshold in the bill is far too low. I also have similar concerns over the open-ended authorisation for PSOs to use body worn cameras similar to those worn by police officers. The bill is not clear on the circumstances when a camera may be turned on, as well as who has access to the recordings and for what purpose. This is particularly concerning, given these PSOs are already engaged in providing security services to many venues, such as schools and electorate offices, where people would not be expecting to be filmed and may regard it as an invasion of privacy. I certainly would.

Policing is a practice that involves significant coercive powers. They should therefore be used responsibly and with accountability. For such powers to be invested in a group of people who appear to operate mostly outside the parameters of a fully accountable police force and whose services may be contracted out on a commercial basis is surely an issue that should have received much more attention than it has. The importance of accountability cannot be minimised, as it ensures that policing is provided within an ethical and transparent framework that lessens the potential for misconduct or abuse. There is very little in Australian legislation, and even less in the common law, which permits security guards, even those overseen by a regular police service, to wield such powers.

The changes in the bill may bring the state into line with other states, as has been said, but that does not change the fact that they will be transformative on law enforcement and policing in Queensland. The new laws replace the original security function of a PSO with a newly created responsibility for combating crime, antisocial behaviour and even terrorism. Essentially, the bill is creating a second-tier police force within Queensland, one where the chain of governance and accountability is far from clear. The changes also risk creating the very conditions for violent interactions that it seeks to prevent, conditions where the principle of mutual respect in our society is replaced with one based on mutual suspicion and distrust.

On that last point, I call the attention of the House to a 2016 review carried out in Victoria by the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission, which identified numerous risks associated with PSOs exercising the powers of police. Some of these risks included assault and improper use of force, unauthorised access and disclosure of information, as well as increased levels of aggressive behaviour towards the public. Such risks could easily be disproportionately experienced by those within our most marginalised and vulnerable groups, people such as Indigenous and migrant groups who already feel unfairly targeted by police surveillance and intervention. Others include the homeless, those experiencing mental illness and young people.

The example of Victoria shows just how rapidly PSOs can become incorporated into the role of maintaining social order. PSOs can now patrol all sorts of places, including beaches, train stations, shopping centres and other commercial areas. I have concerns that this bill will import this same level of heightened policing model to Queensland, something that could easily turn our democratic and open society into one that is a lot more closed and adversarial. Essentially, the bill will create a second-tier policing regime and this will almost certainly expand rapidly. Many of the changes being made with bills such as this are too often being introduced and passed without any real awareness or consultation with the public.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): I remind all members when you rise to seek the call, please rise and speak to seek the call otherwise you might not get up when you want to.



Hon. ML FURNER (Ferry Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (12.27 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. I extend my thanks to the members of the Economics and Governance Committee, led by its chair, the member for Logan, for their examination of this bill. This bill continues the work of the Palaszczuk government in bringing efficiencies to the Public Service, in this case the hardworking members of the Protective Services Group. Every time you enter this building, whether it be in sitting weeks, for committee hearings or bringing visitors into the chamber, you are always greeted with a smile and a friendly nod by those men and women who do a sterling job in this place. I commend them for their efforts. This bill will complement their service and their credibility as decent people who protect us on a daily basis.

The bill also brings efficiencies to the Forestry Act 1959, which falls under my portfolio. This bill will amend that act to remove the requirement for a police officer to produce an identity card while acting as a forestry officer. This would only apply if the officer were in uniform. If they are not, then the officer would still be obliged to produce identification if they are exercising their powers as a public official. This is just a common-sense measure. If an officer is in uniform they are clearly identified as such and should not need to produce further identification.

This bill also clarifies some procedures for Forestry officers when going about their job. In particular, section 84E gives a Forestry officer the power to stop or move a vehicle or vessel. The amendments would require the Forestry officer to identify themselves when giving the direction and immediately provide a form of identification to the person of interest. The bill further simplifies what can be used as identification, including wearing their departmental uniform or activating lights on a vehicle displaying a logo of the department. These are all sensible measures to, firstly, improve efficiencies for Forestry or police officers exercising their powers under the Forestry Act; secondly, it will give the wider community confidence in dealing with public servants doing their job to protect our forestry assets.

Of course, the government consulted appropriately on this legislation and feedback received was taken into account in finalising the bill. That is a hallmark of the Palaszczuk government. It is a process that the government always undertakes and I am proud to see the outcomes delivered in the report on this bill. I note there were no reservations raised either by the committee or external stakeholders about these particular provisions.

As the Minister for Police and Emergency Services noted in his introductory speech, this bill modernises the legislation governing Protective Services. Its 400 staff are responsible for the management of security services across state schools and 80 government buildings, including our courts. Protective Services has a very proud history and thousands of public servants owe a debt of gratitude to the men and women of Protective Services for keeping them safe as they go about their work. In 2016, Protective Services was incorporated into the Queensland Police Service in recognition that both agencies are dedicated to providing safety and security across Queensland. This bill will streamline the powers of protective services officers by: removing the distinction between protective security officers and senior protective security officers; consolidating and rationalising the powers of protective services officers and the police officers operating alongside them in state buildings; clarifying and expanding offence provisions; and authorising protective services officers to use body worn cameras.

In its submission to the committee inquiry, the QPS noted that the current security environment in Australia is complex and protest activity, particularly in recent times, has escalated. I want to reflect on a period when I was a senator in the Commonwealth parliament. A former coalition senator from New South Wales entered an estimates hearing through what one would have thought was good security and produced a mock pipe bomb to identify the concerns of the security officers at that time.

Mr Ryan: In front of the Australian Federal Police Commissioner.

Mr FURNER: That is correct. No doubt that demonstrated what was, at that time, a deficiency in and concerns about the security at the greatest Parliament House in this country. Notwithstanding that, today we are making progress in terms of tightening up our security and making sure that we as parliamentarians, our staff and the many hundreds of other employees who come through these doors and those of all government buildings are protected in appropriate and safe environments and this bill achieves those outcomes.

Members would agree that quite regularly we see protest activity outside this House, notably last sitting week when hundreds of people were actively engaging in disrupting this parliament. While we are fortunate to live in a democracy where people are allowed and encouraged to express their views in a peaceful way, sometimes those protests can turn violent. There is also a wider community expectation that people are entitled to be safe in their workplace. Therefore, it is only right that this bill allows for a uniform set of powers for our protective services officers so that they can ensure the security of government buildings.

I note that the Queensland Law Society has reservations about the proposal to give protective services officers access to the same powers as senior protective security officers, mainly due to a perceived lack of adequate training. I welcome the QPS's commitment to providing adequate resources and training to officers in Protective Services so that those powers are exercised correctly. The committee also heard concerns about clarifying the use of force by protective services officers in removing someone or preventing that person from entering a state building. This bill stipulates reasonable use of force and, again, I am confident protective services officers will be given the right training by their colleagues in the QPS. The bill also makes it clear that the use of body worn cameras by protective services officers is lawful.

We live in a multicultural society and it is not altogether uncommon that, in the course of carrying out their duties, our protective services officers provide assistance to or otherwise interact with people for whom English is not a first language. This bill will authorise protective services officers to employ assistants, such as interpreters, to help them efficiently carry out their work while providing appropriate protections from civil liability for those assistants.


The bill makes it an offence to assault or obstruct a protective services officer acting in accordance with his or her duties. Obviously such an assault would be abhorrent and it is vital we create the additional deterrent to such attacks that this provision of the bill outlines.

The bill also gives authority for protective services officers to make directions or requirements by inserting a new offence of contravening a directive or requirement of a protective services officer. This bill provides appropriate protections for people who might be subject to directions issued by protective services officers by ensuring they have an opportunity to comply with those directions. Under the bill, a protective services officer can give a person a verbal direction or requirement. If the person fails to comply, the protective services officer must warn the person that it is an offence to fail to comply with the direction unless the person has a reasonable excuse. The protective services officer must then give the person a further reasonable opportunity to comply with the direction or requirement that has been issued.

Like our dedicated Queensland police officers, our protective services officers perform important duties to keep Queenslanders and Queensland government critical infrastructure safe. I thank our protective services officers for their service and for the work they do for all Queenslanders.

As an aside, I would also like to congratulate the Premier and the Attorney-General on this week's announcement about the action the Palaszczuk government is taking to criminalise coercive control. As a long-standing White Ribbon Ambassador, this is an issue that is extremely close to my heart. I congratulate both of my cabinet colleagues for having pushed forward those processes.

Once again, this bill appropriately inserts provisions to protect us as parliamentarians and all state government officers. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (12.38 pm): I also wish to make a contribution to the debate on the Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. The substantive object of the bill is to standardise some of the powers that police officers and protective services officers may use. Sometimes it is helpful to think about why we do the things we do and why we choose to create a change that can take a bit of time and effort. The 'why' is simply this: with mounting pressures on our Public Service, particularly on our front-line officers and—notably and relevant to this bill—our Queensland Police Service, we have an obligation to refine the operating environment for those important roles.

The state government's protective security service is a dedicated statutory unit that is tasked with providing security services for Queensland government buildings. I join with others in putting on the record my thanks to the protective security officers who work not just here at Parliament House but also throughout all Queensland government buildings. I am sure others feel as I do that it is one of the highlights of my day—I do not know what that says about me—to come here in the morning and be greeted with a lovely smile. I still get a kick out of it every time they say to me, 'Good morning, Ms Bush.' I still love the feeling I get every time they say that. They are nothing but absolutely wonderful. That has been the story throughout my Public Service career, having worked at William Street, at the State Law Building and at the 'Gotham' building where, obviously, protective security staff work.

Yes, every day they are a friendly face and someone to have a quick chat to when hopping in the lift, but really they are so much more than that. Of course, we know that. Their steady and constant presence really is quite reassuring, particularly for staff members having to work late—as I have done on numerous occasions—coming and going from the building, particularly when working in the Public Service with sometimes some really vulnerable clients. As much as we draw from every part of our professional expertise, sometimes those interactions do not always go the way we would like them to. Having security there to support us in supporting our clients is really beneficial. I have only had to draw on them on very rare occasions, but those occasions have been managed in a very professional and compassionate manner. I put on record my thanks to them.

There are over 400 staff providing security for over 80 government buildings. Since 1984 they have operated within a variety of administrative settings. In 2016 the government protective security service was integrated into the Queensland Police Service in response to a recommendation made during the review of the Public Safety Business Agency, the PSBA. The reasons for the recommendation included: the inherent value of QPS maintaining overall responsibility for public safety in Queensland and the ability to easily coordinate responses and deployment in times of emergency; the ability to use Protective Services as part of the QPS employee life cycle, including as a platform for interested recruits who do not yet meet the entrance requirements for the Queensland Police Service; providing a broader range of options to transition sworn officers; and the ability to access improved training and support for protective services officers as the QPS already delivers these services to staff.

During the course of the integration process, Queensland police reviewed the underpinning legislation and identified a number of legislative changes which it considers will increase the efficiency of protective services while simultaneously promoting the integration of Protective Services into the QPS, ensuring the government meets its obligations as an employer to provide for the safety and security of people in government buildings.


The proposed amendments will seek to achieve the following: relocate the legislative framework underpinning the operation of the protective services from the State Buildings Protective Security Act and State Buildings Protective Security Regulation into the PSAA and PPRA; integrate the oversight and operations of Protective Services into police; streamline legislation; remove duplication; and provide a single source of truth for the PPRA. It will improve efficiencies through training and development opportunities and policy development for both cohorts of professionals which do share a lot of synergy.

Secondly, in transferring the powers of Protective Services from the State Buildings Protective Security Act to the PPRA, the bill will establish a single and consistent set of powers for protective services staff who provide security services in state government buildings. QPS has identified issues with the ongoing differences between the powers of two different classes of officers—namely, the protective security officers and senior protective security officers—and that these are discrepancies which only occur in Queensland. Nationally it can lead to unnecessary risk and potentially compromise community safety. In a practical sense it is simply inefficient through rostering challenges and simply is not in accordance with other states and territories.

Thirdly, the bill consolidates security powers of police officers and protective services officers and only in state buildings. This is in relation to the requirements for a protective services officer to require an entrant to a state building to provide personal details. This is to ensure that people accessing state buildings are in fact the person they are claiming to be.

Finally, this bill clarifies the use of force by a protective services officer when they are removing a person from a state building or preventing a person from entering a state building, providing that a protective services officer is authorised to use such force as is reasonably necessary for the purpose until the person can be surrendered to a police officer for investigation.

This bill also clarifies and strengthens the offence provisions in failing to comply with a security officer's demands for a person's identifying details, their failure to leave a state building or if a person assaults or resists an officer in the course of the officer performing their duties. Put simply, the bill further streamlines and modernises our protective services framework. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (12.44 pm): I rise to make my contribution to the debate on the Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The Queensland Greens do not support this bill in its entirety. Based on the limited expert feedback available via submissions, it is an unwarranted overextension of coercive powers granted to a new category of officers called protective services officers.

In summary, the concerning elements of the bill are the proposals to expand some existing powers which are currently restricted to only senior protective security officers to all protective services officers and to expand the circumstances in which a PSO can use force that is reasonably necessary in the performance of their duties.

These powers given to an expanded category of PSOs include: the power to seize proscribed matter; the power to demand a person's name and address; and the power to use force to remove someone from a state building or precinct. As the Queensland Law Society put it in their submission—

We do not support the proposal unless equivalent training is provided prior to any of current PSOs to exercise existing senior PSO powers.

We learnt from the committee's report that equivalent training will not in fact be provided. The QPS confirmed to the committee that just one additional week of training would be provided, both to the existing cohort of protective security officers to whom these powers will be extended and to new recruits. We are talking about five weeks of training instead of four. It is telling that even that very basic request, to ensure that people exercising potentially very significant powers receive the same level of training as those who can exercise the powers now, could not be satisfied.

The bill expands the circumstances in which a PSO can use force that is reasonably necessary in the performance of their duties, and it also affords this power to anyone helping a PSO. It expands the power for PSOs to give directions to leave a state building or precinct, a contravention of which would be an offence rendering an entrant liable to arrest.

The bill expands this power to all PSOs and to police and expands the circumstances for the exercise of this power to issue a direction to leave—and then remove by force—to include circumstances where a person has simply refused to state their name or address or where they are, in the view of the PSO or police officer, disorderly, indecent, offensive or threatening. Some of those circumstances are justified—for example, where an entrant to a building is threatening another person—but some are clearly overreach.

For example, it does not take much imagination at all to see how someone at a housing or department of transport office who becomes distressed could easily be criminalised and forcibly removed for behaviour that the officer sees as disorderly or offensive. Those are not desirable, but they are not grounds for exercising force in circumstances where the person is not a threat to anyone. As the QLS put it—

QLS holds significant reservations about the exercise of police powers by persons who have not received police training particularly in circumstances where the pool of persons who will be able to use these powers will be expanded (i.e. to include senior PSOs and PSOs). In our view, such measures risk having a disproportionate impact on vulnerable persons (including young people) when they are accessing public places and/or services.

QLS went on to 'strongly recommend that these provisions be revisited'. We agree with the general principle put forward by QLS that police powers should be reserved to people who have received police training. We make no reflection whatsoever on the professionalism and integrity of protective services officers, but in a democratic society this principle is very important and this bill does not do it justice.

In the committee's report, we learn that a consultation draft of the bill was circulated to nine organisations, agencies and judicial officers, including the QLS, the Queensland Human Rights Commission, the Police Union and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The committee's report states—

The QPS was unable to comment on the specifics of the feedback provided by stakeholders due to those communications being subject to Cabinet-in-confidence. However, the committee was advised that 'as a generalisation, the stakeholders were very supportive of the bill that was going to be made'.


Only two organisations, the CCC and the Queensland Law Society, made submissions on the bill. It was quite a surprise to read the detailed submission from the QLS, which I have already quoted, opposing or calling into question the most significant elements of the bill—that is, the expansion of

coercive powers. It seems like a pretty slack and misleading tactic, frankly, for the QPS to employ to claim the shield of cabinet in confidence while offering what now seems very much like a sanitised version of the feedback from a range of respected experts.

The bill makes some fairly sensible amendments in relation to requirements for various officers to carry identity cards issued under the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service legislation. We do not object to them.

The bill also expands the application of the drug and alcohol testing regime from police officers to the new category of PSOs, which is largely unproblematic. We would urge that this principle of equivalent oversight and accountability be extended further where police powers are being expanded to non-police officers. I put on the record my concerns about the impacts of this kind of drug testing regime on people who are prescribed medicinal cannabis, similar to the impacts of roadside drug testing for people using perfectly legal medications.

This parliament has, in recent years, passed legislation to facilitate the prescription and use of various different medicinal cannabis products, many of which contain THC—an active ingredient that is detected in drug testing, and can remain in a person's system long after any psychoactive effect has worn off and when there is no risk of driver impairment. Drug testing regimes like this have a clearly discriminatory effect on people who have been prescribed and are legally using these medicinal cannabis products. If we accept that medicinal cannabis is an entirely legitimate part of healthcare provision in Queensland, why should QPS officers or PSOs be denied the potential benefits of these medicines? We need to put an end to discriminatory drug testing regimes that unjustifiably put patients at risk of criminalisation or losing their jobs. I would encourage all members to do some reading around the work of Harm Reduction Australia and the Drive Change campaign to better inform themselves of the need for reform in this space.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (12.51 pm): I rise in support of the Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. As the member for Mount Ommaney, I am very lucky because my electorate is just a stone's throw from the Oxley training facility where a lot of the training for protective services officers and police officers takes place. When the new facility in Wacol is fully operational it will be a stone's throw from my electorate. The upshot of that is that I am often invited to graduation ceremonies. I get to see these wonderful men and women graduate. The ages of these people range from as young as 20 to—in the last intake of protective services officers—in their 60s. It is fantastic to see that depth and breadth of experience coming into those roles. This speaks volumes for the people coming into these protective services officer and police officer roles.

At the most recent ceremony I sat listening to some of the newly engaged officers talking about why they were doing the job. One of them was from a Vietnamese background. He said that he became a protective services officer because he knows that having a second language is important and he is going to be able to better engage with the community. That was lovely to hear.

This bill is about ensuring clarity and consistency in these roles. While it may seem straightforward to introduce such changes, it is crucial that this is done properly so there is no ambiguity and the public and those specifically concerned—the police and protective services officers—clearly understand the respective roles. This necessitates discussing a number of specific areas, including: the amalgamation of roles; the penalties for impersonating a protective security officer; the safeguards in this bill; the repealed sections of previous acts; the powers that will be held by protective services officers; and the changes specifically confined to the Department of Environment and Science and more.

As other members have noted in their contributions, human rights are significant when discussing this bill as it is crucial that the security of persons employed within or attending state buildings or state facilities is maintained. Members of this House may or may not be aware that protective services officers work in facilities right across Queensland—facilities such as the one at Wellcamp. I understand that the parliament's security officers are employed by a different organisation. People who work in these state facilities deserve protection. That is why we have these very important roles.

I am sure we are all well aware that we live in troubling times internationally—we have war in Europe and increasing threats of terrorism—and in the last few years we have seen public figures such as politicians, police and security officers threatened. These people are in front-facing roles. I know that members of this House are out and about in their communities. In this role we pride ourselves on being out and about in our communities and engaging with our community. Unfortunately, in other countries it is quite dangerous for people to do that. People in public-facing roles need an additional layer of protection. Whether a threat is significant or credible or even if we are not sure whether the threat is

real or has been verified, the means to protect against that threat need to be in place pre-emptively. This means that our public buildings need to be afforded extra security. One way we can do that is through this bill.

Police, rightly so, are much admired and respected through this state for their diligence and selfless commitment to the community. I have spoken many times in this House about my fantastic local officers. I put on the record in this House that they do a wonderful in my community. I know that they take their job of serving and protecting against all threats incredibly seriously. Given my role, my local police got in contact with me to do an audit of my home. I am sure many members can access this service. That is part of the service they offer when it comes to protecting people in front-facing roles in our community.

Protective security officers are employed to ensure the security of not only the buildings in which they are employed but also the people working in those buildings and those who seek to enter those buildings to meet with those working in those buildings. In Queensland we already have sensible measures in place such as: screening of a person entering a public building; inspecting vehicles and their contents; seizing any questionable goods or materials; directing a person to leave the area if necessary; and removing a person who is deemed to be a threat or fails to heed directions. While there are already significant powers available to the police and protective security officers, this bill strengthens those powers.

I have heard other members mention they are concerned that this may impinge upon people's liberties. This is not Big Brother attempting to erode the rights of individuals. It is simply guaranteeing and codifying, as much as humanly possible, that everyone remains safe and comfortable in their workplace—be they doctors, nurses, politicians—and they are able to complete their roles unimpeded.

Standardised powers for protective services officers, avoiding confusion between their roles and complementing the work being done by our police officers are all facets of this bill. It seems to me that arguing against this bill, which seeks to clarify those particular roles, would be nonsensical. We need to make sure that everyone is crystal clear when it comes to their roles and responsibilities. That is why we see different training modules carried out by our protective services officers and police officers. There are different training modules that are run.

When I was at the graduation ceremony representing the Minister for Police just a few weeks ago it was great to see young people coming through.

Mr Ryan interjected.

Ms PUGH: Probably a little bit too young for the police; maybe in the future. We also had some older people coming through—people who were in their 60s. We had a spread of ages.

Mr Boothman interjected.

Ms PUGH: I said older, member for Theodore. They were older than 21. Sixty is older than 21; do the maths. It was great to see that spread of ages. It is providing a fantastic career opportunity for Queenslanders who want to step up and protect our community throughout those facilities.

Debate, on motion of Ms Pugh, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Mooloolah River, Harbour Entrance



Ms SIMPSON (Maroochydore—LNP) (2.00 pm): Lives and livelihoods are at risk due to the dangerous state of the Mooloolaba harbour entrance. The state government must act to fix the harbour entrance and make it safe. There is an increasingly long list of horror stories. Experienced skippers are having their boats run aground on the shoaling sand at the entrance to Mooloolaba harbour. Mooloolaba harbour should be a safe harbour. It is the harbour that is home to the pilots who look after the Brisbane shipping industry on their way through Moreton Bay. I understand that pilot ships can no longer go out at night, but I understand today they were not able to go out because it was too dangerous for them. That is saying something, because they are also extremely experienced skippers. There is a long list of people who should not be risking their lives, but they need to have a safe harbour entrance.

I am calling on the transport minister to act. They must address the fact that the small dredge cannot cut it and get a bigger dredge that can. They also have to implement a more permanent solution that is right for marine safety and the environment. Doing nothing is not an option, and I am calling on

this government to act. What will it take to get them to act? This has been getting worse and worse. The small dredge has not been able to cope. It has got to the stage where experienced skippers, well before current weather events, were facing great difficulties to get out of this area. They must act. Lives will be lost; it is that serious.

This is like a highway for the fishing industry and recreational fleet based out of Mooloolaba, yet that highway is blocked most times because of sand shoaling. I know that people are increasingly frustrated. They are asking, 'What do we have to do? Do we have to relocate to another harbour with a more reliable harbour entrance?' It should not have to get to that. This industry is worth millions of dollars and livelihoods are at risk. The water police are also based out of this area. I understand that in the last few days a visiting police vessel had to get the coastguard to help them navigate their way out of Mooloolaba harbour. You realise how ridiculous that is when this is supposed to be a safe harbour, yet you have the coastguard, which is already risking their lives trying to keep people safe, helping an emergency service vehicle get out of the harbour. There must be action. I am calling on the government to act quickly. Do it! It is about saving lives.

Federal Election



Ms HOWARD (Ipswich—ALP) (2.03 pm): In about 9½ days time the last ballot will be cast and people will decide who is going to form the next government of Australia.

Mr Harper: Hopefully, Labor!

Ms HOWARD: It is interesting that you say that, member for Thuringowa, because I am hoping for the same. We simply cannot have another three years of a coalition government. It is time for a change. The coalition lacks the vision and bold policy ideas that will help this country manage urgent and emerging challenges in the future. We need to have courage from our leaders and we need some bold ideas.

For example, there is a growing number of people in Ipswich who are at risk of homelessness because of the current rental crisis. The vacancy rent for rental properties in Ipswich has fallen to a record low of 0.5 per cent. Only 80 rental properties were available to rent in Ipswich during the month of March. People call my office in distress because they cannot find somewhere to rent and they are facing homelessness. These are people with young families, people who need to leave abusive partners, elderly people, and people with disabilities. The Morrison government does not care. They have announced no new policies this election that would help renters or boost affordable housing. The Morrison government is still going ahead and scrapping the National Rental Affordability Scheme. When it comes to building more social and affordable housing, Scott Morrison does not see it as his responsibility. It is not his job; he is not holding the hose.

Fortunately, the Palaszczuk government is getting the job done by investing in building thousands of homes across the state and—as we heard from the Treasurer this morning—committing \$2.9 billion to support current and future social housing. Unlike Scott Morrison, we take this responsibility seriously. Another responsibility we take seriously is health care. At this election we need a federal government that will step up and fund its fair share of public hospital spending. In my electorate the Ipswich Hospital is doing a superb job despite the pressures placed on it by our rapidly growing population. We want to make sure they continue serving Ipswich's healthcare needs well into the future. That is why over the past five years the Palaszczuk government has committed \$166.9 million for the Ipswich Hospital expansion. This investment has funded a newly completed 26-bed ward, a new 64-bed acute mental health unit now under construction, and a planned expansion of our hospital's emergency department. On top of that, we are delivering \$40 million to build a new satellite hospital in Ripley.

More needs to be done. State and territory health ministers, including our own health minister, have called on Scott Morrison to increase the federal government's contribution to hospital spending from 45 to 50 per cent, but Morrison has refused. It is not his responsibility; it is not his job. The coalition's underinvestment in public hospitals, primary health care and Medicare is putting lives at risk. It is time for a change. Another three years will mean a further regression in health and housing policy, making more constituents poorer and more vulnerable.

Spinal Muscular Atrophy, Testing



Mrs GERBER (Currumbin—LNP) (2.06 pm): It was just over a year ago that I first called on this House to imagine two beautiful baby girls born within a month of each other, both named Oakley, and both born with the motor neuron disease SMA. The difference between them is that the Oakley born in New South Wales was tested for SMA at birth, able to access early treatment, and now lives a relatively

normal live. The Oakley born in Queensland did not get this testing. Her SMA was not detected until she started showing symptoms. Baby Oakley in Queensland may never walk, needs help breathing and her life expectancy is unknown.

SMA is the leading genetic cause of death in infants under the age of two. Every year babies are diagnosed with SMA. One in 35 people carry the gene—two people in this chamber. It has to be picked up at birth otherwise the damage can never be undone. At the moment it is a postcode lottery. Babies born in New South Wales, ACT and WA are tested for SMA at birth; Victoria has just announced they will. Since 2019 the AMA has advocated for Queensland to test for SMA at birth. The test itself would cost the system \$10. That's it!

It has been 15 months since I first wrote to the health minister urging her to include testing for SMA in our newborn screening tests. Each moment this state government delays implementation means that more children are being diagnosed too late. Baby Mia, from Brisbane, was born in May last year with type 1 SMA. I tragically received the heartbreaking news that she passed away in November last year. This Queensland family was forced to watch their beautiful baby deteriorate from SMA and tragically pass away because SMA is not screened for at birth in Queensland. Baby Louis from Toowoomba was born in March this year with type 1 SMA and again was diagnosed too late. He is receiving treatment but, like baby Oakley, he too will suffer the impacts of SMA on his tiny little body. These are just two recent cases. There are many other Queensland families who are heartbroken and too traumatised to talk.

This cannot keep happening to Queensland families and children when all it would take is for this health minister to commit to testing at birth like other states. This state government is telling us they want us to wait for yet another committee to consider whether it should be implemented before taking action. That is why the SMA community and I have organised to march on this parliament on 22 June this year to bring to the government's attention the urgent need for action. I am imploring this health minister to take action. This is a matter pertaining to the lives of Queensland children and the impact of that on their families. This deserves bipartisan support.

Regional Queensland, Events



Mr HEALY (Cairns—ALP) (2.09 pm): I rise today to inform the chamber of the outstanding work that is being done in delivering world-class events to Queensland. Only two weeks ago, I had the absolute pleasure of officially launching the Road to Rodeo held in Longreach.

Mr Madden: Well done.

Mr HEALY: Thanks, it was good to be there. This superb weekend set in the heart of the Central West is part of a new series of legendary Mount Isa Mines rodeos and brings this western sport to a new audience by encompassing great family activities during the day and live music in the evening. I can tell the House that it was an outstanding evening.


The Longreach Road to Rodeo was exceptionally well run and, as a tourism offering, complemented the other quintessential outback experiences in the region, such as the Qantas Founders Museum, the Stockman's Hall of Fame and the Workers Heritage Centre in Barcaldine. These tourism products and events are helping support and drive regional economies as we recover from the COVID pandemic. Most significantly, we are seeing these communities, through their hard work, resilience and strong leadership, begin to thrive as they are making the most of these new opportunities and investment.

I am proud to say that the Palaszczuk Labor government is proving effective with strong support of these regional areas. With an eye on the future, the Palaszczuk government is also investing in dominant emerging sports, with the world's top mountain biking event, Crankworx, coming to Cairns this October after a recent announcement. I am so pleased to be part of a government that gets the importance of events, particularly in regional areas. As the planet's most watched mountain bike event, Crankworx will bring 1,200 competitors and an expected 34,000 spectators to view this spectacular competition in the world's oldest rainforest at the mecca of Australian mountain biking, Smithfield. Hosting Crankworx in Cairns will bring even more global exposure to the Far North, as the 2022 Crankworx World Tour coincides with the Palaszczuk government's comprehensive overseas campaign to deliver international visitors back not just into the tropical north but into regional Queensland.

There is no doubt we are at the start of a golden age of opportunity as we head towards the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. From Road to Rodeo to Crankworx, this government understands that a diverse and forward-thinking approach is needed to grow our tourism economy. Being ready to adapt

and adopt in line with the latest trends and experiences is what we do well. We will maintain our state as the premier tourism destination, and we will also work closely with the tourism industry. This is where I also acknowledge our partnerships with regional tourism bodies and Tourism and Events Queensland, the statutory government body which is working very hard alongside government to ensure we deliver these outstanding products.

Sunshine Coast, Roads

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (2.12 pm): The Sunshine Coast is booming but state government investment in roads, rail and schools needed to support our massive population growth is simply not keeping up. Years of poor planning and chronic underinvestment from the state government means that residents in my electorate and right across the Sunshine Coast sit in traffic for far too long. Be it in the car park that is the Bruce Highway every morning and afternoon, on the dangerous bottleneck that is the single lane of the Sunshine Motorway at Mountain Creek or sitting in congestion on Claymore Road, Sunshine Coast residents are paying the price for a failure to plan and a failure to build.

It is not like this state government and the Sunshine Coast Council were not aware of these issues. In 2010—long before I was a member of parliament—the LNP deputy leader, Jarrod Bleijie, who at that time represented Sippy Downs and Palmview, told the parliament that a western access road onto the Bruce Highway needed to be urgently funded. Now, 12 years later, more than 5,000 residents have moved into Palmview but there is still one road in and out. It is totally unacceptable.

For years now, I have been working with developers and Councillor Christian Dickson, but I am frustrated by the lack of action from the Sunshine Coast Council and the state government in following through on what was promised to the people of Palmview and Sippy Downs. The Bruce Highway connection road was conditioned to be built and opened by next month. It will not be, and we still have no idea when it will even start. Residents do not care how it is funded; all they want is a road. The constant buck-passing must stop. The state government must take a stronger interest in the Sunshine Coast. We need more investment in critical infrastructure, and the state government can start by getting the road built at Palmview.

Every morning and every afternoon, Claymore Road is a slow crawl, with far too many cars travelling on the suburban road. The pain felt by Palmview residents is also felt by Sippy Downs residents who use that road to get to work and school. I have addressed this here in parliament with the main roads minister and with council time and time again. The cries for help from residents are clearly falling on deaf ears and the issue continues to drag on. The residents of Palmview and Sippy Downs do not care who is responsible for building the road; they just want to fix the current situation which results in them spending less time at home with their family and more time sitting in unnecessary congestion.


I am pleased that the Minister for Transport and Main Roads is here in the chamber. He needs to come up and tell the residents of Palmview and Sippy Downs when they will get the road they deserve—the road that this government conditioned would be built as part of a state government requirement. The Minister for Transport and Main Roads needs to come up to the Sunshine Coast and not hide in his little office down here in Brisbane—

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr MICKELBERG: He is not trolling on Twitter yet, but he probably is while I am speaking. We know he likes Twitter, but he needs to pay more attention to delivering for all Queenslanders and not just those in Brisbane.

(Time expired)

Maryborough Electorate

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (2.15 pm): It is always a privilege to follow the member for Buderim because I am going to talk about the great news that is happening from the Palaszczuk government in the Maryborough electorate. I will follow the member for Buderim and talk about what is happening with roads. The minister is in the House today—

Mr Harper interjected.

Mr SAUNDERS: I will take that interjection from the member for Thuringowa. He is also the minister for the roads in the Maryborough electorate. We have some great road projects going on. I will talk, firstly, about the Pialba-Burrum Heads Road intersection upgrade. We dragged the federal

government to this, and I mean we had to put the federal government into a headlock and drag them over to make sure they would put their money into that. We have got plans being done up now for O'Regan Creek on the same road that has been going on for years. The minister came up with me when cabinet met in Hervey Bay. We walked across it. We are getting the result now, with plans being drawn to lift this road to flood-proof Toogoom. They are just some of the things happening.

When you go outside Maryborough and drive out to Aldershot on the way to Howard and Torbanlea, you see the roadworks on the Bruce Highway. As I have said in this House many times, you know you are doing a good job when people come up to you and say, 'Can you cut the roadworks out, brother. Can you calm it down for a while.' Unlike the member for Buderim, who is always whingeing, we are welcoming the road network and road upgrades in the Maryborough electorate.

The other thing happening in the electorate is with TransLink. We had the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program people in the electorate for two weeks. What a great team from TMR and TransLink. They engaged with my people, and they engaged with the people of Torbanlea. They were at the Howard markets, the Maryborough markets and the shopping centre, explaining and telling people about this great program that is coming to the Fraser Coast and the Maryborough electorate. This is a great train building program. I know it is foreign to the members on the other side to build things in this state. We know that. They do not understand that. If they were in power, that TMR and TransLink team would have been overseas talking about where to build the trains, but they were in my electorate talking to the people there. That was really good engagement with the public.

Another thing happening in the wonderful electorate of Maryborough is the upgrade to the fire station. The first timber fire station in Queensland is nearly finished. The trees were grown and manufactured in the Maryborough electorate, and we have got a great fire station. Another thing that is happening is we are doing the final plans for the new railway station. The Palaszczuk government is investing again in regional Queensland. The minister is here, and we are looking at the new railway station at Maryborough West. The other thing is that ward 1 at the Maryborough Hospital was reopened by the Palaszczuk Labor government. It is fully staffed and fully looked after. This Labor government looks after regional Queensland.

Stein, Mr G



Mr MINNIKIN (Chatsworth—LNP) (2.18 pm): I want to pay tribute to a true local hero, George Stein, Holocaust survivor and icon of Brisbane's Jewish community, who sadly passed away on 18 April, aged 95. Born in Romania in 1927, he grew up in Oradea where his father was president of a synagogue. With the town falling to Hungary under the Nazis, the family was transported to Auschwitz in 1943. Sadly, it was the last time he saw his parents and his sister.

Whilst in an inspection line, George was separated from his family and sent to the Dora labour camp at Nordhausen, Germany, where Hitler's V-2 rockets were being produced. He was among those ordered to build rocket componentry, including the gyros which were part of the flight navigation system. At huge personal risk, George set about recalibrating these guidance systems in order for the V-2 rockets to miss heavily populated areas and crash harmlessly at sea. George informed me over lunch in Parliament House that if he was caught doing this, the punishment was death by SS firing squad immediately. Although George never stated it to me, his actions would have undoubtedly saved countless hundreds of lives in England where the V-2 rockets were aimed.

After the Dora labour camp was destroyed by allied forces, George Stein was among survivors transferred to Bergen-Belsen and later liberated by the British. After time at a resettlement camp at Admont in the Austrian Alps, George Stein began his journey home, but he was told by a Russian occupant his house was no longer his.

Returning to Admont, he met Gertrude Kager and they were married for over 60 years until her passing in 2006. The Steins immigrated to Australia in 1955, joining family in Brisbane where he established a mechanical repair business.

George Stein became a foundation member of B'nai B'rith and was president of Brisbane Chevra Kadisha, State Zionist Council of Queensland and South Brisbane shule. When the shule was devastated by fire in the early 1970s he spearheaded a reconstruction appeal. He lectured on the Shoah at schools and service clubs, and he was absolutely a pillar of support to many in his particular community.


Aside from his community involvement, George's commanding stature as a Holocaust survivor and his dedication will never be forgotten with his enduring legacy.

In a speech I gave in Parliament in September 2016, after hosting George for lunch, George was present in the public gallery and I described him as—and I quote from my past words—‘the living embodiment of all that is good in mankind, while staring down a dark time in history which displayed the absolute worst example of mankind.’

Vale, George Stein. We will never forget the lessons of the Holocaust. I will never forget the privilege of meeting you.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Thank you, member. I add my condolences to that. The community ended up in the electorate of Greenslopes, as you know.

Satellite Hospitals

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (2.22 pm): I add my condolences as well. Queensland's satellite hospital program is absolutely world-leading. It has generated huge interest and enthusiasm in the communities of Pumicestone. In 2020 the Premier came to Bribie to announce seven new satellite hospitals for South-East Queensland. These seven satellite hospitals, we know, will give Queenslanders more health care closer to home, they will take pressure off major hospitals and they will make space for more beds.

Mrs Gerber: How many emergency beds will it have?

Ms KING: I take that interjection from the member for Currumbin who does not seem very pleased to see key healthcare infrastructure being built in—

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Currumbin will cease her interjections.

Ms KING: Chemotherapy, dialysis, mental health and rehab support—right in the heart of their communities. Local residents in Pumicestone will have access to not one but two satellite hospitals, with one to be built at Bribie and another at Caboolture. Less than a year after the initial announcement, intensive planning was well progressed and all seven sites were identified. I was delighted to be part of the sod-turning ceremony that kicked off construction at the Caboolture site at Rowe Street.

Queensland company Hutchinson Builders will be the managing contractor for these key infrastructure projects. Hutchinson has vast experience to ensure that they are delivered on time and on budget. Locally, the projects are creating 202 construction jobs across the two sites throughout the build and that is not even counting the hospital doctors, hospital nurses and support staff who will be employed on those sites once they open.


It took slightly longer due to our local land shortages, but when the Bribie Island site was identified, the Department of Health conducted extensive community consultation. I also conducted my own community survey to hear firsthand what services Bribie locals want most.

Urgent care and chronic health services like dialysis and chemotherapy are top priorities for our community. Many Bribie residents currently travel long distances to access those services, so getting this care closer to home, right in the heart of our community, will make a great difference to their lives.

Very soon we will see construction start on our Bribie Island satellite hospital on the 1.5-hectare site on the corner of First Avenue and Goodwin Drive right next door to Bribie Island High. Once the satellite hospital opens, having a brand new satellite hospital there will give high school students the opportunity to explore pathways into health care and help us grow our own local workforce.

Planning and preparation for this key infrastructure project takes time and we absolutely have to get it right, but, like everyone in our community, I cannot wait to see the workers on site at Bribie and our state-of-the-art satellite hospital take shape. That is in stark contrast to those opposite who did not plan for a single new hospital. They do not back our healthcare system and they do not invest in it.

Darling Downs, Hospital

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (2.25 pm): I am here today to talk about getting the community of Toowoomba and the wider community of the Darling Downs to support building the new hospital in Toowoomba. It needs to be built now. This has been on the table for some time. The Deputy Premier visited in 2018 and said, ‘No matter where you live in the Darling Downs region, you will have access to high quality health care.’ That is what he said.

We have \$7.5 million being spent to send half-blind pensioners down to Brisbane to get their cataract operations. It is not good enough for the people of the Darling Downs and we deserve the new hospital. There is a wonderful site at Baillie Henderson. The plans are in place. The government has had the plans since 2020. Darling Downs Health gave the complete detailed business case to the government nearly two years ago. It is time to stop the delay and get on with building the hospital.

The simple facts are that it is waiting for an investment decision. You can go on Queensland Health's website and it will say, 'Waiting for an investment decision'. The person who needs to make the investment decision is the Premier. I am not sure what has changed since we had a left faction Labor health minister who said he was going to get on and build the job because it is deserved on the Darling Downs, and now we have a right faction Labor member who does not seem to have any interest at all in building this hospital in Toowoomba. It is simply not good enough.

Our mental health beds are running at basically capacity 12 months of the year. We have 402 overnight beds planned in the new hospital. That is a 27 per cent increase. If the government cannot see that we have a health crisis and we need more beds in Queensland, then the government needs to open its eyes. We are not looking for a satellite hospital in Toowoomba; we are looking for a tertiary hospital to be built on the wonderful site at Baillie Henderson that will increase our bed capacity by 27 per cent. This was a promise made by the Deputy Premier. A promise made should be a promise kept, not broken. The people of Toowoomba have been asking for this for a long time.

The current facility is 25 years old. Its life expectancy is now up. It is an inefficient building, not because of the hardworking doctors and nurses—and I should give a shout-out to the nurses on International Nurses Day—but because the equipment they need and the wards they are trying to service are scattered all over the hospital. It is completely inefficient. It is costing money. We are spending money on transporting people who do not want to leave their homes down to Brisbane to get operations. It is time for this hospital investment decision to be made by the Premier, and I call on her to do it now.

(Time expired)

Domestic and Family Violence, Awareness



Ms PEASE (Lytton—ALP) (2.28 pm): May is Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence Month. I am very proud to work with a number of local organisations in the bayside community collaboration. That is made up of a number of groups. We have Silky Oaks; we have Winnam, our local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander co-op; our local QPS officer-in-charge; Wynnum Manly Rotary; Zonta; and BABI. Each year we run a number of meetings and a number of activities. Our main focus is with regard to raising awareness of domestic and family violence. To this end, we host a couple of events.

Last Thursday night we hosted our annual candlelight vigil. It was a very moving and respectful event. It has been very much embraced by our community. There were student representatives from all of our high schools in attendance. It was very moving to see them all turn up in their school uniforms and listen respectfully to our guest speakers. Jo from my office, who is a DV survivor, read a poem. Then there was also Jill Nock, who is another DV survivor. She talked about the importance of supporting each other, for the community to come together and for young people to talk nicely to each other.

Then we heard from Crystal Demi. Crystal Demi is a young woman who is a survivor of sexual and domestic and family violence. That is the first time she has ever shared her story. It was very moving and difficult to hear that this poor young woman was treated so badly by her family. It was a disgrace. Because she has been taken care of by our local youth and family services organisation, BABI, she is finding her way in the world—so much so that she was prepared to stand up and share her horrific journey with us. I am so very proud of her. She had her children there as well as her little sister. I really want to acknowledge what a big achievement it was for her to share that. It was a heartbreaking story.

I would also particularly like to acknowledge Kirsty from the Mate program. She talked about the importance of getting involved and not just walking on by, because the behaviour you walk past is the behaviour that you accept. The Bystander program that is currently being run is a wonderful educational facility. Please reach out if you are not sure how you can get involved. It is a great program to get involved with.

Local Government Electoral Expenditure



Ms LEAHY (Warrego—LNP) (2.31 pm): The release of the discussion paper on local government electoral expenditure caps is another Labor inspired reform which sadly politicises the local government sector. This Labor government is back at it trying to rig the local government electoral process. Labor did not succeed with changing the voting system or undemocratically appointing the runners-up after resignations so now they are back on the rigging game, with unfair campaign electoral expenditure caps.

While mayors and councillors will have their campaign spending significantly capped, the unions will be able to pour millions of dollars, completely unchecked, into any community they like. Mayoral or council candidates will be forced to fight for their beliefs under the caps. However, under this proposal Labor and the cashed-up unions will be allowed to play by their own rules, creating an unfair distortion as third parties. The third party, or the 'unions spending cap' as we could refer to it, can be applied flexibly across all local government areas. This means while council candidates must spend solely within their nominated area, Labor and the unions can funnel all their money into one council area.

Council elections need to be fair, and this proposal allows for far too much influence from the Labor Party and their union mates. Unions could pool their funds. They could spend it all in, say, Aurukun; however, I suspect they will not. It will be pooled for the Brisbane City Council mayoral election, creating an unfair distortion. Adrian Schrinner could only spend \$250,000 to run for Lord Mayor of Brisbane. Under this proposal that has been put forward by Labor, just one union could spend over \$3.8 million in the same campaign.

There are 26 registered unions in Queensland, all of which would be given the capacity to spend their pooled caps in just one local council election. Any mayor in Queensland could be outspent by 400 to 1 under the proposal in the discussion paper. At no point does the Crime and Corruption Commission's Belcarra report suggest that Labor and the unions should be able to outspend a mayoral candidate by 400 to 1. Labor's proposal distorts the fairness, the transparency and the accountability in local government elections. It is blatant rigging of the local government electoral process and a politicisation of local government.

The Palaszczuk Labor government will try anything to rig council elections. They tried it before and they are at it again. This third-term Labor government is without shame. Their corruption has no place in this state.

Redlands, Health Care



Ms RICHARDS (Redlands—ALP) (2.34 pm): It was timely to receive the health committee's report and read through some of it over lunch. It really validated what we are seeing on the ground in the Redlands. The federal Morrison government is absolutely failing Redlanders, it is failing Queenslanders and it is failing Australians when it comes to delivering on health care and pulling their weight. For quite a few sitting weeks I have listened during question time as those on the other side talk about pressures on our health system. There are some very clear actions that can be taken that will go a long way to providing part of the solution and take off some of that pressure on our healthcare system.

I want to talk about our experiences in the Redlands which I have seen firsthand and which are putting pressures on our emergency departments and our paramedics. We know there are over 39,000 transports to hospital by Queensland Ambulance from 459 aged-care facilities. I can tell honourable members that we have quite a few aged-care facilities out in the Redlands. The member for Capalaba and I regularly visit the Redland Hospital. We know from talking to emergency staff that they can predict the rush times. Nobody should be able to pick the rush times when it comes to an emergency department. We should not be able to pick that pattern. They know that on Friday afternoons the pressure that is put on the emergency department is particularly attributed to patients who have been transported from our aged-care facilities as we lead into weekends.

We know that the Macleay Ward at Redland Hospital has a number of long-stay patients who have dementia. They absolutely deserve to be in more appropriate aged-care settings. It is absolutely disgraceful of the Morrison government to have neglected every single aspect of the royal commission into aged care. We see it on the ground in the Redlands. It is happening right around Australia. That is a really simple thing they could do: delivering the right accommodation for people with dementia.

We know that the same goes when it comes to access to GPs. I can tell honourable members I had a three-hour wait at our GP two weekends ago. Our local GP asked me earlier this year for a letter of support to back in their request for a change to DPA status classification that would allow them to recruit more GPs into our area. Four weeks ago the PHN—the federal government—rejected that request.

Mrs Frecklington: What's Albo going to do?

Ms RICHARDS: Albo will absolutely look at that. Albo will absolutely deliver better health care for every Queenslanders.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.


Ms RICHARDS: Member for Nanango, Morrison has absolutely neglected health care. It is only the Palaszczuk government that is doing the heavy lifting when it comes to health care.

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

Ms RICHARDS: I will talk about our \$40 million satellite hospital that will deliver better health care closer to our communities, servicing our island communities and delivering for our growing regions. We are upgrading the Redland Hospital to the tune of \$62 million including a new intensive care unit and additional ward beds. We are upgrading the car park. We have upgraded the emergency department and have state-of-the-art maternity—

(Time expired)

Federal Election

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (2.37 pm): I will start with a rhetorical question today: what do you imagine when you think of hubris, entitlement and fear all mixed together? I am generally very reluctant to personally highlight another elected representative, but I am going to make an exception today for some recent indiscretions of the outgoing member for Ryan, Julian Simmonds. He has spent his first—and, fingers crossed, only—term as our federal MP taking our community for granted. Now he is going to quite extraordinary lengths to try to save his skin with some breathtaking dishonesty.

The *Courier-Mail* has reported two stories in two days about Mr Simmonds distributing letters of support or appreciation without the permission of the authors. First, it was a priest from Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic parish in Kenmore, Mark Franklin, and today we read that Mr George Hulse OAM, the immediate past president of the Toowong RSL, has had his letter of appreciation distributed by the LNP without his consent. I will table those letters for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 8 February 2022, from the Parish Priest, Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Very Rev. Mark Franklin, titled 'Letter of endorsement for Julian Simmonds MHR seat of Ryan' [\[653\]](#).

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 17 January 2022, from the President, 1 Field Squadron Group RAE Association, Mr George Hulse OAM, to the federal member for Ryan, Mr Julian Simmonds MP, titled 'Letter of appreciation' [\[654\]](#).

A third letter has come to our attention today from a registered charity, the Pink Elephants Support Network, that also seems to endorse Mr Simmonds. We all know that charities risk deregistration for promoting a political candidate, so we can only assume that Mr Simmonds has used this letter without the permission of the signatory. I also table that letter for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Letter, undated, from the Chief Executive Officer, Pink Elephants Support Networks, Ms Samantha Payne, to a resident regarding the Leave for Loss Campaign [\[652\]](#).

There are other letters that the LNP is distributing locally, some of which are just plain bizarre. One claims that Julian has been a local fixture in the area for 40-plus years, which is odd given that he will celebrate his 40th birthday in 2025. This letter also says its author believes 'Julian is strongly rooted in the area'.

Government members: Ha, ha!


Mr BERKMAN: I cannot entirely disagree with that. 'Rooted' is not the word I would choose, but Mr Simmonds has good reason to be scared this election. I will table that one.

Tabled paper: Letter, undated, from John Carew Swim School, Mr David Carew, regarding the Federal member for Ryan, Mr Julian Simmonds MP [\[655\]](#).

The most infuriating thing is that Liberals like Julian Simmonds take the west side for granted. When westside locals want action on climate change, Julian Simmonds keeps on supporting 114 new coal and gas mines. At home he claims to support action on climate change, but in Canberra he votes with Barnaby Joyce and the climate deniers. When westside locals want a national integrity commission, he votes down the Greens' attempt to create one. The Liberals are so used to winning seats on the west side without really trying that they have forgotten whom they are supposed to be serving.

I am so proud that the Greens have been putting a bit of vision back into politics on the west side. My dear friend and St Lucia local Elizabeth Watson-Brown is looking more and more likely to boot out the LNP. She wants a transition plan for coal workers; 100 per cent renewable energy; dental and mental health into Medicare; and a national ICAC. She wants to bring the pension age back to 65; raise all social security payments above the poverty line; and free university and TAFE. Since our wins in Maiwar in 2017 and 2020, the most common feedback I have had is that people are surprised that someone is listening to them. Even when we might not agree on everything, people from Fig Tree Pocket to Auchenflower and beyond know that the Greens will be their voice in parliament.

Anzac Day


 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (2.40 pm): This year was my 24th year as convenor and master of ceremonies at the Woodend Anzac Day service. The service was held at St Mary's College field next to the magnificent World War I Woodend Honour Stone. While I cannot list all of the participants for those 24 years, I can thank the participants and supporters of the 2022 service. Firstly, I would like to thank fellow members of the St Edmund's Old Boys Association; my co-hosts, St Mary's College and the Ipswich Catholic Community, for making the St Mary's College field available for the service; and St Edmund's College for preparing the field and allowing us to use their chairs, tables and public address system.

Local resident Darren Trapper makes sure an Australian and New Zealand flag flies each day at the honour stone, while another resident, Gerard Horne, organised our stage. Thanks are due to Wade Morrison and 'Cobber' Campbell—two Ipswich City Council gardeners who look after the Woodend Honour Stone Garden. For Cobber this is his last year, as he is retiring.

The true stars of the service are the participants: opening prayer by Father Stephen Bliss OFM, parish priest, Ipswich Catholic Community; piper Don MacSween; bugler Max Herbert, year 11 student, Ipswich Grammar School; flag custodians Warrant Officer Mark Warner and his son Luke; and singer and guitarist Kathy Bianchi. Telling the story of WWI serviceman Private William Charles Kennedy, who is listed on the honour stone, were: Stewart England, St Edmund's College senior house leader; Madeline Harris, St Mary's Primary School house captain; Rhys Woods, Ipswich Grammar School boarding captain; Carly Grieve, Ipswich Girls' Grammar School head girl; and Rachael McNamara, St Mary's College captain. *God Defend New Zealand* was sung by Andrew Lemalama, a school Maori and Pacific islander captain at Ipswich State High School, while *Advance Australia Fair* was sung by Amy McCormick, a year 11 student of St Mary's College. Wreath table attendees were Ray Celegato, the principal of St Edmund's College, and Kath Creedy, St Edmund's community development officer. I thank our long-time sponsors: Brothers Leagues Club Ipswich, McNamara & Associates Lawyers, mjh flooring and Sun Engineering. This year we missed two long-time supporters of the Woodend Anzac Day service, our band Life of Riley, who have disbanded, and our sound technician Trevor Jarvis, who is having health problems.

With the support of the Ipswich community, the Ipswich Catholic Community, the participating schools, my volunteers and the sponsors, I will continue to do my best to ensure that each year Woodend always pays proper tribute to our servicemen and servicewomen on Anzac Day at the Woodend Honour Stone.

Cape York, Cattle Management

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (2.43 pm): I wish to continue speaking about the shooting of cattle by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service on Cape York. These indiscriminate culls of cattle have been a regular occurrence on the peninsula ever since the government bought Rokeby Station in 1981. Affected landholders were told that cattle would be shot along the river courses and park boundaries just five days beforehand. I was told by the minister today that they had 15 days, but I have also been told that it usually takes 50 days for people to get a permit to muster their cattle.


Many graziers are reluctant to speak out for fear of retribution from the government. Most are living in fear of having their leases on Cape York taken from them. The government, meanwhile, is saying that these were unbranded cows and that the shooter was so accurate that the animals would not have suffered. That is ridiculous. Any experienced aerial shooter will tell you that it is impossible to judge from the air whether or not galloping cattle in thick vegetation have been branded.

Last year, Coen residents saw along a bush track dead cattle that had been shot from a helicopter. From what I was told, residents said that several cows, calves and bulls had been indiscriminately gut-shot or shot in the legs and elsewhere and there were no single-shot kills. It takes cattle days to die, in agony. It is terrible. Over the past three years, up to 5,000 cattle have been slaughtered on orders from the Queensland government. That is about \$6 million worth in today's market. Someone in government needs to account for this. Why did this slaughter happen, who authorised it and why is the Queensland government so zealous about killing cattle while countless other feral animals rampage through our parks? I spoke to the minister about feral pigs at the last estimates. There has been some \$106 million worth of damage and \$925,000 has been spent to address the issue—about 0.73 per cent of the damage value.

The fact is that cattle grazing in our national parks is known to have a number of benefits, mostly in reducing the risk of bad fires that kill koalas and native animals. If lethal measures were needed to cull the cattle, it should have been done in a much more effective and humane way. We could have trapped these animals and used them for something. The indiscriminate shooting of this valuable resource was an absolute waste, in my opinion. Those animals could have entered the food chain and be—of benefit to—any. Instead, they were left to rot or be fed on by predators, expanding the food chain for pest animals.

With the world's supply chain in gridlock and food shortages looming, this government needs to do a lot more to protect the livelihood of our farmers. Across Cape York Peninsula, the cattle-grazing industry has declined drastically, mostly due to land tenure changes. The government should give producers tenure security. They should stop driving a stake through the economic heart of our regions—that is, our farmers.

Pine Rivers Electorate, Sporting Infrastructure

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (2.46 pm): It was fabulous to see five of my local community sporting teams being able to share in the \$9.7 million that the Palaszczuk Labor government is investing in sporting facilities right across the state. Some 104 organisations across Queensland were recipients of the funding that will improve and upgrade facilities and create better playing environments for people of all ages and abilities right across our state. Locally in the electorate of Pine Rivers, I had five groups that shared in \$458,390. Some really fantastic stories came from that funding.

The Samford Equestrian Group received \$150,000, and Moreton Bay Regional Council will be tipping in some more money, to finally establish some lighting at their facility in the Samford Showgrounds. That will be lit for the very first time, giving them far more capacity through the colder months and at all hours of the evening to compete and train.


Pine Central Holy Spirit Rugby League Football Club received \$109,051 to upgrade their lighting. They have 38 different teams that play at the club. Many of those are female teams. Many hundreds of club members participate in the great game of Rugby League. That upgrade will be of huge benefit to Pine Central.

Out at Samford we have the Samford Valley Target Archers. They have a facility that is used for all kinds of competitions and by all levels of accessibility. They will be receiving \$74,825 to level out the playing field and to upgrade their drainage.

Samford Golden Valley Pony Club will be receiving \$55,392 to upgrade their cross-country course. During the February floods in Samford a lot of their showjumps were washed away. They are the largest pony club in Queensland and the second largest in the country. That will be an amazing injection of funds, increasing capability at Samford Golden Valley Pony Club.

We also have the Samford Stags, who turn 50 this year. They will be receiving \$69,122 to do field works and construction. This has already happened, of course, but the money they are getting now will provide an upgrade in their lighting investment as well. This Saturday will be Sam Thaiday's first home game there. There will be a big spectacular to celebrate all of the works going on there, and I encourage the community to participate.

Mooloolah River, Harbour Entrance; Sunshine Coast, Rail Infrastructure

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.49 pm): I rise to raise the urgent safety issues in the Mooloolah River harbour entrance at the moment which I spoke about in the parliament earlier this week. Only this week another trawler was lodged on the sandbank and the government is not acting to protect commercial fishers or recreational fishers.

A government member: We are.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the minister in the chamber who says, 'We are,' but it is absolutely not because if the government was acting then these boats would not be getting stuck on the sandbank.

The government has taken no action. All it has been doing is little fill-in bits here and bandaids there. There needs to be a long-term solution to the safety issues in the Mooloolah River. The member for Maroochydore and I have met with community members. We recently met with Rachael Bermingham from the Beach Matters Group. Groups such as this have been writing to the minister and telling the government that it has to take serious and urgent action now and yet they are all being ignored by the state government. We are going to hold a community forum. I table a copy of a letter

that I sent to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads inviting his department to the community forum so it can explain, if it thinks it has been doing all of this wonderful work on the harbour, to the crew members of the trawlers that continually get stuck.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 11 May 2022, from the member for Kawana, Mr Jarrod Bleijie MP, to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Hon. Mark Bailey, regarding the dangerous Mooloolah River harbour entrance [656].

Lives and livelihoods are at risk because the government is not acting in the interests of the people of the Sunshine Coast. Businesses are now telling me that they are moving their businesses from Mooloolah harbour to Brisbane because it is too unsafe for them to go to work through the bar each day. That is disgraceful. This is a huge commercial opportunity that will be wasted on the Sunshine Coast. I also raise the fight that the mayor of the Sunshine Coast is having with Ted O'Brien, and I table a copy of a *Sunshine Coast Daily* article.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Sunshine Coast news online*, dated 9 May 2022, titled 'Sunshine Coast Mayor slams Entertainment Centre vision as "mirage"' [657].

Let me make it absolutely abundantly clear for the Minister for Transport, who is in the House today: the LNP does not want light rail on the Sunshine Coast. Residents do not want light rail on the Sunshine Coast. We want heavy passenger rail that the federal government has committed to while 'old squawky' over there has been saying how rail is needed on the Sunshine Coast. If he was serious he would put the 50 per cent funding in and deliver heavy passenger rail, but I fear that the only one he is listening to is Mark Jamieson, who now somehow does not want an entertainment centre in Maroochydore but wants to move the Olympic basketball to Kawana.

I tell members: this is why the mayor wants it. He wants to justify Olympic basketball in Kawana so he can tell the state government, 'We don't need heavy passenger rail to Maroochydore because I've got this fantastic tram that will go from Caloundra to Maroochydore.' I suspect the mayor will say to this minister, 'Only bring heavy passenger rail to Caloundra and my light rail will take care of the rest.' I absolutely know what is happening with this mayor, because I do not trust him on the issue of light rail and heavy passenger rail. I say to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads: commit the 50 per cent funding to heavy passenger rail that Sunshine Coast commuters deserve. The federal government has and so should the state government.

Toohey Electorate, Flooding



Mr RUSSO (Toohey—ALP) (2.52 pm): The suburb of Rocklea was once again severely impacted in the most recent flood event. As we all know, in late February and into March the east coast of Australia was hit by extreme flooding events following multiple rounds of heavy rain, including rain bombs. This unusual event occurs when the air hits the ground at such force that it creates tornado strength winds. Eastern Australia endured three intense weather systems in six weeks that led to record rains and flooding. By the end of the first week in March, parts of Southern Queensland had more than a year's worth of rainfall in a week. Rainfall of over 400 millimetres—or, in the old scale, 16 inches—was recorded across the Greater Brisbane area. In the three days to 28 February, Greater Brisbane received 676.8 millimetres, or 26.65 inches, of rainfall—the largest three- and seven-day totals ever recorded in Brisbane. The rainfall recorded was higher than that of the 1974 Brisbane flood, with 30 locations across the south-east recording over 1,000 millimetres. Daily weather observations from Archerfield recorded 197.8 millimetres of rain on 26 February, with 163 millimetres and 185 millimetres falling over the next two days. These falls were on top of 89 millimetres in the three days before 26 February.

More than 20,000 homes and businesses flooded in Queensland. Recovery efforts will obviously take some time. Thousands of Queenslanders have started returning to their homes. However, many are not able to. Sadly, 14 people in Queensland died during the flood disaster. Throughout South-East Queensland and Wide Bay-Burnett almost 1,000 schools were closed in response to the flooding, evacuations took place and the public were advised to avoid non-essential travel.

Rocklea State School in my electorate was badly hit and students had to relocate to the Salisbury State School while repairs took place. I was able to visit the school over the school holidays to catch up on how the building works were progressing. I want to thank Alex and the rebuild team at the school. They worked tirelessly to bring the school back to working order so that students were able to return. The team at QBuild and associated services did a fantastic job and school at Rocklea was able to recommence this term. Rocklea State School was not the only building badly damaged. Many homes and businesses went under water and owners returned to mud and ruined possessions. Brothers St Brendan's Football Club was one of those. I want to thank all of the hardworking people in my electorate who assisted those in need.

International Nurses Day; Kingaroy Hospital



Mrs FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (2.55 pm): Today on International Nurses Day I want to give a massive shout-out to all hardworking nurses across the state—not just my daughter Lucy, a graduate nurse in Barcaldine, but all of the nurses. I also want to give a little bit of a story and a bit of a history lesson in relation to the health services in my patch, particularly Kingaroy. It is important that we talk about the history that has led to the brand new hospital in Kingaroy.

In 2012 when I first became the member it was the most important issue for locals. We needed that new building. We know that for a long time consecutive Labor governments under the Bligh years completely ignored regional health, and it has gotten no better under the Palaszczuk government either. In 2010 the Kingaroy Hospital was identified as one of 12 ageing rural and regional hospitals in need of repair. It was not until the then health minister, Lawrence Springborg, put both Kingaroy and Roma on that list and, thanks to an LNP government, we ended up with those hospitals.

In the lead-up to the new Kingaroy Hospital I repeatedly asked questions about the Kingaroy Hospital, and members would know the number of questions that have been asked by me on notice and without notice about the working conditions at Kingaroy. I have also asked questions about the blowout in that it went from \$62 million to \$92.5 million with still no more services and not many more beds, but the icing on the cake was that after so much anticipation when stage 1 finally opened in late 2020 the building flooded after just 37 millimetres of rain. Goodness knows it probably flooded again last night!

That flooding damaged the CT scanner and closed down 55 per cent of the beds for months and months, and it did not just happen once; it has flooded three times. The brand new building has flooded three times and still the nurses, the doctors and all of the admin staff do not have any more services to provide to the patients. Yes, we have the new building. Yes, we have it and we are very thankful for it. However, I would say this: we are not thankful for the fact that we have no more services. I will continue to fight for more palliative care—sorry, any palliative care in that hospital. I will continue to fight for mental health services. I will continue to fight for more and better maternity services, because that is what my community is screaming out for. I will continue to fight on behalf of the nurses who want more support from this incompetent government.

Small Steps 4 Hannah; International Nurses Day



Mr KELLY (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.58 pm): The Speaker has approved that I wear this shirt. I purchased it at a fundraiser on the weekend run by the mighty Holland Park Hawks Football Club to raise money for the Small Steps 4 Hannah Foundation. I would like to thank them for doing that. On the day Hannah Clarke and her children were murdered on their way to school on Raven Street in Camp Hill, a huge hole was torn in the fabric of our community, but it was nothing compared to the pain endured by her family. I did not know if and how our community would recover. I certainly did not know how her family would recover. Hannah's parents, Sue and Lloyd Clarke, have led the recovery in our community. They have campaigned quietly, humbly and with determination to see coercive control recognised as a form of domestic violence and outlawed.

I thank the women's justice task force for their report on this matter and thank the Attorney-General and the Premier for the announcement that this parliament will legislate to ban coercive control. The Clarks are strong and giving people. They have inspired many in our community to continue to say 'not now, not ever' to domestic violence. This action will bring much healing in our community.

Today is International Nurses Day. Last Thursday was International Day of the Midwife. I pay tribute to all my professional colleagues who continue to work every day to keep people healthy, get them better when they are sick and comfort them when there is no cure. I also pay tribute to the midwives who bring babies into the world and keep mums safe. Sadly, over the last 2½ years globally we have lost 118,000 health workers who cared for people with COVID-19. The majority of these people who died would have been nurses. Can anyone name one other occupation or industry that has endured such a loss in peacetime? I am sad that this is not more widely understood in the community or reported in the media. Perhaps this is a gendered issue, because we know the majority of these 118,000 people would have been women.

Today I spoke with my good friend Beth Mohle from the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union. We have both often discussed that there is a need for Queenslanders to stand up and raise a memorial to these selfless workers who perished in the service of other people. We believe the time has come to start working towards establishing such a memorial, not just for the nurses but for the

doctors, the allied health professionals, the pathologists, the pathology staff, the admin officers, the support staff, the wardies, the security guards and all the other health workers who have died as a result of caring for people with COVID-19. I will work with anyone who wants to raise a memorial and Beth has committed the QNMU to this task. Please keep these people in your thoughts and prayers as we rightly celebrate International Nurses Day.

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note



Mr HARPER (Thuringowa—ALP) (3.01 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the Health and Environment Committee Report No. 18, 57th Parliament, *Inquiry into the provision of primary, allied and private health care, aged care and NDIS care services and its impact on the Queensland public health system*, tabled on 8 April 2022.

I am proud to speak to this report, and speak slowly for the Leader of the Opposition in regard to the terms of reference. Yesterday he again demonstrated gutter level politics when he said it was a sham report. That is an insult to every member of the committee, including those on his side. Those members stood with us when we were in Longreach and said the many causes need to be fixed, such as Medicare rebate cuts in relation to GPs in the bush reading ECGs. I urge him to rise above that type of politics.

I experienced ambulance ramping in my former career when the LNP was in power. To fix something you need to first identify and address the problem. I call on the Leader of the Opposition to man up. If he wants to demonstrate leadership, pick up the phone to Scott Morrison, agree with the AMA national president who appeared on *The Project* last night, and ask for fifty-fifty funding.

Ms Bates: What did the AMAQ president say?

Mr HARPER: I will take the interjection.

Ms Bates: Did he say more beds? 1,500 beds is what the AMAQ says.

Mr HARPER: I will tell the member for Mudgeeraba right now that they sacked 4,000 nurses. To fix this you need to identify the causes. I thank the Minister for Health for the excellent interim response to the recommendations. That is in stark contrast to the Australian government, which cannot be bothered responding to our calls to fix funding. The No. 1 recommendation is fifty-fifty funding and removal of the 6.5 per cent cap. I ask the member for Moggill, the previous AMA Queensland president: do you agree, and does the LNP agree, with what was said by the AMA last night on *The Project* that ambulance ramping is nationwide? Their critique of it was that the federal government had failed for a decade to keep the funding up to the states. They called for fifty-fifty funding.


Let us talk about aged care and the 250 people a day who walk into the Townsville emergency department. Seventy per cent walk in because they cannot get access to a GP. We heard in Far North Queensland that people drive an hour and a half to see a GP in Cairns. This is simply not good enough. The member for Redlands talked about codes 1 and 2 numbering 38,000. That number is almost 50,000 when one looks at the codes 1 to 4 of Queensland ambulance transports out of the state's 459 aged-care facilities, of which we run 16.

Yesterday I met a paramedic who told me that she had transported a low-acuity patient to the Gold Coast hospital for a catheter change and the nurse said to her, 'I am trained to do this, but the private provider will not purchase the \$60 pack to do it.' It is a shame for that person to be moved not once but twice for a simple procedure. We need to fix aged care. The federal government has dropped the ball on primary care. The federal government has dropped the ball on aged care. A royal commission has called for improvements. People are dying at home waiting for a home care package. For goodness sake, fix that up. If the right models of care are in place it will address the issue. You need to identify the issues. You need to fix the issues.

Ms Bates: In their loved one's arms!

Mr HARPER: Member for Mudgeeraba, it is not even worth going there. There are 500 beds taken up by aged-care and NDIS participants. The NDIA is more interested in contesting assessments than getting people out of those hospitals. That is the size of Townsville University Hospital. Funnelling everything into the front door does not work. We need to start moving those patients to proper models of care in residential aged care or home care. We need to do the same with NDIS patients. Primary

care is the cornerstone of care. Getting that right will reduce the impact on our emergency departments across the state. We made 40 recommendations. I thank the Minister for Health for her excellent response. Let us fix this. The LNP need to join us and fix it.

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (3.07 pm): I have been looking forward to this. First let me pay tribute to my fellow nurses on this International Nurses Day. Those men and women who suit up, donning restrictive PPE every day, have been at the front line of our pandemic response. Often putting their own safety last, they have helped heal the thousands of Queenslanders who have had COVID and supported their families as they have navigated this terrible virus. All the while they have continued to help all the patients who are still accessing our health services because that did not stop for the coronavirus. They are heroes answering the calling that is nursing, one of the world's greatest vocations. Thank you for your service and your sacrifice.

Their dedication is the reason I am so angry about this report, which is a sham: 269 pages of blame, distract and attack; 269 pages of pointing the finger at everybody else. The member for Thuringowa says we should be identifying the cause of ramping. I can tell the member for Thuringowa what the cause of ramping is. It is a Labor government! Do members know how many times the words 'ambulance ramping' appear in those 269 pages? Not once! My fellow nurses and all the other health professionals in this state deserve so much better. This report tells you everything you need to know about those opposite and their plan to fix the Queensland health crisis: they do not have one. They do not have a plan, with the exception of blaming someone else. People have seen it for what it is. This report has been publicly hammered from all corners, not least of all by the AMAQ, who said—

When we saw the report, it was really disappointing.

It really just smacks of blame-shifting.


What we need to see is a strategy from Queensland Health ... and that's not actually a Commonwealth issue.

Let me repeat: 'it smacks of blame-shifting'. Say no more. Queensland Health is in crisis. That is now a well-known fact. Here in Queensland, ambulance ramping is the worst in the country. From the moment the Minister for Health read out the terms of reference of the inquiry the motive behind it was clear. It was not about finding solutions to fix the crisis; it was about creating a political weapon in the shadows of a federal election. In the midst of the Queensland health crisis, which those opposite are responsible for, they chose to launch a parliamentary inquiry into everything but Queensland Health. It is so ridiculous and reeks of such arrogance that you actually could not make it up.

Unbelievably, yesterday we had the minister standing up and congratulating the chair of the committee, the member for Thuringowa, for doing such a great job—although, seriously, the minister does owe him some thanks, having lobbied him with this report. The poor old member for Thuringowa was thrown the mother of all hospital passes when this inquiry landed in his lap but he played the game. A case in point was the public hearing on 29 November 2021. After the former director-general spoke about lost ambulance hours in his address to the committee, the member for Southport rightly asked if those numbers could be provided to the committee.

In the official transcript, the member for Southport said, 'Can I also ask for a breakdown by each of those service areas in terms of lost hours?' Do members know how the member for Thuringowa responded? The member said, 'What is that?' I can tell the member what it is: it is the time our paramedics spend stuck on hospital ramps and in corridors and hallways. Of all the people in this place, the member for Thuringowa should know that. For the record, last year it was over 130,000 hours, which is the most recorded in Queensland history. We had to prise that information out of the health minister after months of asking those questions. Then the member for Thuringowa decided the question was slightly outside the scope of the inquiry. Give me a break! That should tell you everything you need to know about this report: contrived, blame-shifting and a complete sham.

My heart goes out to those individuals and organisations that spent a lot of time, effort and energy contributing to this report. Many did so in good faith, hoping their submissions or evidence would help improve our system. Like them, the opposition wants to see exceptional patient care delivered for Queenslanders, no matter where they live. Sadly, the findings of this inquiry will not deliver that. The state government chose to look at everyone else's problems, just not their own. The Queensland parliament owes it to Queensland to properly examine, review and scrutinise the problems facing our health system. That is rightly what the Queensland public expects. However, this inquiry did not deliver that. It did not even come close. It was just a sham.

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (3.12 pm): We expect the sort of debate that we just heard from the member for Mudgeeraba, who was once again criticising a completely factually correct report and we know why: because it is shining a light on the

Morrison government's failings. It is a pleasure to rise to make a contribution in relation to this report. It is a very important report that fundamentally goes to the demand pressures on our public health system. You cannot talk about addressing patient off-stretcher times, planned care and bed capacity without talking about primary and allied health care, aged care, disability services, the Medicare system and the failings of the Morrison government.

The Palaszczuk government has continued to invest in our health system, we will continue to provide record budgets for the health system and we will continue to invest in our front line. However, we also have to recognise that the Commonwealth government has an important role to play as it is responsible for primary care, allied care, the NDIS and aged care. It is a fact that the Morrison government has failed miserably to appropriately fund and regulate those sectors. The committee's report presents undeniable evidence of that and unequivocally shows that our hospitals and emergency departments are picking up the slack left by the Morrison government's complete abrogation of responsibility.

Those opposite do not like to hear that because it is an awkward thing for them to have to listen to. They want to be able to denigrate Queensland's health system and this government. They want to continue to be ignorant—deliberately, I would say—about what is happening across the country. However, it is hard to do that if they acknowledge the complete failure of their federal colleagues to fund the areas of health care, aged care and disability care for which they are solely responsible.

This morning we saw a shameful attempt by the opposition to claim that we are fudging patient off-stretcher time figures. As I said in the House this morning, there has been no change to the definition of 'patient off-stretcher time' and there will be no change to the definition of 'patient off-stretcher time'. The rubbish that they are once again peddling outside this House is about cheap politics instead of key issues such as the underfunding of primary and allied health care.

It is a fact that our emergency departments are providing low-acuity care to more people because those people cannot get in to see a bulk-billing GP. It is a fact that there are not enough GPs, particularly in rural, regional and suburban areas. It is a fact, particularly in the regions, that there is a lack of after-hours GP options, which means that many people have to attend an emergency department instead of a GP. It is a fact that people who cannot see a GP are suffering adverse health outcomes that require complex and lengthy hospital stays because they could not access the simple preventive care they are entitled to.

It is a fact that fewer people are taking up private health insurance and that many of those who do take it up pay for minimalist policies that provide low coverage, which means people with private health insurance still end up in the public hospital system and in our emergency rooms. It is a fact that vulnerable elderly people in residential aged care have disgracefully low access to GPs, nurses and allied health professionals, leading to poorer health outcomes and many aged-care facilities having to send their residents to hospital for basic health needs. It is a fact that the residential aged-care and disability-care markets have utterly failed, leading to two hospitals worth of Queenslanders being stuck in public hospitals because they have nowhere else to go.

At the federal level, this decade-old conservative government has left primary health, aged care and the NDIS in complete disarray. The state health system has been left to pick up the pieces to ensure that people are receiving health care and that elderly Queenslanders and those with disability are not thrown out on the street as they have nowhere else to go. Every year Queensland is spending billions of dollars to pick up the slack from a federal government that simply does not care. Yesterday we heard about Margaret. It was the Palaszczuk government and our state health system that made sure that she did not languish for four months in a hospital bed but could go home.

Those opposite, who come from the same political party, have the gall to come into this place and attack our public health system while ignoring the failure of their mates in Canberra. The next federal government, regardless of who it is, must come to the table with the Queensland government and other jurisdictions to forge a better approach to healthcare delivery in this country and to deliver on the recommendations in this report. Last week Scott Morrison said that if the Commonwealth increased their funding then the states would reduce their funding. What a load of rubbish! That is absolute rubbish! We continue to put in record budgets. We just want our fair share. It is about time we got it.



Mr MOLHOEK (Southport—LNP) (3.17 pm): This was a very important inquiry. Unfortunately, it did not go far enough or deep enough. Nonetheless, it was an important inquiry as it is important that we put the health system, the aged-care system and disability services under the microscope. At the outset I want to thank the hundreds if not thousands of Queensland Health employees, private

practitioners, allied health workers and federal government health workers and employees who took the time to make submissions, meet with us and appear at the various hearings held throughout the length and breadth of Queensland. It is appropriate to thank them for their ongoing work and acknowledge the duress that many of them have faced over the past few years, particularly with the pandemic but also with many of the other challenges that we see within our aged-care sector, the health sector and disability services.

I am annoyed that so much has been made about long-stay beds because during the course of the hearings we actually heard evidence from some Queensland Health employees and the AMAQ who spoke about the fact that over time the dependence on long-stay beds has improved. I think it is disgraceful that, of 10,000 beds across the state, we would begrudge 500 of those being used for people who are there for good reason. Many of those people—

Government members interjected.

Mr MOLHOEK: Madam Deputy Speaker, I am not taking interjections.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Order, members!

Mr MOLHOEK: Many of those people have chronic health conditions. Many of them are there for good reason. May I remind the government and those members currently sitting on the other side of the House that that is why we have public hospitals and that is why we have a public health system. That is why we have a public health system: to support the vulnerable, to support those who cannot afford private health insurance.

Ms King interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Pumicestone will cease her interjections.

Mr MOLHOEK: It is to support those who deserve world-class health care. From some of the dialogue we heard throughout the course of the hearings, we could be forgiven for believing that the aged, those with disability and those with chronic health conditions are not welcome in our hospitals.


Government members interjected.

Mr MOLHOEK: I am not taking the interjections. Over the past few years we have seen many inquiries into aged care, disability services and health care.

Mr Harper: The Australian government did not respond.

Mr MOLHOEK: Member for Thuringowa, if you allow me to speak I will get to the point on that particular issue. I draw attention to recommendation 26 of the report. I am glad it is there. I fought particularly hard to have this recommendation included. Over the years we have seen one report after another, one review or inquiry after another, by both federal and state governments all around the nation, but there has never been any real accountability or follow-up. One question I would ask is: how hard have we gone in terms of our advocacy on some of these issues? Where is the trail of meetings and discussions in COAG and meetings with our federal colleagues to come together, be collaborative and work a lot harder on these issues? Members will notice that a number of the recommendations in the report talk about the need for greater collaboration. I emphasise that point in this House. We will not fix the health, aged-care or disability services systems without greater collaboration from all of us on all sides of politics. That is such an important point to make.

In closing, I draw members' attention to submission No. 75, a 28-page response from the federal Minister for Health. Throughout the hearings we heard that the aged-care and disability systems have never had so much cash poured into them but that with the challenges we face of significant labour force shortages and significant shortages of facilities in some cases we are not even spending the amounts budgeted. We all need to do better. We need better services and better facilities and we need people to provide the support right across the health system.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (3.22 pm): I rise to speak to the Health and Environment Committee report No. 18, titled *Inquiry into the provision of primary, allied and private health care, aged care and NDIS care services and its impact on the Queensland public health system*. I have written a lovely speech, but I have to say how incredibly disappointed I am by the member for Southport's contribution today. He attended all of the same hearings I did. He listened to all of the same witnesses and their thought-provoking, difficult stories. The opposition members also made statements of reservation. I also listened to the member for Mudgeeraba, who claimed that this inquiry was a sham. I ask the members for Mudgeeraba and Southport: which reports of the over 100 witnesses who came and spoke to us

were shams? Which ones will we discount, rip up and throw out? That is not okay. As far as I am concerned, it is misleading the House. It is a disgrace and they should be ashamed of their presentations. What about the nearly 80 submissions we had? Which one of those should we tear up and throw in the bin as a sham?

The statement of reservation is an absolute disgrace. The member for Southport is putting on a completely different face than he did at our committee hearings. I wonder how he would go if he stood up and gave that speech at Bundaberg or Longreach. I wonder how they would have taken that. What about the people we heard from who give so much of their time and just do not have enough because the residential aged-care facilities are not capable of taking care of their residents so they have to present at hospital emergency departments? There are 512 people in long-stay. The member for Southport had the audacity to say, 'That is what hospitals are for.' Do we not want to include them?' The evidence that was clearly given at every one of our hearings was that those residents were ready to leave the hospital. A hospital is not the place for people who are capable of living independently or living in a residential aged-care facility. They need to have a home to go to. A hospital is not a home. A hospital is a place you go to for acute care when you are very sick; it is not where you live. It is so disappointing. The member for Southport attended and listened to exactly the same evidence as I did, and he is putting a completely different spin on it.

Mr Molhoek interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Order, member for Southport.

Ms PEASE: The audacity of this man! The federal government has abandoned the most important people in our community: our older generation. They built our country. They built our nation. They went to war—

Mr Molhoek interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Southport!

Ms PEASE: They have worked all their lives. They have paid taxes all their lives—

Mr Molhoek interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Southport is warned under the standing orders.


Ms PEASE:—and the federal government rewards them by saying, 'Oh, we don't care about you. We're going to pay the people who look after you the lowest amount of wages. If you're not well enough, too bad. We're not going to make sure there are primary care providers who visit you in your nursing home. We're going to just put you into a hospital and we don't care that you could live in a residential aged-care facility and go and work in a community garden or go and have some diversion therapy. Oh, no, we'll leave you in a bed where you have no access to outside air and no access to engagement and social interaction.' That is exactly what this man is saying, and that is exactly the opposite of what we heard at every one of our hearings. It is an absolute disgrace. I am so disgusted to hear such a shocking review of the same evidence that I heard. I do not know about you, Madam Deputy Speaker, but some of the information that I have heard here this afternoon—

Mr Molhoek interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Southport, you were warned and you have continued to interject. You can leave the chamber for an hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Southport withdrew from the chamber at 3.26 pm.

Ms PEASE: I acknowledge all the very hardworking people who work in that sector. We heard the passion and commitment of those people who presented to us. They were so concerned about the fact that people did not have access to primary care and allied health services. People wanted to be independent but were not getting Commonwealth home care packages. We can do better. The federal government needs to look after the most valuable people in our community—people living with a disability and elderly people. It is time the government undertook to take care of people and do their job, because so far they have not. They have failed miserably.

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (3.27 pm): I start by thanking my fellow committee members, our excellent committee staff and everyone who submitted to this inquiry. Disappointingly, this was mostly an exercise in politics. It was all about trying to blame the federal government for the failings in the Queensland health system. For the state government to undertake this piece of work and do all they can to make sure it does not consider Queensland Health is shameful. If there is nothing to hide with how the system is operating, why are they afraid to shine a light on it?

We have the worst ambulance ramping in the nation, and this was not considered as part of this report. Why could we not consider all of these important issues in conjunction with how they intersect with the substantial part of our healthcare system administered by the Queensland government? Some of the recommendations were reasonable—improving hospital discharge arrangements; Medicare Benefits Scheme funding for services in regional, remote and rural parts of Queensland; increasing allied healthcare services; more Commonwealth supported places for medical programs; and the other associated recommendations to try to fix some of the problems around this—but these all must be considered alongside the system managed by the Queensland government. Without that, this inquiry was a complete stitch-up.

The government has used the resources of this parliament to pre-empt and support the federal Labor campaign on health funding. Clearly, someone in the Labor Party forgot to tell their federal colleagues about these recommendations. Anthony Albanese and federal Labor do not support the first recommendation of this report: to make funding for the public hospital system fifty-fifty.


The best the Premier could say about federal Labor's position on this is that they might put it on the National Cabinet agenda—that is, fifty-fifty health funding. Speaking of Anthony Albanese a couple of days ago in this place, the Premier said, 'He might listen.' A pretty powerful call to action, is it not? He might listen! Clearly no-one sent him a copy of this report which was solely produced to attack the federal LNP just before we go to a federal election. The only thing federal Labor have announced in this space is their questionable policy of urgent care clinics, with completely inadequate funding of \$135 million nationally and criticised by key stakeholders including the Australian Medical Association.

Recommendation 38 regarding increased investment in primary health clinics and health hubs vaguely covers this but relates to both the Queensland and Australian governments—one of the few recommendations calling for action by the Queensland government—exploring partnership arrangements to increase capital investment in primary health clinics and health hubs to deal with low-acuity presentations that are currently falling on emergency departments. Even the slim policy that federal Labor has announced to deal with these issues goes nowhere near this recommendation.

Of the 40 recommendations, 36 are solely within the responsibility of the Commonwealth government. It is highly unusual for the Queensland parliament to be making recommendations on substantial issues and going so far as suggesting policy which would cost billions of dollars. The federal government is held to account by a federal parliament—a job the Senate, in particular, does robustly. They are far better suited for these sorts of considerations and, in fact, they do hold the Commonwealth to account.

Just 14 recommendations from this report of a committee of the Queensland parliament even mention the Queensland government and they are mostly just asking for an update or better ways to collaborate. We heard the health minister say before that the federal government is abrogating its responsibilities. Like the member for Southport, I highlight submission No. 75 to this inquiry from the Australian government which pre-emptively responded to many of the recommendations. Since the federal LNP has come to government, their funding contribution to the Queensland government to manage the public hospital and healthcare system has doubled from \$2.6 billion to \$5.2 billion. That is twice the proportion the Queensland government's contribution has grown in the same time. That is on top of record increases in health, aged-care and disability funding.

Finally, it being International Nurses Day, I place on record my sincere thanks to all the nurses that I proudly represent. There are a lot of them. Healthcare workers are my biggest category of employer in the Bonney electorate. In the electorate we have the Gold Coast University Hospital, the Gold Coast Private Hospital, many other health and aged-care facilities and the amazing Griffith University School of Nursing and Midwifery, which is the No. 1 ranked university for nursing and midwifery in Australia. You are all so valuable to our community and today we thank you very much.

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (3.32 pm): It is always very interesting to follow the member for Bonney. I will move on before I say something improper. It is very interesting that he chose to join the LNP, run for the party and even take a shadow ministry role in the party that was responsible for sacking 4,400 of the nurses that he congratulated and adulated today. By contrast, on International Nurses Day all of our Labor caucus are united in thanking and congratulating the nurses and midwives who deliver for our communities every single day.

Our Health and Environment Committee travelled the length and breadth of Queensland for our report into primary, allied and private health care, aged care and the NDIS. We heard the same everywhere we went across Queensland—that is, every aspect of health care controlled and funded by

the federal government was at risk of collapse. That pressure is overflowing straight into Queensland's public hospitals. Since 2016 there has been a tsunami of increase in demand for health care: ED attendances up 37 per cent; ambulance activity up 30 per cent; and more triple 0 calls than ever before.


I almost hesitate to touch on the issues of long-stay patients that were raised by the member for Southport. Every single HHS told us that they are proud to care for long-stay patients who are waiting for aged-care and NDIS placements. What the member has forgotten is that it is not about beds; it is about people—people who should be in aged care, who are ready for discharge, who are medically well, who are deconditioning every single day of the months and years that they spend in hospital; young people who deserve to have NDIS accommodation and are suffering from the lack of engagement, not having their routines, not being in a homely environment for every single day of the up to three years that they spend in hospital after they are ready for discharge. It is a shame and a disgrace.

In Queensland today 512 people are in those long-stay beds when they could be in a home-like environment. That is equal to Caboolture Hospital plus Redcliffe Hospital. It is disgraceful inaction on the part of the federal government. In fact, I would go so far as to say that the Morrison federal government is stealing the equivalent of two major hospitals from Queenslanders every single day they allow this to go on. It is our state Labor government that has worked so hard to reduce the number of people trapped in those long-stay beds.

The issue of the GP crisis is something that I have been vocal on ever since I was elected and my constituents started to raise it with me. Every single day people in my community and in communities that we heard from across Queensland are waiting weeks and months for GP appointments. GPs are underpaid and underappreciated and GP businesses are failing. That is because of the Morrison government's refusal to raise MBS payments and also its absolute refusal to rethink the DPA system that is limiting access to care for GP clients across Queensland. In my community we had our DPA status stripped from us in 2019. It has become increasingly hard for people to see a GP. If people cannot get to see a GP their only doorway to care is through the front door of a hospital ED.

The member for Southport and the other members opposite who have spoken in this place are turning their back on those Queenslanders who are trying desperately to access the primary care that they need. Right across the primary health spectrum from NDIS cuts to aged-care neglect to failing GP practices to underperforming PHNs, these issues have all got two things in common. They are adding to the pressure on our Queensland hospitals and underfunding them is saving the Morrison government money. It is shameful.

What are the Queensland LNP saying about this? Are they phoning up Scott Morrison and the LNP federal government to ask for our fair share? No. The Leader of the Opposition called our committee's inquiry a sham. He is insulting every single submitter who showed up to our hearings across Queensland and talked about how they could not get a GP appointment or how their NDIS plans were being cut. It is disgraceful. The Leader of the Opposition is gaslighting every Queenslanders who is waiting three, four or six weeks to get a GP appointment. When they talk down this report, the LNP in Queensland are running a protection racket for their Morrison government mates who will not give Queensland our fair share, and it is disgraceful.

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (3.37 pm): I would like to thank all the nurses across the state. I would like to see the ones who have lost their jobs through mandates reinstated as soon as possible.

I rise to speak on the Health and Environment Committee's report on the inquiry into the provision of primary, allied and private healthcare, aged-care and NDIS services and its impact on the Queensland public health system. I submitted a statement of reservation outlining some of the concerns I had with the report, mainly to do with some of the recommendations that the report sets out and were adopted largely on the advice to the committee given by health officials within the department and other health stakeholder groups. Expert opinion on the Queensland healthcare industry uniformly adopted the position that the current consumer centred and fee based system is broken and beyond repair.

The advice we were given was that the whole thing should be scrapped and replaced with a new model based on the same principles underpinning the NDIS system. While I acknowledge that the old system does have flaws, I feel many of them are due to the system being starved of appropriate levels of funding and resources rather than that they are no longer fit-for-purpose.

I am also not a fan of the NDIS model, which is one that was advanced as a way forward for health care in Queensland. The idea behind the NDIS was to overhaul the welfare system which has supported those born with disabilities for decades. The planners of the scheme said it would boost


productivity and allow hundreds of thousands of family members to return to the workforce. The man who came up with the scheme was a former treasury official and investment banker. That should tell people something about the whole situation. In those early stages people were being told that there would still be supports available for people with a disability who were not eligible for the scheme. However, today it has become very clear that there are almost no supports available for these people.

I have spoken to many who say that the NDIS is completely unresponsive to their situation and needs. Many of them are receiving messages from the scheme advising of significant cuts to their plans which are all in complete opposition to what their doctors are recommending for them. Over time, the scheme's local area coordinator role has transitioned from helping people access mainstream services to being deeply complicit in designing the individual's NDIS plans. This has had a huge negative effect, essentially transforming the coordinator's role from one that is supportive to one that is driven by efficiency gains and cold, hard metrics.

The second effect is that the whole planning process has had a focus on specialist disability services, including for profits, rather than community support participation. Those who do not tick the boxes for social impact bonds or impact investment are finding their plans cut back arbitrarily after a brief assessment process by cold technocrats armed with a clipboard and a pen. Those who do not tick the boxes are falling through the cracks. The cracks are getting bigger by the day. Overall, we are seeing a massive breakdown in trust between the NDIS and the disability community.

In my region we have many people on the NDIS, and I am hearing some outright horror stories about what is going on. I put a video up just the other day. I speak to Ray Wegner all the time. He is a lovely bloke. His treatment at the hands of the NDIS has been nothing short of disgraceful. Under the previous system, Ray was given a 24/7 level of care due to his profound disabilities. He requires around-the-clock care with everything, including cooking, cleaning, washing, dressing, bathing and even toileting. He is in a wheelchair and has significant speech disabilities. This requires a carer to go with him every time he leaves his home. Ray is therefore one of those so-called consumers who does not fit into any of the boxes and from whom the scheme fund managers and impact investors cannot make any money. He has had drastic cuts made to his care, and the mental distress this is causing the man is heartbreaking. When I see him on his own running up the street I wave to him and stop to say hello. He has repeatedly asked to be put back on his old funding plan and level of assistance, but his appeals for help are ignored. They simply are not listening.

Sadly, Ray is far from being alone. I know that many other people in the regions are struggling to get the help they need. According to the committee's report, the current consumer focused fee-for-service model is outmoded and should be scrapped. That may be, but what they are planning to replace it with is going to be much worse. We only have to ask Ray. It is a sad indictment going forward. We need both state and federal governments to come up with a proper plan to satisfy the needs of rural communities and the disabled in our state.

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (3.42 pm): May I too place on record my appreciation for all of the incredible nurses in my community who go above and beyond to care for people. I had the opportunity last week to celebrate with them in my office. They are incredible human beings and should be thanked by everyone in this House. I also thank the Health and Environment Committee for undertaking this important inquiry.

As has been noted, the Palaszczuk government has provided an interim response to the recommendations that are applicable to us—not that you would know that by some of the comments and remarks being made by those opposite. We have done that because we have a proud track record of restoring the frontline services those opposite cut. We know that we need to continue to improve health care for all Queensland if we are going to keep up with the growth in demand that we are seeing in places, particularly like my community on the Gold Coast. We know the reality is that the health system is under pressure because of many of the values of this federal government. You do not need to take my word for it. In fact, every single health minister across the country, regardless of political persuasion, has called for urgent action on things like: providing fifty-fifty funding for our hospitals, lifting the growth cap on health funding, fixing primary care and, of course, for the federal government to do their job in fixing funding and policies around aged care and NDIS.

Yesterday on the Gold Coast alone there were 58 people sitting in hospital who really should have been getting the support they needed in their home. That is not happening because there are failures in those federal government systems. Unfortunately, this is not unusual for the Gold Coast. In

February the committee heard from Ms Spence from the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service, who noted there were 100 patients whose discharges had been delayed for various reasons, including awaiting an NDIS plan and accommodation and/or aged-care beds.


In 2018 I started a petition calling on the federal government to ensure that the aged-care sector level of staffing would give Queenslanders the dignity and care they deserve. I raised the aged-care crisis in this House multiple times, in the paper and in the community, and we doorknocked on it. At the time I was ignored by people like Angie Bell, Karen Andrews, Stuart Robert and Bert van Manen, who were responsible for the aged-care system. Then, of course, the Earle Haven debacle happened. More than 70 frail, elderly residents were left without a home after very serious failures in the aged-care system. What was really appalling to see was that in the 18 months before that happened the federal government received 22 complaints. The provider had been sanctioned three times. It is pretty hard to get a sanction. Three times they received that notice, including a report identifying the immediate and severe risk to care recipients' safety, health and wellbeing. In 2015 it met less than half of the 18 expected outcomes of home care standards.

In that case, this government had to intervene with emergency services and Queensland Health staff and step in because the aged-care system failed and let vulnerable frail people down. It is a prime example of the increasing external pressures our health system is facing because of the failures under other levels of government. I have heard so many other horrifying stories where paramedics have had to rock up to pretty awful circumstances in aged-care facilities. Frankly, those people should not have had to go to hospital, but the aged-care provider decided they did not want to spend the money to care for the person in their home. The member for Thuringowa already mentioned one of those instances from a Gold Coast paramedic.

I also want to touch on the NDIS. For the benefit of the House, I also want to declare that my brother has Down syndrome and is an NDIS recipient. When the NDIS was introduced, it gave a whole lot of families across this country—families like mine—hope. That hope has been eroded by this Liberal National government. My brother is one of the many people across this country whose funding was cut. I suspect this is likely because of things like the Sustainability Action Taskforce, which was really just a razor gang within the National Disability Insurance Agency, which told staff to slow down getting Australians with a disability on the NDIS and slow their funding.

The Queensland government provides over \$2 billion every year to this scheme, and we do that because we believe in the real impacts it has on improving the lives of people with a disability. For the opposition to suggest in their statement of reservation that we are politicising this issue, when there are thousands of families out there facing the reality of cuts to services, is ridiculous. It is pretty clear that they are only interested in backing their mates in Canberra. It is also not surprising—

(Time expired)

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (3.47 pm): I rise to address report No. 18 of the Health and Environment Committee, which was an inquiry into the provision of primary, allied and private health care, aged care and NDIS care services and its impact on the Queensland public health system. At the outset, on International Nurses Day can I acknowledge all nurses across Queensland and across Australia, particularly those working at the Wesley Hospital and St Andrews War Memorial Hospital.

There were some important considerations and recommendations in this report, and I certainly have to acknowledge the work of all of the committee members, all of the submitters and all of those who attended the inquiry. It is important that we try and get a health system not only here in Queensland but also across Australia that is right not only for patients but also, importantly, the clinicians, doctors, nurses and allied health professionals who work in that system and are trying to provide good quality care to patients, whether they be in primary care, the disability sector, in aged care or in our hospital system.

Unfortunately, this inquiry only examines those aspects relating to the federal government without comprehensively examining all matters relating to Queensland's public health and hospital system. As such, as we have heard, this inquiry has allowed itself to be highly politicised and has been perceptually seen by many as an attempt by the Labor government to seek electoral political advantage. I think that is very unfortunate, when there are some detailed considerations and recommendations within the report that are for the health system. Because of when it was commissioned, when it was released and when it is being debated—during a federal election campaign—unfortunately, for many it can be seen to be an attempt to politicise important issues for electoral advantage.

I think Queenslanders are absolutely tired of the continual blame-shifting between state and Commonwealth governments and, particularly in this case, the Queensland Labor government and their inability to take responsibility for Queensland's hospital system. I heard the member for Thuringowa

talk about the federal AMA president. I accept the comments of the federal AMA president, but here in Queensland the president of the Australian Medical Association of Queensland, Professor Chris Perry, said that this report 'smacks of blame shifting'. He said that the report—

... helps a federal Labor campaign when what we really need are state and federal governments to collaborate on solutions, instead of ducking and weaving to point the finger at each other.

Professor Perry also said—

The Queensland state government has not provided an adequate response to our Ramping Roundtable Action Plan that has clear and realistic steps to address hospital bed block and ambulance ramping.


Within this report, we can see that there has not been a comprehensive examination of ambulance ramping in Queensland, and all Queenslanders know why. It is because under the state Labor government Queensland now has the worst ramping of ambulances in the country—

Mr Stevens: Record.

Dr ROWAN: I take the interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach. We have record ambulance ramping here in Queensland. At Ipswich Hospital, 56 per cent of patients are being left on stretches in corridors and hallways for longer than 30 minutes. At the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, one out of every two ambulances is ramped. At the Princess Alexandra Hospital, ambulance ramping is at 46 per cent. Let us not forget that it has been over a year since the state Labor government announced a further \$100 million to fix ambulance ramping in Queensland. All we have seen as a result is that here in Queensland under this state Labor government ambulance ramping has got worse. Patients are waiting up to eight hours for an ambulance to arrive and police are having to be used as paramedics, with the Queensland Police Service now also experiencing ramping at Queensland's public hospitals.

What is needed here in Queensland? This state Labor government needs to look at models of care and it certainly needs to look at proper industrial reform. It needs to look at management accountability and having plans for patients who are in hospital—looking at their length of stay, comparing that to national average lengths of stay, looking at the blocks that occur with respect to proper discharge planning and ensuring that patients get the care they need here in Queensland.

Importantly, under the federal Morrison LNP government, there have been some positive achievements. Annual hospital funding in 2022-23 is at a record \$27.2 billion, compared to just over \$13 billion in 2012-13 under the last federal Labor government. Medicare GP bulk-billing rates have risen to 88.8 per cent under the federal LNP Morrison government, up from 82.2 per cent under the previous federal Labor government. The federal coalition government have subsidised more medicines on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and they have subsidised telehealth services. What we need here is cooperation between the Queensland state government and the Commonwealth government. We need mature leadership, detailed discussions and, when it comes to those opposite, meaningful engagement and not facile and puerile contributions.

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (3.52 pm): This report, after the inquiry into the provision of primary, allied and private health care, aged care and NDIS care services and its impact on the Queensland public health system, has really laid bare in excruciating detail the severe impacts of the federal LNP Morrison government not giving Queensland its fair share when it comes to health care. That includes my local community out in Ipswich.

I want to go into some of the figures and data that have come out through this inquiry process. Transfers from aged-care facilities to emergency departments in West Moreton have increased an incredible amount. Between 2018-19 and 2020-21, there was a 168 per cent increase in the total number of ambulance transfers from aged-care facilities in our health area to ED departments such as the one at the Ipswich Hospital. In raw numbers, that means those transfers went from 335 to 898 over that period. Of those, there was a 316 per cent increase in category 3 and 4 non-urgent transfers from aged-care facilities to the Ipswich Hospital between 2018 and 2021. What has happened over that same period is that the federal Morrison government has made it harder to see a GP and more expensive to see a GP as well as cut services that are publicly funded through Medicare. Is it any wonder there is increasing pressure on state public systems in communities like mine?

The committee report also revealed some pretty stark evidence from submitters. Page 5 of the submission from the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners stated—

In 2020-21 there were over 1.8 million presentations to emergency departments in Queensland, 10.3% of which were deemed non-urgent (category 5) and 32.1% deemed semi-urgent (category 4) presentations ...

They are some extremely stark figures. When we move to the long-stay patients, in West Moreton HHS in my local community there were 37 NDIS and aged-care long-stay patients who were medically able to be discharged out of the hospital in February—that is 37 beds—but they could not because there has been a failure from the Morrison government and continued delays to patients accessing the required Commonwealth funded supports. These vulnerable patients are staying in hospital unnecessarily for months and months at a time on average at the incredible cost of around \$2,000 a day to the state government. In the worst cases, they are there for years.


We heard the member for Bonney in his contribution acknowledging the nurses who are in his electorate, and he made reference to the Gold Coast Hospital. There was an article in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* in February this year which spoke of patients who have been stuck in the hospital on the Gold Coast for two years. It said—

More than 100 patients are spending up to two years at Gold Coast hospitals because they are unable to get aged or extra care.

It went on—

Some patients were awaiting NDIS plan approval or review, or a supported accommodation living vacancy, a residential aged care bed, or help that would allow them to live at home.

This is absolutely disgraceful. This is the Morrison LNP federal government treating vulnerable Queenslanders with contempt. We deserve our fair share and we will get that under an Albanese federal government.

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (3.57 pm): I am pleased to rise and make a contribution to the Health and Environment Committee report on its inquiry into the provision of primary, allied and private health care, aged care and NDIS care services—not because I think the inquiry or report is of much benefit to Queenslanders given its biased narrow scope, but because in my view the inquiry and the report is representative of what is wrong with the parliament's committee system. This inquiry was established by a resolution moved by the health minister, who is also the Leader of the House, and was nothing more than a cynical misuse of the committee system to distract from the state government's ineptitude in running the health system by attempting to deflect the blame to the Commonwealth government. The media and professional organisations belled the cat about this cynical exercise. The AMA Queensland president, Chris Perry, after the inquiry was moved, said—

The parliamentary inquiry into the problems in Queensland's health care system must look at issues of State funding, not just areas of Commonwealth responsibility.

In a further blatant move, debate on the issue was moved up the *Notice Paper* so it could take place before the Commonwealth election. Every bit of time, energy and resources spent on government distractions such as this is less time, energy and resources spent on the scrutiny of government.

The committee system is an integral and important part of the legislative process to deliver good governance in Queensland. The current system, first introduced in 2011, was designed to deliver checks and balances that are necessary in the absence of a house of review, commonly referred to as an upper house. In 2011 the Committee System Review Committee recommended 'that there be a presumption that portfolio committee proceedings be open to the public unless the relevant committee otherwise determines'.

Unfortunately, I believe that the current system of portfolio committee representation, where there are three government members, with the government chair have a casting vote over the three non-government members, fails to deliver the open and transparent public interest disclosure that the review committee envisaged in 2011. An upper house has parliamentary privilege for members whereby non-government members can make important public disclosure under the protection of parliamentary privilege.

Debate, on motion of Mr Stevens, adjourned.

POLICE SERVICE ADMINISTRATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 1149, on motion of Mr Ryan—

That the bill be now read a second time.



Mr SULLIVAN (Stafford—ALP) (4.00 pm): I rise to support the Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. In doing so, I thank the hardworking public servants on whom these reforms are focused. I also take a brief moment, as other members have today, to recognise International Nurses Day. I thank those nurses who have impacted my life and supported my family in various ways. I thank the hardworking nurses in my community including our local aged-care nurses and nurses at the Prince Charles Hospital and the RBWH. Thank you to you all.

This bill, while administrative or technical in nature, makes important practical improvements for the Protective Services Group within the Queensland Police Service and ensures more effective management of the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

In terms of the Protective Services Group reforms, we are, as many members have stated, talking about the 'white shirts'—those men and women who provide great service across state buildings and facilities. I understand that the service now consists of some 400 dedicated staff and is responsible for safety and security services for over 400 educational facilities and 80 government buildings. That includes provision of security at some 38 Queensland courts. I will come back to that point a bit later.

The service monitors some 2½ thousand alarms across Queensland government facilities and over 5½ thousand duress alarms, including for electorate offices. It is on this point that I would like to focus first. We all know that our electorate officers can deal with difficult issues and sometimes people in great stress in their own lives. It is really important that we provide a safe and decent workplace for our electorate staff, and protective services officers play an important role in that.

Recently—I think the member for Bancroft referred to it; I know that the member for Aspley had a similar experience—there has been active interference in the work of electorate offices, particularly from fringe groups associated with anti-health efforts. I was in the CBD on the day they arrived at my office. I was here welcoming schools through parliament and attending the International Workers Memorial Day ceremony, along with many of my colleagues. That meant that my staff members were having to monitor protests and manage interaction on the day. I want to publicly thank both the Protective Services Group and the QPS, both of which spoke to me in the lead-up and made sure that things were managed calmly and de-escalated on the day.

Unfortunately for the fringe dwellers, the Stafford Police Station is literally across the road from my electorate office, so safety was well looked after. Unfortunately for my neighbours, my electorate office is co-located with many allied health services including Anglicare, liver services and other allied health. Unfortunately, the protest also caused difficulties for access to those neighbours, including the disability-friendly access point to the building. However, Protective Services and the QPS did a great job, so I thank them for that.

That was not my first encounter with the issue of safety at electorate offices. I know there have been some serious incidents in recent years. I would like to briefly recount an older one that I remember from the late 1990s. A northside resident decided to steal a small truck, ram it through the front doors and glass of the Chermside electorate office, as it then was, and then pull a gun, which ended up being dropped at the scene and left behind. The member for Chermside at the time was someone by the name of Terry Sullivan. He was in the electorate office at the time but was thankfully able to get out a different exit. As a teenager I remember having a QPS protection tail for a couple of weeks while the assailant was on the run. I reflect on this to make the point that protective services have to cover a broad spectrum of issues, from difficult or stressed constituents who cross a line, to alarms and potential vandalism or break and entry, to protests and physical contact with electorate office assets, to serious outright criminal behaviour.

I do not want to be a downer on this issue. As I said, there is a spectrum of activity that protective services officers look after. That includes an alarm being set off at four o'clock one Monday morning at my electorate office and a very quick response from the QPS. I got a call very early saying that there had been suspected staff interaction with the office, but they were suspicious as it was at four o'clock on a Monday morning. At four o'clock on the morning of Anzac Day, one of my team was collecting a wreath. He did manage to convince the police officers that he had a proper purpose to be in the office at the time, and he did make it to the service on time. That goes to show the very quick response that the Protective Services Group and the QPS provide to all of us.

As I flagged earlier, some of the key government facilities under the responsibility of the Protective Services Group are some 38 Queensland courts. My first professional interaction with protective security officers was as a judge's associate in the old District and Supreme Court building on what is now the W Brisbane hotel complex. No one misses that old building. As an aside, I thank the Treasurer, who, in his former role as attorney-general, delivered the new courts complex—great for

legal practitioners, the judiciary and the community and at the time a crucial project for construction in Brisbane. It was all but built under the now Treasurer in his former role. The only thing he was not responsible for was the bizarrely oversized plaque bearing the name of the member for Kawana.

As an associate, I enjoyed building a relationship with the protective security officers. They absolutely were part of the broader legal family, the broader family of the courts, and we would get to know them pretty well. I will not say his name, but one particular security officer was very friendly but you could always tell when the supervisor was on site. As you can imagine, court entries are busy with solicitors, barristers, court staff, accused, families, witnesses—including aggrieved—and jurors or potential jurors. To help manage the entries there was an adjacent access point for court staff—whether that be judges' associates, registry staff or State Reporting Bureau staff before Newman outsourced them—so we could quickly get into the court or chambers as required. Usually it was a quick nod to the security staff and we would duck through our usual entrance to get to court, but every month or so we would have already passed through the entrance, heading to chambers or court, when this particular officer would call after us and say, 'Hey, Jimmy, we need to see your staff pass.' I would stop and say, 'Mate, you know it's me. You literally just called me by my name.' He would say, 'Protocol, Jimmy. Protocol is in town.' So I would go through the charade: put down my files, go into my robes and show the pass. In front of everyone, he would go through the charade of inspecting my picture, holding it up and checking it was me, and saying, 'Ok, sir, you can proceed.' It gave me a smile every time.

A government member interjected.

Mr SULLIVAN: I would hate to see that picture now! As other members have reflected, the dedicated work of the protective security officers is not limited to Brisbane. As an associate to a District Court judge, I had the privilege of travelling on circuit for almost two weeks each month, travelling to and working out of regional, provincial and indeed remote courthouses. The officers from Protective Services Group from Southport, Maroochydore, Rockhampton, Mackay, Townsville and Cairns were all fantastic to work with.

I also note that the delivery of this bill included extensive consultation with the courts, including heads of jurisdiction. I would like to point out that, in addition to the Chief Justice, consultation was also held with the Chief Judge and the Chief Magistrate. That is important, as it is the District Court and the Magistrates Court that conduct the vast majority of court hearings outside the south-east in terms of both permanent courts and extensive circuits.

I also want to thank the PSOs who provide a great service at the State Law Building, known as the Gotham City building, on the corner of Ann and George streets, as the Deputy Speaker alluded to in her contribution earlier. Similar to the courts, the State Law Building did sometimes attract attention from a variety of interests. The building was home at the time to the DPP, Crown Law, officers of the department of justice and the department of corrections and the offices of both the Attorney-General and the Minister for Police. The protective security officers were kept busy. They were always helpful, professional and very experienced at de-escalating any occasions when stress or complicated cases presented themselves, if I can put it that way.

This bill removes complications between the current different recognition of powers exercised by protective security officers and senior protective security officers. I think the bill, as is revealed in the examination of the committee report, shows that the reform is an appropriate amalgamation and simplification of those roles and I think it will serve all of our public facilities very well.

I am also glad that the bill includes offences of impersonating a PSO. We know that the PSOs have access to sensitive areas within government buildings, whether that is the courts, as I have discussed in some detail, or the other government facilities they protect. We obviously do not want people gaining access to those sensitive areas where they should not be. I think it is fitting that the penalties reflect that of impersonating other public officers such as Queensland police officers.

In conclusion, as we pass this administrative or technical reform, I hope that those working outside this building in facilities up and down the coast of Queensland take this as a nod to their professionalism and a thanks for what they do. I thank the chair and the committee. I am sure they enjoyed the content. It was a bit outside of their lane, but they have done a great job. I commend the bill to the House.



Mr SMITH (Bundaberg—ALP) (4.10 pm): This is the first opportunity I have had to stand and talk today. I want to use the opportunity to say thank you to all of the wonderful nurses out there across Queensland and Australia and, of course, in the Bundaberg Hospital. I say thank you not just to the nurses in the hospitals but also those in our aged-care facilities as well as our registered nurses and ENs for the wonderful work they all do.

I rise today in support of the Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This bill is crafted to modernise the legislative framework that underpins protective services. Additionally, it will increase efficiencies for police officers acting as public officials under the Forestry Act 1959, the Marine Parks Act 2004, the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and the Recreation Areas Management Act 2006 and in identity card administration for these acts.

Protective Services is comprised of over 400 staff that deliver onsite security, alarm monitoring, response services, government ID production and mobile patrolling of state government property assets. These officers provide the management of security services for over 80 Queensland government buildings and 400 educational facilities, including the provision of static security at 38 courts.

The Queensland Police Service, QPS, has taken responsibility for this service since 2016. The broad focus of the bill is to amalgamate protective security officers and senior protective security officers into one group called protective services officers, PSOs, and establish security powers that will deliver consistent approaches by both PSOs and police undertaking duty at state buildings. This bill will allow PSOs to exercise all the security powers that can currently be exercised by a senior protective security officer. This legislation modernises the security powers that may be exercised by both PSOs and police in the protection of state buildings.

The bill will authorise PSOs to exercise security powers that mirror those that police officers currently employ to secure our state buildings. PSOs and police will be able to demand the name and address of entrants, permit PSOs to wear body worn cameras, use electronic screening devices, seize contraband, refuse entry, use of force and direct trespassers or disorderly persons to leave state buildings.

It is important that a PSO or police officer can ask a person to participate in the screening process and allow their belongings to be inspected. Should the person refuse to participate in these security measures, the person may be immediately directed by a PSO or a police officer to leave the state building. Balancing these powers are additional safeguards, including requiring PSOs and police to inform a person that a request to be searched can be refused but that such refusal shall result in the person having to immediately exit the building.

This bill clarifies offences against a PSO such as assault, resist and obstruct and introduces a new offence of impersonating a PSO. Importantly, PSOs will be subject to the same alcohol and drug testing regime that currently applies to police officers. This bill will enable PSOs to be better trained, better equipped and have the legislative ability to implement appropriate security measures to reduce potential threats in state buildings.

The bill also provides legislative efficiencies relating to police exercising powers under the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service legislation. Since 2018 over 120 police officers have been appointed as a public official under Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service legislation. This bill will remove the need for the chief executive or the administering minister to issue ID cards for police or to arrange for the return of these cards when police officers cease to act as public officials for this legislation.

As the explanatory notes set out, operational efficiencies will also be gained through clarifying that a police officer appointed as a public official under Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service legislation may identify themselves consistent with the statutory requirements outlined in the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 rather than having to produce separate identification under Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service legislation.

It is very important in this contribution that I also mention the role of police in our community and the fantastic job they do in keeping our community safe, responding to the needs of our community but also making sure they are pre-empting. We see that through the fantastic role of our community police liaison officers, our police officers who go into our schools and make that connection with young people at an early age so they know that a police officer is someone they can trust, someone they can feel safe around and someone they can look up to as a role model moving into the future. It is wonderful to see that connection between community and our first responders.

At the end of last year I went for a ride-along with our police. It was a fantastic experience to go with the police and into the police station and listen to their stories about what they need moving forward.

Mrs Mullen: Was it a ride-along?

Mr SMITH: I take the interjection from the member for Jordan. It was a legitimate ride-along; I can absolutely guarantee that. They do an outstanding job. It really put things into perspective because I have also done a ride-along with our paramedics as well as spending a night shift with our emergency department staff, our frontline workers. The key difference was that on the paramedic trip I was allowed to go with the paramedics into the households and see what was happening and how they respond to those in need. Of course, when we do a ride-along with the police it is very different because quite literally every single shift could potentially be a day of danger or a night of danger. That is one of the key differences: they are responding to situations where they may need to use the weapon they carry on their side.

It was a wonderful experience to hear from them and to listen to their stories and their needs. It is important we listen to needs—and that is one of the reasons why I made a request of the whip to make a contribution on this bill—because we need to talk about the record. We need to talk about Labor's record—making sure we support our police officers and our new PSOs. We also need to make sure that when it comes to election time we do not do what the LNP does, which is commit 600 fewer police under their election commitments. I know they do not like hearing about what happened in 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015. They think it is so far gone. Yet in 2020 when they were seeking government they decided they would have 600 fewer police under their election commitment.

When they were in government, of course, they sacked 110 senior police. That was 110 senior police who were marched out the door under the Newman government. So many members of that front bench now sit on this opposition front bench. It makes us wonder what would happen should the LNP ever get back in again. How many paramedics would they sack? How many ED nurses would they sack? How many police would they sack? The front line would almost be gone if the LNP were ever to get their claws back into government. Good thing we have a Palaszczuk Labor government that continues to back in Queensland—absolutely.

Let us talk about police training. Earlier in my contribution I mentioned the extra training for PSOs. It is a wonderful thing that we have people wanting to put their hand up to be police to keep the front line safe, so one would think that would require an investment in police training, but no. What did the LNP do? Take a guess. The LNP cut police training, reduced firearms training, forced police to pay for their own body worn video cameras. That is the record of the LNP.


Opposition members interjected.

Mr SMITH: Those opposite do not like talking about it, but we will make sure that they listen every single day we are in this House. What about how the LNP failed to fund the rollout of automatic numberplate recognition technology that helps track down stolen vehicles? The LNP is always going on but does not want the solutions. What about the wasted millions of taxpayer dollars on failed boot camp experiments?

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Order, members.

Mr SMITH: I will wait for them to be silent, because this one is important and members should not be interjecting: the LNP cut police monitoring for more than 1,700 sex offenders, so for the absolute scum of our society it cut funding for monitoring. That is what the LNP stands for.

 **Mr WALKER** (Mundingburra—ALP) (4.20 pm): On International Nurses Day I want to take this opportunity to thank our midwives and nurses for the fine work they do in our health services in Queensland. I also want to thank my daughter, who is a nurse, for the great work she does.

I rise to speak in support of the Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. When I read the bill and saw the outcomes that will be achieved and the issues that needed to be addressed I was very impressed because this is important, especially the issue with current security powers. This clearly demonstrates that this bill will support a better and more efficient protective services in Queensland. It also demonstrates the need to address the authority required for protective services officers to perform their roles efficiently, effectively and in a lawful manner. It also helps address the need for training, and this training helps minimise identified risks for the new integrated service.

As a former Queensland Corrective Services officer, Corrective Services was in a state of flux through the need for change as identified in the Kennedy report and the need to address some major reforms to take Corrective Services forward as a modern service and address community expectations.

I know that the Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 is not proposing major changes like the Kennedy report. However, the bill does address the important need to amend legislation that will assist Queensland protective services officers in the performance of their role.

It was interesting to note the gaps in the authority within the Queensland security service which were very inefficient and left staff vulnerable in times of potential conflict. It will also assist in modernising the Queensland Protective Services. Protective Services will operate as a distinct administrative unit within the Security and Counter-Terrorism Command, which is a good thing.

The Queensland Police Service has reviewed the legislation that governs Protective Services' State Buildings Protective Security Act 1983 and the State Buildings Protective Security Regulation 2008 and identified legislative change which will increase efficiencies and savings; promote Protective Services' integration into the Queensland Police Service; and ensure Protective Services has an appropriate legislative framework to meet its obligations under the Queensland protective security framework—a framework that I feel will be easier to work in and manage as a professional organisation within a larger group that has clear synergies. I did note that Queensland is the only Australian state that makes a distinction between protective security officers and senior protective security officers based on the powers they can use. This bill will address that issue and amalgamate protective security officers and senior protective security officers into one group called protective services officers, or PSOs.

Earlier I mentioned that the changes will increase efficiencies and savings. I want to highlight some of the benefits of this bill, and I may repeat some things; however, it is important to highlight how important these changes are. There will be efficiencies in rostering practices. That is a big plus for both the organisation and the officers working shiftwork. With regard to mitigation of potential risks to officers, currently protective security officers rely upon senior protective security officers if the exercise of security powers is needed to resolve an incident. As some state buildings are large and may consist of several buildings over a large footprint, there may be some delay before a senior protective security officer can attend to help. This is extremely important for the protective security officer who is dealing with an issue that can be quickly resolved without causing any further distress to parties involved.

There will be increases in accountability through the introduction of legislative safeguards. This will enhance the professionalism of protective services officers and may lead to a reduction in complaints or assist in more efficient investigations of any complaints made. The bill will allow the rank structure to exist so that a protective services officer may be recognised for their experience and promoted to the rank of a senior protective services officer. Nothing in the bill will change existing industrial arrangements for protective services officers, and that is important. This is a crucial point for the protective services team so that they have certainty in their employment, recognition of the role they play and minimal disruption through the implementation phase.

We would all be aware of the increasing prevalence of alcohol and drug testing in the workplace. While it is accepted as commonplace on our roads, it is less so in our workplaces. I cannot understand why this would or should be the case. As are all aspects of this bill, the amendments recommended in this specific area are about ensuring the safety and welfare of individuals, especially regarding public buildings. It is proposed in this bill that the alcohol and drug testing regime be expanded to include protective services officers.


This is not just about protecting companies or organisations. Most in this House would be aware that testing for drugs and alcohol takes place, often regularly and sometimes randomly, by the likes of mining and transport companies. The reasoning behind this is obvious: we simply cannot have people on the roads or operating heavy machinery while they are not in full control of all of their faculties. The effects of drug and alcohol misuse are many. They can include, but are not limited to, effects on the heart and regulation of body temperature, impaired judgement, risky behaviour, long-term physical and mental health issues, liver disease, reduced productivity and many more.

To put one's own wellbeing at risk is one thing; to put at risk the welfare of another is an entirely different matter. Time after time we are reminded of the number of injuries and deaths caused by alcohol on our roads. The total number of road deaths nationally last year ending in April 2021 was 1,133 despite lockdowns. How many more people would have been killed on our roads if there was no drug and alcohol testing? It is horrifying to think.

There are hundreds of deaths annually in the workplace. Not for a moment am I implying that all of these deaths are a direct result of drugs or alcohol, but it is irrefutable that the use of non-prescription drugs and alcohol enhances the chances of accidents, injury and even death. The roads and some

workplaces can be dangerous enough without having people who work there or people who attempt to enter not being willing to take responsibility for their own wellbeing or that of their colleagues by misusing drugs or alcohol. The responsibility falls not only with the individual but also with the workplace.

Just as it is an obligation of the various tiers of government to provide safe roads, it is the duty of employers, including those who control public buildings, to ensure a safe environment. Drug and alcohol testing allows employers to protect employees and employers. As has been said previously, the Police Service Administration Act 1990 allows for random alcohol testing and targeted alcohol and drug testing of police officers, watch house officers and staff working in critical areas. Currently protective services officers may not be tested. One would not expect the performance of a protective security officer to be influenced by drugs or alcohol, but the public and indeed the employer need to be certain that protective security officers are performing their duties to the best of their abilities. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (4.29 pm): I would like to begin by acknowledging our nurses on International Nurses Day. I think everyone here would agree that at some stage of our life we are going to be looking into the eyes of a nurse and need that nurse. I want to stay on side with them, so I wish them all the very best and want them to know how much I appreciate them.

I rise to make a very brief contribution in support of the Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. This bill brings new legislative safeguards to assist our hardworking protective services officers and police officers. Some of these safeguards are designed to assist protective services officers and police officers to maintain their standards and increase public confidence in the professionalism of these officers. Maintaining public confidence in those who ensure our safety and wellbeing is a vital element of our law and order. This ensures that the public can be assured that police and protective services officers are performing their tasks to safeguard our rights as individuals and those of the people whom they are protecting.


Police powers will continue to be subject to the safeguards outlined in the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000. However, a further safeguard will be introduced in relation to the proposed power to require the name and address of a person who is in or about to enter a state building and to direct a person to leave a state building. These powers may only be exercised if the police officer reasonably suspects the requirement is necessary to maintain the security of that state building. A direction to leave a state building will be an enforcement act requiring details to be recorded in the enforcement register.

In relation to major changes that relate to protective services officers, the following safeguards will be added: a protective security officer who is not in uniform must clearly display the officer's identity card or produce for inspection their identity card before exercising a power unless it is not reasonably practicable to do so; if it is not reasonably practicable, the protective security officer must produce the identity card for inspection at the first reasonable opportunity; in relation to the power to request a name and address, the power may only be exercised if the protective security officer reasonably suspects the requirement is necessary to maintain the security of that state building. In regard to screening, a police officer or protective security officer or adult assisting the officer may only touch a garment the person is wearing if that person is of the same sex.

The new section of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act will require a police officer or protective security officer inspecting the belongings of an entrant to make every effort to ensure minimal embarrassment to the person concerned. For example, if the officer forms a reasonable suspicion the inspection of a person's belongings is necessary, the officer may ask the entrant to allow an inspection of the person's belongings out of public view to protect the dignity of the entrant. In relation to directions, if an entrant to a state building fails to comply with a screening or inspection process, a protective security officer or police officer may direct the person to leave the building. However, the PSO is not to give the direction if the entrant states they do not want to be screened or have their belongings inspected and they are prepared to leave the state building immediately with their belongings, or if the PSO started to screen the entrant or inspect their belongings and the entrant does not want the screening or inspection to continue and they are prepared to leave that state building immediately with their belongings, or the entrant just leaves straightaway with their belongings.

A PSO, similar to a police officer, giving an oral direction must warn, if practicable, the person it is an offence to fail to comply with the direction without a reasonable excuse and give the person another opportunity to comply. Directions to leave a state building must only be given where the PSO reasonably suspects the requirement is necessary to maintain the security of that building. I believe the

changes being proposed in the bill are important. Our PSOs and police officers have at times a thankless job, and appreciation and respect is something they deserve. Having these clear requirements will increase public confidence in them.

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (4.33 pm), in reply: I would like to start by thanking all members who have made a contribution to the debate on the Police Service Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. This bill is pivotal for the Protective Services Group in the succession of transformations that this very hardworking group is undertaking. The first significant moment occurred with the Queensland Police Service assuming responsibility of the Protective Services Group. This aligned the Protective Services Group within an agency that is dedicated to providing safety for the public within Queensland. From that point Protective Services has moved from strength to strength through a range of root and branch improvements that has enhanced this group. This has included changes to all facets of Protective Services, including its recruitment practices, officer training, the provision of equipment, right through to policies and procedures. This bill plays its part in this process by improving the legislative framework that Protective Services relies upon.

I will take the opportunity now to address some of the issues raised by members during the debate. During the debate some members asked about how protective services officer numbers will be recorded in annual reports. The bill maintains the current provisions that specify that protective services officers are staff members within the Queensland Police Service, consequently the protective services officers will continue to be recorded as such. Police officer numbers will continue to be recorded separately in its current form. In short, there will be no confusion in determining the number of sworn police officers as compared to other Queensland Police Service staff, which includes protective services officers.

During the debate we heard some members, including the member for Bundaberg as well as others, talk about police numbers. The government has a very strong record when it comes to police numbers. For those opposite to raise police numbers is a bit dodgy. During their time in government 110 police officers lost their jobs. Hundreds of important frontline support officers who supported those police officers also lost their jobs. There was a big contrast at the last election. We went to the people of Queensland with a very clear plan about growing the police service by an historic number: over 2,000 extra police personnel by 2025. Those opposite went to the election with a commitment to not deliver as many as that; essentially to slash the number of police that our commitment would have delivered. Hundreds of officers would not now be part of the Queensland Police Service if those opposite had won the last election.

Mr Harper: And sell our North Queensland academy!

Mr RYAN: I take that interjection from the member for Thuringowa, a very strong advocate for Townsville and facilities in Townsville to support the police front line. When it comes to talking about police numbers, while those opposite are a bit dodgy on it, we are very solid, and we have the track record to support our solid commitment to the people of Queensland and the Queensland Police Service.

Some members also raised during the debate what security services will be offered by the Protective Services Group on a commercial basis to parties other than government, who those parties would be and how those services would be charged. I will go into this a little bit more because this is just a continuation of the existing arrangements under the current legislation. It reflects an arrangement that exists because of the nature of some government agencies. Some government agencies are separate independent statutory authorities, such as Legal Aid Queensland, so there has to be a commercial arrangement in place between the provision of the services that protective security officers provide and those agencies.

Currently the Protective Services Group is tasked with providing security services to state buildings. There is no plan to divert the attention of the Protective Services Group away from this important function. This government does not plan to utilise protective services officers for contractual work for private industry, but it is important to note that the Protective Services Group provides services to statutory bodies, as I have already mentioned, including Legal Aid Queensland. This amendment is simply a continuation of the existing provisions in the State Buildings Protective Security Act and allows these current commercial arrangements with those statutory authorities to continue. It is appropriate that this bill maintains this provision. As I have mentioned, it is incumbent on us to ensure that our organisations can act dynamically now and into the future. This provision creates a degree of futureproofing for Protective Services Group services to be offered to agencies.

Various members of the House have asked whether protective services officers will receive adequate training and funding. Current serving security officers have already been trained about the security powers that may be exercised in state buildings. The Protective Services Group considers that an additional one-week training period is sufficient to ensure those officers can act proficiently as protective services officers. New applicants wishing to become protective services officers will be required to successfully complete five weeks of initial training. That initial training includes components such as operational skills and tactics, corporate strategy and induction, technical knowledge, security legislation, policy and procedures, skills and capability training. In addition to that initial training, there will be opportunities to undertake further training and mandatory requirements to ensure that essential skills are consistently maintained.

Protective services officers will receive training equivalent to that of the current senior protective security officer, essentially reflecting an uplift in capability for the entire workforce. The Queensland Police Service is confident that that level of training will suitably prepare protective services officers to perform their duties. The Queensland Police Service is similarly confident that the level of funding for protective services officers is appropriate. Protective Services relies on a cost-recovery model to meet all operating costs. Protective Services does not intend to change its fees for the services it provides as a consequence of the proposed amendments. All costs will be met through existing budgets.

Finally, during the debate in the chamber there has been comment that if the increased integration of protective services officers into the Queensland Police Service results in even one extra sworn officer then we will have achieved a good result. I acknowledge the member for Burdekin who said that. We do have some good news about that as we are already seeing that career pathway, both at the front end and at the back end, which is important. We are already seeing the Protective Services Group being well integrated into the Queensland Police Service and providing that career pathway for sworn officers.

As an example, the Protective Services Group has been working with police recruiting to ensure that their pool of applicants for protective services officer positions is of the highest quality. Moreover, in circumstances where an applicant for police recruiting fulfils the selection criteria but is identified as a person requiring more life experience, there is an existing practice whereby police recruiting provides a list of those applicants to the Protective Services Group, and those applicants are invited to apply to become a protective services officer to develop the necessary life skills to then support their application to become a sworn officer of the Queensland Police Service. That practice has resulted in a number of protective security officers being successful in the police officer recruitment selection process at a later time.

During the debate, some comments were also raised about the training for protective services officers. One member said that he had concerns that protective services officers will not be adequately trained in the use of force if reasonably necessary in the course of their duties. Both protective security officers and senior protective security officers are already trained by the Queensland Police Service in those operational skills, as protective security officers are routinely relied upon to assist senior protective security officers to exercise their duties, which on occasion may require the use of force. As I have already indicated, protective services officers will be trained initially upon their induction and periodically throughout their career in operational skills. Those officers go through the same curriculum as serving police officers do for the accoutrements they use. I am very confident that the training they are provided by the Queensland Police Service will allow them to perform their role proficiently.

The member for Maiwar raised concerns about amendments in the bill that will allow a direction to leave to be given to trespassers or to a person who is acting inappropriately in a state building. Currently, senior protective security officers and police officers may use force to remove, from a state building, a person who has no good and lawful reason for being there. Although a police officer or a senior protective security officer may rely on move-on powers under the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act to give directions to a person who is in a public area of a state building if the person is disorderly or disruptive, there is no current express power to direct a trespasser to leave. Instead of relying on the use of force to resolve an incident, amendments in the bill will allow protective services officers and police officers to give a direction to leave to trespassers or to a person who is acting inappropriately in a state building. This is a less intrusive or confrontational method to resolve an incident than using physical force to remove that person. One would think that the member for Maiwar would support that. That allows the relevant person the option to leave when directed rather than facing the more serious consequences of being physically removed from a state building. Further, the bill introduces legislative safeguards that ensure the accountability of an officer who exercises this power. The exercise of the power would be considered to be an enforcement act requiring relevant information to be recorded in the register of enforcement acts.

Finally, this amendment is consistent with security powers already used in Queensland and other Australian jurisdictions. For example, the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 authorises security officers in Queensland hospitals to give directions to a person to leave health service land if it is reasonably believed that a person has no lawful or good reason for being present. I also note that New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia all make provision for directions to be given to people behaving inappropriately in certain government buildings, particularly in court precincts. Put simply, this amendment is a prudent measure designed to provide appropriate security for the safety of our state buildings.

I take this opportunity to thank the personnel who have worked on the development of this bill. In particular, I mention Assistant Commissioner Debbie Platz, the Executive Officer of the Security and Counter-Terrorism Command. I give a particular shout-out to Superintendent Keiryn Dermody, the Commander of the Protective Services Group. I know she is watching right now. She is very excited about this. I also acknowledge officers from the legislation branch of the Queensland Police Service who are always so diligent in not only preparing legislation but also engaging with stakeholders and ensuring that the bill reflects the intention of this parliament.

This bill is important. It will place Protective Services in the best position to continue its function of securing state buildings. I believe that the House has an obligation to ensure that our government agencies serve Queensland as efficiently and effectively as possible. This bill supports our Protective Services Group in ensuring that those agencies can go about their work safely and that people who use those services and visit the buildings where those services are provided can do so safely. This bill meets all of those obligations.

I take this opportunity to once again thank all members for contributing to the debate. I thank the parliamentary committee and the parliamentary staff. I commend the bill to the House and I encourage all members to support it.

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

Motion agreed to.


Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 69, as read, agreed to.

Schedule, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (4.48 pm): I move—


That the bill be now read a third time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (4.48 pm): I move—


That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

Question put—That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Portfolio Committees, Reporting Dates; Referral of Auditor-General's Reports

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (4.49 pm): I seek to advise the House of the determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 136, that the Health and Environment Committee

report on the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 1 July 2022 and that the State Development and Regional Industries Committee report on the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill by 1 July 2022.

The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 194B, that Auditor-General's report No. 14 of 2021-22, titled *State entities 2021*, be referred to the Economics and Governance Committee and that Auditor-General's report No. 15 of 2021-22, titled *Local government 2021*, be referred to the State Development and Regional Industries Committee.

MOTIONS

Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (4.51 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders, the Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts be permitted to immediately move a motion without notice regarding Queensland's fair share with the following time limits to apply—

- 5 minutes for the Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts;
- 5 minutes for the Leader of the Opposition (or nominee);
- 3 minutes for other members;
- with the question being put no later than 5.55 pm today.

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

AYES, 47:

ALP, 47—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, A. King, S. King, Linard, Lui, Madden, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

NOES, 30:

LNP, 30—Bates, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

Pairs: Hunt, Hart; Lauga, Bennett; Stewart, Millar.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Federal Morrison Government



Hon. LM ENOCH (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (4.55 pm): I move—

That this House:

1. notes that for 3,158 days Queensland has not received its fair share of funding under successive Liberal National Party coalition federal governments;
2. notes that Scott Morrison has failed Queensland by, but not limited to:
 - (a) failing on the NDIS and aged care;
 - (b) failing to give Queensland our fair share of healthcare funding;
 - (c) abandoning nearly 10,000 Queenslanders who rely on the National Rental Affordability Scheme;
 - (d) failing to hear the calls of Queensland for a national housing summit;
 - (e) providing New South Wales flood victims \$3,000 in assistance, while Queensland flood victims received \$1,000;
 - (f) delivering major infrastructure funding to the southern states while Queensland has missed out; and
3. encourages Queenslanders to support a federal government which will give Queensland our fair share.

The Morrison government has abandoned Queenslanders when it comes to social and affordable housing. Scott Morrison and the LNP are also stripping nearly \$100 million of funding to Queensland for housing and homelessness by 2023. The federal government only funds just over one-quarter of the \$1.25 billion the Palaszczuk government invests in social and affordable housing each year. They cannot even meet us halfway. Queensland is playing its part while the Morrison government have turned their back on Queenslanders. They have walked away from the national partnership for remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing to Queensland and the funding attached to it. They are

ceasing the National Rental Affordability Scheme, leaving over 10,000 Queenslanders paying more rent or having to find alternative housing. They have refused to forgive Queensland's historic housing debt, even though they have done exactly that for other states. If this debt were forgiven, starting tomorrow we could build an extra 950 social and affordable homes. Scott Morrison and the LNP do not even have a national housing strategy.

Since 2020 I have written to federal housing minister Michael Sukkar numerous times, including most recently imploring the Morrison government to reinstate NRAS and deliver housing relief for Queensland flood victims. I wrote to him in October last year, calling on the federal minister to convene a national housing summit—something the LGAQ and peak housing bodies have also called for. His response was crickets.

To add insult to injury, in the most recent federal budget the Morrison LNP government announced no new funding for remote Indigenous housing, no replacement for the expiring National Rental Affordability Scheme and no new funding for social and affordable housing—in fact, no plan at all regarding social housing. Scott Morrison and the LNP need to deliver for Queenslanders—not cut funding to programs aimed at supporting the most vulnerable in our communities.

The stress on housing and rental markets across Australia is very real. It is also symptomatic of broader market pressures, and these are long-standing national issues. Who has been at the helm at the federal level for the better part of the past decade? The federal Liberal National Party.

We have seen no leadership or vision from the Morrison government. We know that when Scott Morrison is confronted with a challenge his natural response is, 'It's not my job, mate.' Scott Morrison's leadership failures have been on full display as he has repeatedly undermined Queenslanders experiencing housing stress. What is he doing for the hundreds and thousands of federal government tenants who are supported through rent assistance? What did he say to low-income renters hit hard by cost-of-living pressures? 'Go buy a house.' The Prime Minister is just so out of touch.

I want to take a moment to explain the real-life impacts of the LNP abandoning NRAS and the impact this will have on the lives of vulnerable Queenslanders. The termination of NRAS subsidies will see some 10,000 Queensland households forced to compete for a home in a historically tight private rental market. That is 264 families in the member for Buderim's electorate paying more rent or at risk of losing their home. That is 422 families in the member for Coomera's electorate paying more rent or at risk of losing their home. That is 298 families in the member for Kawana's electorate paying more rent or at risk of losing their home. For the member for Everton's electorate, that is 32 homes that will be impacted by this decision by his mates in Canberra. This is unacceptable.

At every turn Queenslanders have been undermined by Scott Morrison. Queensland is doing the heavy lifting, but those opposite have not stood with the Palaszczuk government in advocating for a fair deal and a fair share. Just like Scott Morrison, they have failed Queenslanders. They have not gone in to bat for Queenslanders under housing stress. They have not fought for Queensland's fair share on a single thing. It is only the Palaszczuk government that fights for Queensland and its fair share. We will continue to do that every day that the Palaszczuk government is in office in Queensland. Queensland deserves a government at the federal level that fights for them and fixes these housing issues.

(Time expired)



Mr MANDER (Everton—LNP) (5.00 pm): We have been waiting for it all week and we have come to their very last opportunity. They are so predictable. What a pathetic motion from a pathetic government. This is a government that cannot take responsibility for the portfolios that it has been given responsibility for. There is no greater example of this than in the housing portfolio.

I will tell members what we want our fair share of? What we want our fair share of in the housing sector is funding from the National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation—a billion dollar fund that the federal government created to lend to community housing organisations. This minister and this government does not value community housing organisations and has not built the capacity of community housing organisations so they would have enough leverage to get the much needed money to build more affordable housing.

What has Queensland received over the last couple of years from NHFIC? It has received a lousy \$5 million compared to the hundreds of millions of dollars that have been given to community housing organisations in New South Wales and Victoria, Western Australia and South Australia where there are Labor governments. In fact, we are alone in this country in not being able to access those funds because our community housing organisations have not been built or been trusted to be powerful enough to get that funding.

Coincidentally, this afternoon I spoke with one of the heads of a community housing organisation?

Ms Enoch: Which one?

Mr MANDER: No, I will not tell you. They know that you will come after them. That is exactly what you will do. You will come after them.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! Member for Everton, you will direct your comments through the chair or you will be warned.

Mr MANDER: I will take that interjection because this vindictive government goes after anybody who speaks against them. The community housing organisations will not say a word because they know their future depends on this minister's grace.

The head of that organisation said to me today, 'Tim, under this current government I doubt whether community housing organisations in this state will still be viable in five years time.' What they will do is drive out the organisations that are the answer to the problem we have. The federal government is not the problem. The federal government has supplied a billion dollar fund. Until this government changes its philosophy with regard to social and affordable housing nothing will happen.


Those 50,000 people on the public housing waiting list will be waiting and waiting and the list will grow and grow. Over the last seven years of this government the increase in social housing bedrooms is less than one per cent and the waiting list has continued to expand. The frightening thing about that is that 70 per cent of those people waiting are regarded as in very high need. We are hearing of people who have never had housing stress before looking for housing.

I do not know whether members saw *Current Affair* last night? There is no greater example than some of those people who come from the Premier's electorate of Inala. The constituents were saying how out of touch the Premier is. Then we have the Treasurer who pretends that he can associate with the people of Woodridge, the people of his electorate.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection. The Treasurer says he understands the challenges of the people of Woodridge. What has happened in his electorate in the last four years? There have been two extra social housing bedrooms over the last five years.

We have wait two years and five months to get rid of this government. It is only an LNP government at a state level that will be able to deliver in housing. This government and this minister have failed miserably.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (5.06 pm): Everywhere I go across Queensland people talk to me about labour shortages. It does not matter what sector, it does not matter what region; people talk to me about labour shortages. In energy, mining, tourism, hospitality—you name it—that is what they are talking about. When we have those conversations we immediately understand the challenges for employers and for the economy at large in Queensland.


When we talk to employers in human services who are looking after vulnerable people that is when we know the despair they face around whether they can even provide basic human rights and dignity to the most vulnerable people in Queensland. This is a problem for us now and it is a problem for us in the future. We have projections that we will need 280,000 new jobs in Queensland by 2025. We simply have to come up with some solutions for that. Skills and training are absolutely front and centre of those solutions.

The choice on 21 May between a Morrison and an Albanese government is very clear; it is stark. After 18 months of negotiating in good faith with the federal government around the national skills agreement we still have no resolution when it comes to our major concerns with regard to the provision of skills and training in Queensland. We go to the election knowing that there will be massive fee hikes if the Morrison government wins power on 21 May. The impact of their government will be absolutely catastrophic.

This morning I gave some examples. We know that if someone wants to train in child care they are facing a possible fee increase of 950 per cent. If someone wants to train to look after people in the disability or aged-care areas, they are looking at a possible fee increase of 600 per cent. We know that

where there are fee hikes people will simply walk away. These are some of the lowest paid people in our state and country. They simply cannot afford to be paying those sorts of fees. They will walk away from these sectors.

When I talk to the lady whose husband is a quadriplegic and needs 24-hour care and who cannot find enough people to fill the four rosters, has to cobble together friends and neighbours to help and stay up all night herself; when I talk to the young women who found maggots in her grandmother's wound in the nursing home; when I talk to the family of the young man who has been in hospital for three years because he could not find a facility to take him because he requires such high care and there are no staff trained to take him—what do I say to them about where there is hope? I do not say to vote for the Morrison government because they are going to wipe out the workforce in this state for those people who need them the most. We need an Albanese government because they are going to look after Queenslanders.

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (5.09 pm): I would like to remind the housing minister and the Attorney-General that domestic and family violence is the No. 1 contributing risk to homelessness for women. I recently visited the Gold Coast, and this Queensland Labor government should hang its head in shame. There are vulnerable, high-risk women across this state sleeping in their cars with their children and their pets because there are not enough placements in refuges. There are women and children who have been in refuges for 12 to 18 months because there is no social housing, there is no community housing, and because of a lack of confidence in this Queensland Labor government there is no free market opportunity either.


Mr Harper interjected.

Ms CAMM: I will take that interjection from the member for Thuringowa. The member should be ashamed—I am sure he will take personal offence—about the number of women sleeping in their cars in Far North Queensland. I meet with DV services across this state, and I hear from women's refuges that this government is facilitating a revolving door of women who have no choice but to return to their perpetrators because there are no housing options for them.

Mr Mander: Disgraceful!

Ms CAMM: It is disgraceful. When our numbers continue to climb it is because this government has failed to provide women with a safe place to go. The Scott Morrison government has invested more Commonwealth money in domestic and family violence and housing provisions than any other government. In 2019 in my own community there was \$78 million on the table for refuges across our state and our nation. What did this Labor government do? It decided not to fund the operations for a refuge. The Salvation Army had no choice but to decline the federal government's funding to build another refuge in Mackay.

I say to the minister: it is your job, mate, to make sure that women are protected. I say to the minister for small business that your impact is catastrophic. When a woman dies because she has nowhere safe to live, I hope the minister is proud about the funding she rejected from the federal government. We can talk about a choice in 20-something days, but in October 2024 there will be a choice. This housing crisis will be worse because there will be more women at risk, there will be fewer places for people to live, and this minister will be held to account.

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (5.12 pm): This country needs a federal government that recognises that an aged-care facility is a health facility. Aged-care facilities are health facilities and they are the responsibility of the federal government. We need a federal government that does not think having a registered nurse on shift in an aged-care facility is a luxury. We need a federal government that sees it as the right of all those residents in aged-care facilities.

We need a federal government that does not allow for over 500 long-stay patients in Queensland hospitals. That is simply not good enough. It is not good enough that, in my community of Bundaberg, as of last week we have 10 long-stay patients—10 people who are medically fit for discharge—who should not be in the hospital. They should be in an aged-care facility or under an NDIS accommodation support package. It is not okay that there are people in my community who are not able to have the surgery they need because beds are being taken up because of the Scott Morrison federal government health crisis that is sweeping all across Queensland and Australia. It simply is not good enough.


It is not good enough that I have nurses in our hospitals coming to me in tears blaming Scott Morrison. Let me tell you, those are the same nurses who were crying tears when they were sacked by the state LNP under Campbell Newman. So many of them still linger around the front bench of this

opposition. Carolyn Ward stood up with me, Senator Murray Wyatt and Matt Burnett, Labor's candidate for Flynn, when we announced an urgent critical care unit in Bundaberg to relieve pressure on the emergency department. Carolyn broke down in tears when the journo asked, 'Is this a state government problem?' She said, 'No, it's a Scott Morrison failure.' That is what is putting pressure on our nurses. That is what is putting pressure on our health system.

What about the fact they walked away from flood victims—not just recent flood victims, but flood victims from Bundaberg in 2013—refusing to fund the No. 1 flood mitigation project in this state. Instead, they give three projects up in the Far North to Bob Katter. Bob Katter has worked very hard for that—that is fine—but how do you not support the No. 1 or No. 2 flood mitigation project in Queensland? It is simply not good enough.

We have a federal member in Hinkler who is giving \$40 million to his Fraser Coast council mates to build a new Taj Mahal so his council mates can look out over K'gari and see the wonderful view. Meanwhile, the next time a flood comes 600 properties in my community will be inundated by floodwaters. Schools will be inundated. We will be completely forgotten again if this Scott Morrison government remains. We need a new federal government in Queensland.

(Time expired)


 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (5.15 pm): Who on earth are they going to blame if there is a change of government, because ultimately service delivery and infrastructure construction are the responsibilities of the state government.

A lady with ovarian cancer came to see me because her category 1 surgery had been cancelled twice. You cannot blame the federal government for that: it is this Labor government. I went to bat for her and we fought to get her an operation. A local member should not have to do that. The system should work. Someone with ovarian cancer, who is in pain and does not know what their prognosis will be even with the surgery, should not have their surgery cancelled twice. This happened in the last few weeks. After she finally got that operation she said to me, 'Do you know what? They said, "You don't have cancer."' This is after she went down to Brisbane from the Sunshine Coast for this operation in the public sector under this government. She had to go through it all again!

What on earth is going on with this mob? You cannot run a chook raffle, and it is costing people's lives. We have seen it with ambulance ramping. You cannot blame the federal government for that. It is this government's responsibility. Do your job! You cannot blame the federal government. That dear woman with ovarian cancer who needed category 1 surgery, who was in pain, had her surgery cancelled twice. Finally she got her operation, but at what cost was the delay? How many others are there? Do your job, Labor government. Labor ministers cannot blame other people for their ineptitude.

Let's talk about other issues with infrastructure delivery. We know that ultimately the federal government can hand over money to the state government to deliver infrastructure, but this Labor government has been slow to roll it out. We have seen that \$1.6 billion has been offered by the federal government for the Queensland Sunshine Coast rail extension to Maroochydore. It needs the state government to step up and do its job because rail projects have to be delivered by the state government. Still we see this government trying to blame everybody else. Instead of saying, 'Great, let's get on with it. Let's build this rail', they are playing politics. We have seen the same situation with the rail duplication to the Sunshine Coast. The federal government stepped in and provided 50 per cent of the funding for that duplication. Even though it is not their role to fund that particular type of infrastructure, they have done it. Still this government is late in rolling it out. Do your job. Pick up your act. Infrastructure costs are blowing out in this state because Labor mates have a favourite corridor they walk in the shadows where they get their deals done and they get paid for it.

(Time expired)


 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (5.18 pm): I support this motion. Next weekend Australians have a great opportunity to kick this bumbling, stumbling Morrison government out of office and put the missed opportunities of the last decade behind us. The last nine years have seen wages stagnate, climate change action grind to a halt, infrastructure money for Queensland pushed off again and again, and excuses piling up. This Abbott-Truss, Turnbull-Truss, Turnbull-Joyce, Turnbull-McCormack, Morrison-McCormack, Morrison-Joyce government has run out of puff. This government has spent the last decade being dragged kicking and screaming to every hard decision along the way. From net zero to same sex marriage to royal commissions into the banking sector, aged care and veteran suicides, this government only acts when it is forced to.

Australia has dragged this government along behind itself, not the other way around. The rot started early. Tony Abbott's first budget in 2014 still sends shivers up the spines of many Australians. It is no wonder it was roundly condemned—from funding cuts to the ABC to Peter Dutton's \$7 GP tax. This government got off on the wrong foot and they have not learnt from there. Then we had Malcolm Turnbull—the man who invented the internet but could not give us more than a Third World NBN.

I suppose Abbott and Turnbull stood for something which they will be remembered for—good or bad, but mostly bad—but Scott Morrison's time as Prime Minister will be remembered for his lethargy, not his ideology. He was too slow to act on the banking royal commission, too slow to order vaccines, too slow to pick up the phone to Pfizer, too slow to order RATs and too slow to call the election so we could be done of this sad and tired federal government.

They treat our local communities with contempt. In the part of the north side where I live, the candidate who the LNP are putting up—and, most importantly, are still actively endorsing and supporting—has been referred to the AFP for what looks like a pretty clear case of alleged electoral fraud. When asked about it yesterday, the Prime Minister said, 'I would say that has nothing to do with me.' That is classic Scott Morrison—absolute classic. His corflutes are still up, his volunteers are still handing out for him and he still wants to represent our area. What a disgrace.


It is never Scott Morrison's job; it is never his fault. This is the fourth candidate we have had there in three years. Three of their candidates have not even made it to a polling booth to be able to hand out their own how-to-vote flyers. There is something seriously crook with the LNP party machine in Queensland, and specifically in north Brisbane. This is what they keep serving up to our community. It is classic Scott Morrison to wash his hands of this, with zero taking of responsibility. Disaster responses are not his job, and he only ever considers flooding to be serious when it starts raining on Sydney Harbour. Queensland flood victims will not forget that he values them a third as much as he does flood victims in New South Wales. This federal government needs to go, and there is a great chance to do so next Saturday.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (5.21 pm): It is pretty telling when the speaker who I have to follow does not even have enough enthusiasm to get behind their candidates. What about showing a bit of enthusiasm in the speech and then we might be able to believe that these jokers over there actually know what they are talking about. What on earth is going to happen if those jokers get in federally? Who are they going to blame then? Who will it be? They cannot blame Canberra if they get in. I do not think those on the other side of the chamber have a clue because the majority of them have never been in opposition. They sit there and think, 'We can blame someone else,' but what they need to do is have a look in their own backyards. Who are they going to blame? They ripped down Paradise Dam, and it was the federal Morrison government that had to step in and help fund that. These jokers ripped down the dam wall.

Let me talk about health services. Let me talk about Emerald, and I know the member for Gregory is talking about this. The federal Morrison government handed \$10 million to this incompetent Palaszczuk government for the health department over 12 months ago. They gave it to them to upgrade the Emerald emergency centre. I can tell the House that the people of Emerald and Central Queensland deserve that upgraded emergency centre. What has happened to it? Who would know?

An opposition member interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It is probably sitting in consolidated revenue; I will take that point. Wouldn't the people of Central Queensland love an upgraded emergency centre? Where are these jokers? The health minister is probably still counting the 58,000 people on the emergency wait list for surgery like the member for Maroochydore talked about. Someone with ovarian cancer, in high need of an operation, gets knocked back and she has to go to her local member. Who are these jokers blaming? They are trying to blame the federal government. I have got news for the Palaszczuk government. It is their job to fix the health system. It was a basket case when Anna Bligh lost government. It is a basket case once again. Why? Because Labor cannot manage health. The only people who can manage health in this state is the LNP.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (5.24 pm): I stand to speak in favour of the motion. I want to start off with this observation. Yes, it is true that we have not been in opposition. I have to say that we are blessed to have an opposition of the quality of the LNP over there. We are blessed to have them as our opponents. I thank the political powers every day for having them on the other side.


Have there been any successes for the federal LNP? Let us try to be generous. Have they had any successes? Let us look at the areas of their traditional strengths. Let us look at what they have done in the economy. This is the same crew that doubled the national debt before we actually had

COVID. They taxed more, borrowed more and spent more than the previous Labor government and achieved much less. This is a mob who have prided themselves on keeping wages down as an economic lever. That is absolutely disgraceful. At a time when ordinary Australians need that pay rise, they still pride themselves on their ability to keep wages down.

Let us look at another area of their traditional strengths. What have they delivered in the area of national defence? That is a woeful failure as well. They have taken their eye off the ball, and what happened? 'Look, someone sold off the Darwin port to the Chinese. How did that happen?' What else have they done? They took their eye off the ball when it came to the Solomon Islands. They were warned in August last year that something was afoot, but their reaction was, 'No. Nothing to see here.' They failed on that one as well. Might I say too that they wasted over \$5 billion on submarines that we will not see for a long time. In terms of failure, that is a pretty big one.

Mr McCallum interjected.

Mr WHITING: Sacrebleu, indeed. I promise not to go into French again this week. One of the things we also have to look at is what they have done in aged care. There is a reason why aged-care workers went on strike yesterday; it is because their wages are not up to par. The federal LNP have been silent on what the Productivity Commission has recommended to make the aged-care industry healthy again. Their failure on aged care means we have had 500 people in our hospitals who should have been in aged care. That includes 108 people in the Metro North area. They really are a failure. That should be in the dictionary—LNP equals failure.

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (5.27 pm): I sometimes wonder about the strategic minds of the Labor Party. They come up with a motion like this. Again, it betrays that they have got no legislative agenda. They get to five o'clock on a Thursday afternoon, and the mover of the motion—I will not reflect, Mr Deputy Speaker—cannot be here. They get to the end of the day. This actually reminded me of what happened back in 2019, when we were inflicted with a range of speeches—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member, there is a convention about not reflecting on the absence of a member. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr JANETZKI: I withdraw. In 2019 we were inflicted with a range of speeches. I remember we heard from the members for Redcliffe, Woodridge and Sandgate, and we heard all about candidates like Zac Beers, Ali France, Des Hardman and Corinne Mulholland. On and on they would drone about these candidates, wasting time. Here we are again on a Thursday afternoon on the eve of a federal election and they want to have a debate about a fair share. I think we know all about a fair share on this side of the House, and those of us particularly from regional Queensland would love to have a debate about our fair share.

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: My guess is the member for Southern Downs would like to. What is that project you want?


Mr Lister: Emu Swamp Dam.

Mr JANETZKI: Emu Swamp Dam, and we hear about it day after day in this House because all we want is our fair share.

I am sure the member for Lockyer has a water project, too, and the member for Nanango—all the regional MPs. In fact, as the member for Nanango has just mentioned, wouldn't the member for Gregory love to see delivered a \$10 million investment given to this state government by the feds? Wouldn't it be great to see our fair share? We know all about a fair share on this side of the House—not to mention the inner-city members of our team who want to see road upgrades and health upgrades.

I want to take the last little bit of my time to talk about a fair share in my patch. How about a fair share for the Toowoomba Hospital? We have been waiting decades! We have had minister after minister from that side of the House come to Toowoomba and talk about 'a brand new hospital'—a brand new hospital befitting a growing community and the need for 21st century health care. It is time for our fair share.

This federal government has delivered plenty for Queensland. Never forget that that side of the House during COVID, in our hour of need, per gross domestic product, spent the least of any state in the country. We want our fair share for regional Queensland.

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (5.30 pm): It is quite right what the member for Toowoomba South said: we do need our fair share in Queensland, and it is about time we had the Albanese Labor government to deliver it. It has been a long 3,158 days for Queensland. There have been 3,158 days of darkness for Queensland under this dreadful Abbott-Turnbull-McCormack-Dutton-Morrison-Joyce government.


I thought Tony Abbott was a low point when it came to prime ministers. Malcolm Turnbull seemed like he was scraping the bottom of the barrel, but Scott Morrison plumbs new depths. At the end of the day it comes back to character. The Prime Minister is arrogant. He is a bully. He is stubborn. He refuses to apologise. He hates Queenslanders. He is toxic. There is a reason that LNP members and candidates for the federal election cannot take the Prime Minister anywhere. He certainly is not visible in Longman, where our federal MP is one of Morrison's most bumbling marginal backbenchers. He is nowhere to be seen in Dickson; it is a dark day for the federal LNP when Scott Morrison is a drag on Peter Dutton's vote.

The Prime Minister has utterly failed Queenslanders when it comes to health. It is not just that he has not given us our fair share of health funding; it is the Palaszczuk Labor government that does the heavy lifting time after time to deliver better health care for Queenslanders. The contrast is massive. In and around Pumicestone we are delivering almost half a billion dollars in new health and hospital infrastructure, but local people cannot even get in to see a GP. I have been working and calling for action on this ever since I was elected, and nothing has changed. People are waiting months for a GP appointment due to the federal government's cuts to our DPA status.

We have heard that they have failed on housing. We are investing \$2.9 billion in Queensland housing, but Scott Morrison's cuts to NRAS will see 140 families in my electorate out on the street. He told renters who are struggling to pay the rent to 'just go and buy a house'.

More than anything, Scott Morrison has failed women right across Queensland, and that is why his support amongst women is tanking. He refused to back the *Respect@work* report. He said that women who participated in the March 4 Justice were lucky not to be met by bullets. His protection racket for his ministers who have been accused of improper conduct is legendary. There has been his tone-deaf bullying and backgrounding towards Grace Tame and Brittany Higgins, a young woman who was an adviser in his own government. There is his lack of support for the aged-care workers, mostly women, who work so hard to care for elderly Queenslanders. Scott Morrison will not take responsibility, he will not give Queenslanders our fair share and we need to say goodbye to Scott Morrison.

(Time expired)

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (5.34 pm): How many times do we have to say it to those opposite? The state government runs public hospitals! That is the government's job, yet those on the benches opposite seem to have forgotten it. Instead, it is everybody else's problem: it is the Commonwealth, it is our GPs and it is even our patients. Nobody has been spared from this government's bid to lay the blame somewhere else. Here is a novel idea: do your job. Do the job the state government is elected to do. Don't finger-point. Don't buck-pass. Do your job! Don't shirk it. Do your job! Fix what is going on around Queensland's public hospitals.

Queensland Health is in crisis; that is now a well-known fact. Here in Queensland, ambulance ramping is the worst in the country. Let me repeat that: ambulance ramping in Queensland is the worst in the country. That has been widely reported and accepted. Dozens of ambulance vehicles with police cars are now ramped outside our hospitals. Yes, that is right—police cars, too. So significant are the government's own problems that the effects of the Queensland health crisis are spilling over to other emergency services.

We have not even seen any new data in nearly six months. The numbers for December are the last we have. I wonder why. I doubt it is because the numbers are getting better. Why has the ramping gone through the roof? In Queensland we do not have enough beds.


The Treasurer was out and about again recently spouting his drivel about our healthcare system. He kept saying 'scandalous' this and 'scandalous' that. Here is something scandalous for you, Treasurer: your government has ripped \$400 million from our health system's front line. That is \$400 million from our hospital and health services in the last 30 years. Shame! How is that for a scandal?

What about when the Treasurer was asked about whether he had any regrets for failing to plan for growth in our health system? 'Not at all.' Those were the first words from the Treasurer's mouth when he answered that question: 'Not at all.' Really? What was the Treasurer thinking? The AMAQ is

saying we are 1,500 beds short, the Police Union is saying we are 2,000 beds short, and then the Treasurer, when asked if he had any regret about planning for better long-term growth in the health system saying, 'Not at all.' Those were the first words that he could blurt out. Unbelievable! You could not make up this stuff.

That is what is happening right now in Queensland, yet this tired, old, third-term government will not listen. They blame but they do not listen. They point the finger but they do not act. It is time they looked in the mirror. They are losing control of Queensland Health, and Queenslanders are paying the price.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Before I call the next speaker, I remind the member for Currumbin that you cannot interject unless you are in your own seat. I will warn members in future.

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (5.36 pm): Queenslanders do deserve their fair share from the federal government. They have not been getting it from the Morrison LNP government. We have not been getting it when it comes to health. We have not been getting it when it comes to renewable energy. Here in Queensland we have a renewable energy boom. We have over 50 large-scale projects which represent over \$10.7 billion of investment, delivering 7,900 jobs, mostly in regional areas, and over 5,000 megawatts of clean, cheap renewable energy to Queensland homes and businesses. Combined with rooftop solar, we have more than 7,200 megawatts of renewable capacity which is putting downward pressure on electricity prices. What we do not have here in Queensland is any support whatsoever from the federal Morrison government when it comes to investing in renewable energy. They have not been able to sign a bilateral agreement. Is it any wonder that we have no support whatsoever? They have had 22 goes at a national energy policy and botched every single one of them.

The former member for Callide has left this place and is running for the seat of Flynn. The Prime Minister and the LNP have had a moment of clarity. After being anti-renewables for so long, backed up by the LNP here in this place, they have had a moment of clarity and all of a sudden they believe in net zero. The only problem is that the candidate for Flynn, along with Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce and Senator Matt Canavan, does not believe in it.

The LNP are riven when it comes to energy policy. They always have been and they absolutely always will be. However, there is a choice. There is a very clear and stark choice when it comes to this election. A federal Labor Albanese government will offer a plan for over 604,000 secure jobs with good wages in the energy industry, investing in 10,000 new energy apprentices, committing to rebuild and upgrade the failing electricity grid that we need in places like New South Wales and Victoria so we can export our renewable energy, making electric vehicles cheaper and more accessible with incentives and allocating up to \$3 billion to invest in green metals, steel, alumina and aluminium.

(Time expired)


 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (5.40 pm): Isn't that just what we would expect on the eve of a sitting week: another opportunity to blame someone else for their own shortcomings and failures? Let me remind the House it is the Queensland state government's job to build and provide public housing. That is their job. It is their job to encourage and manage supply through good planning controls and through strategic planning. What we saw in the Queensland state government budget last year under housing was a rough amount. At the time of estimates there was not even the detail of the capital works plans—the comprehensive plans—for more public housing and supported housing across the state.

Do honourable members know what the role of the federal government is? They provide thousands of Queenslanders with rental assistance. They provide that funding through welfare payments, NDIS packages and aged-care packages. It is the role of the Queensland state government to build and plan. What did the previous housing minister of this government do a couple of years ago when first elected? The first thing he did was cancel renewal projects in Logan and on the Gold Coast at Keebra Park and down at Andrews, adjacent to the member for Mudgeeraba's electorate. He cancelled innovative plans to see a significant increase in public housing and affordable housing for the people of South-East Queensland. What else did he do? He made a big shiny announcement about a \$1.8 billion plan to increase public housing across Queensland over 10 years. That is the thing we have to do with this Labor government; we always have to check the fine print. It was over 10 years. What did that mean at the time? In real terms it actually meant a decrease in spending on capital works for public housing.

In the recent hearings that I have participated in for the health inquiry and more recently the Mental Health Select Committee, what we have heard time and time again from health service providers across the state is that one of the greatest challenges is finding somewhere for people to live. Providing

people with security and a roof over their head is the first and most fundamental need of Queenslanders. What we have seen with this government is an absolute failure to deliver significant public housing. We have seen the super funds raided. We have seen massive dividends from energy sales to New South Wales and Victoria, but we have not seen a significant lift in investment in public housing in this state.

(Time expired)


 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (5.43 pm): I support this motion. I draw the House's attention to the neglect and abuse experienced by our senior Queenslanders as a result of a failed aged-care system under the Scott Morrison LNP government. The Morrison government have now neglected our older Australians and the aged-care system for the best part of a decade. On their watch we are witnessing an aged-care crisis marred by underpaid and exhausted workers and the neglect of aged-care residents due to an underfunded and neglected system. Queenslanders deserve better. The seniors who helped build this country deserve better. Queensland aged-care workers, who are fighting for improved conditions and their fair share in wages, deserve better.

As disability minister, I hold grave concerns about the crisis in the federally run NDIS, and I am not the only one. I share that concern with every other state and territory in this nation, including the Liberal run states. Despite the fact that the Queensland government contributes more than \$2.2 billion a year to support NDIS for Queenslanders, Queenslanders continue to struggle to access the supports they need to live a good life. I regularly hear appalling accounts of aged-care and NDIS participants languishing in hospital beds instead of being moved to more appropriate care in the community, a level of care and dignity that they deserve. I know of one NDIS patient who waited in a hospital bed for 11 months because of the bureaucratic red tape of the NDIS.

Thanks to Scott Morrison's mismanagement of the NDIS, there are more than 500 long-stay patients struggling to transition out of Queensland hospitals into NDIS supported accommodation. Some SDA providers have been waiting hundreds of days to get patients out of hospitals and into appropriate housing because of the failure of the NDIS. These are properties that are built, that are ready to roll, that have clients earmarked to go into them and it takes hundreds of days. In fact, I heard of one interstate that took 590 days to get a person shifted in there. Absolutely disgraceful! Taxpayers make their contribution and we want our fair share of returns.

Scott Morrison's tired government has run out of ideas. They do not value the NDIS. They inherited one of the best life-changing capacity-building policies of our time and they have squandered it. They have turned it into a massive, overburdened, overregulated disaster, which is almost directly opposite to its original values.

Yet again voters in Queensland are heading to the polls with that bitter taste in their mouths; they know they have been duded. They have been done over again by the Scott Morrison government and denied our fair share in funding. Queenslanders with a disability deserve better. NDIS workers deserve better. Investors wanting to build SDAs deserve better.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (5.46 pm): This government might think they are clever springing a motion like this on us. They all have their speeches written, but I do not need any preparation. I have it all down pat. I know every word by heart. Emu Swamp Dam—I see the minister sitting over there. Won't he tell us when they are going to approve Emu Swamp Dam?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Comments through the chair, please, member.

Mr LISTER: The federal government has contributed almost \$200 million to that project, yet the state government has contributed nothing but a measly \$13.6 million and we have not even seen all of that. The state government has to approve the project before it can proceed. The federal government has given us almost \$200 million towards that project, a project that will provide a secure water supply for the industry that provides jobs and prosperity for the people I represent. When we talk about a fair share, I ask: when is the state government going to come up with its fair share? When is this state government going to approve Emu Swamp Dam?


Mr Stevens: What has Albo promised them?

Mr LISTER: Albo's promises? 'Each way' Albo? I would not have a clue what he has been up to. Is it any wonder that the federal government looks at this rump and says, 'Why would we want to write them a blank cheque? Just because you say you need the extra money does not mean you've earned it.' I think of \$111 million to unprivatise two prisons. I think of \$250,000 to rename a hospital. I think about \$100,000 for weight loss for dogs. I think about \$45 million for a bike track to link two Labor electorates in Brisbane. So when the federal government looks at this Labor government in Queensland

do honourable members think they are inclined to say, 'Oh yes, whatever you want. We'll keep subsidising your incompetence.' I do not think so. I think the federal government is not at all entertained by the financial management of the Labor government in Queensland.

I think about roads. We offer an 80-20 split to the Queensland government for funding roads in my electorate. If the federal government will provide 80 per cent of the cost of fixing the Cunningham Highway or the New England Highway in my electorate, why will the state government not accept it? They talk about their share, but they are only paying 20 per cent.

My constituents are saying to me, 'What about the housing crisis?' I can tell them that the housing crisis we see is all the doing of this Labor government because of the socialist inspired interventions in the housing market that have scared away homeowners who do not want to rent their places in case they are stuck with a bad tenant, in case they have a tenant who goes and modifies the property to any standard beneath that which requires council approval. There are no more people going out to invest in the housing market. They have been scared off and this is what has caused the housing crisis. This is a disaster of the state government's own making. For them to come in here and trot out the falsehoods that this is something to do with the federal government is disastrous; it is alarming. How can we take a single word that this government says seriously—this odious rump that sits over there?

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (5.49 pm): Before I speak to the motion, I acknowledge in the gallery a predecessor of mine and a four-time minister and attorney-general, Matt Foley. It is great to have you here, Matt.

An honourable member interjected.

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

Mr BAILEY: It is an honour to have in the chamber a man who was instrumental in getting rid of the gerrymander in Queensland as a result of the Fitzgerald inquiry. What an honour.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: We are almost there, folks. Let us just try to keep some order until we get there.

Mr BAILEY: They pretend to support the Fitzgerald inquiry, but there are the interjections—actions, not words. This motion should be voted for unanimously. If we had an opposition that stood up for Queensland and stood up to Canberra, it would be a no-brainer to back in this state for our fair share and yet we get those opposite who are Morrison apologists who will back in anything—a falling Prime Minister. This Prime Minister is on his way down because people have worked him out. Whether it is inflation, whether it is the power price surges, whether it is the trillion dollars in debt, whether it is the federal ICAC absence, whether it is his trip to Hawaii—remember him deserting the country during the bushfires and then making people shake his hand involuntarily—this is a Prime Minister who has denied this state our fair share in infrastructure funding.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members will cease the hand gestures.


Mr BAILEY: Cross River Rail is 100 per cent funded by this government after those opposite cut it and the federal government would not contribute to it. It would not fund the M1 on the same basis that it funds other infrastructure, but then quietly it slipped money to it after we had agreed to it. With regard to the Sunshine Coast duplication of the rail line, again it did not give us the NTLN funding for that. One of the worst things—and it is probably not the biggest from a dollar point of view—is how dare it give Queensland flood victims one-third of the short-term financial support of someone in New South Wales. What kind of a heartless—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr BAILEY: This is a Prime Minister who forgot to order the vaccines, who shirked his responsibility on quarantine, who stole the RATs from Queensland Rail and did not order those either, who was slow to respond to the floods here and whose government even gave \$20 million to the Darwin port to sell it off to Chinese interests and then of course there is the Solomon Islands. This—

(Time expired)

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (5.52 pm): I rise to condemn this motion. This tired, lazy, third-term Labor government was elected with no ideas and what we have seen tonight is that it still does not have any ideas. It looks to blame anyone it can, and let us look at the portfolio of the member for Miller. Let us take a drive from parliament back up the Bruce Highway to my electorate of Glass House.

The Linkfield Road overpass is only happening because of Luke Howarth and Peter Dutton. Strathpine Road-Old Gympie Road is only happening because of Luke Howarth and Peter Dutton. The Deception Bay Road overpass is only happening because of Luke Howarth and Terry Young. The study into the Bruce Highway western alternative through Caboolture West—a planning development put forward by the Labor government—is only happening because it has federal funding.

Today I join Mayor Peter Flannery of Moreton Bay Regional Council in congratulating Terry Young on a significant announcement in Morayfield—\$100 million towards the Buchanan Road upgrade overpass and duplication. This is a \$200 million council project that is going to duplicate Buchanan Road from the Bruce Highway through to Morayfield Road. It is going to get rid of a floodway under the rail corridor. It is going to get rid of that nightmare of an intersection at Morayfield Railway Station. What does the mayor say? He says—

So I want to thank Terry Young for not only listening to calls from Council and our community, but for going down to Canberra and forcing those decision makers to listen to us too.

This project will not only benefit the tens of thousands of residents and shoppers passing through, but also to lifestyles of people in surrounding areas who regularly find themselves in traffic gridlock.

Terry's announcement will help us get ahead of our road infrastructure needs before the population boom arrives.

That is something that this minister never achieved, so let us keep going up the highway. In terms of the Beerburrum to Nambour rail duplication, the minister claims that he did not get his fair share. He got more than his fair share and now when Andrew Wallace and Ted O'Brien, the members for Fisher and Fairfax, put on the table \$1.6 billion to take the rail from Beerwah to Maroochydore, where is the minister?

Mr O'Connor: Nowhere!

Mr POWELL: Nowhere! Fair share? The minister and his Labor government are getting far more than their fair share and they just do not want to admit it. They know that every project that is occurring between here and the electorate of Glass House and up the entire length of the Queensland coast is only happening because of the federal Morrison government. I will take Scott Morrison over Anthony Albanese any day. I will take Josh Frydenberg over Jim Chalmers any day. I will certainly take Peter Dutton over O'Connor any day of the week. Bring on the election!

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

AYES, 49:

ALP, 47—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, A. King, S. King, Linard, Lui, Madden, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

Grn, 2—Berkman, MacMahon.

NOES, 30:

LNP, 30—Bates, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

Pairs: Hunt, Hart; Lauga, Bennett; Stewart, Millar.

Resolved in the affirmative.

DEPUTY SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Absence of Member



Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Mr Speaker has received advice from the member for Keppel as to her absence from the House this sitting week. Mr Speaker has considered the matter and advises that the member's notification complies with standing order 263A.

ADJOURNMENT

United Fruitgrowers Co-op Association; O'Callaghan, Mr A



Mr POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (6.00 pm): 16 April was a significant day for the Glass House Mountains community that I represent, but one that passed with little fanfare. It represented the 100th anniversary of the Glass House Mountains United Fruitgrowers Co-op Association, now trading

as Glass House Mountains Hardware Mitre 10. It is believed to be the oldest registered co-op still operating in Queensland. The fruit growing and pineapple industry has long been a mainstay of our region, with farmers initially doing all of the packing on their farm before shipping them by rail to Brisbane Markets. In 1922 the summer crop was not doing so well and growers realised something had to be done to turn the industry around. A general meeting of growers was called for 16 April 1922 in Beerburum. It was chaired by Mr Les Crook. The meeting resolved that a branch of the United Fruitgrowers be formed. A committee was appointed and three weeks later at a meeting in the Glass House Mountains School of Arts decisions were taken to lease land from the railway department and arrange for the construction of a building.

That first building was officially opened on 12 January 1924. The current building on the opposite side of the railway line was completed in 1971. I love the fact that co-ops of this nature were so intrinsically linked to the broader economy of the state that the then premier, Sir Frank Nicklin, a pineapple farmer himself from just up the line at Palmwoods, officially opened the new building on the association's Golden Jubilee in April 1972.

The co-op came at an important time for our local fruitgrowers and has been an asset to the community, owned by the community ever since. My heartiest congratulations and thanks to all who have played a role in its existence and operation. My thanks also to local historian, Mr Ron Gillinder, for pointing this anniversary out to me and providing these fantastic photos of the co-op throughout the years, which I now table.

Tabled paper: Bundle of photographs depicting the United Fruitgrowers' co-operative [\[658\]](#).

On a sadder note, I have just learned of the passing of one of Mooloolah Valley's finest, Mr Alan O'Callaghan. I first met Alan in his capacity as the then president of the Mooloolah Valley Community Association, but Alan had been active long before that. Decades of his activism through the seventies and eighties ultimately led to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. Living with a disability himself, Alan long advocated for in-home support and independent living for people with a disability. In his own words 'my main aim was to put an end to institutionalisation and segregation for people with disabilities.' He achieved that. I am simply staggered that Alan never picked up a speed fine as he raced through Mooloolah Valley in his motorised wheelchair. It was not speed that took him from us. Sadly, cancer did. Alan passed away yesterday afternoon. Anita Verwayen of the Mooloolah Valley Community Association wrote yesterday—

Bernie and I were both privileged to know Alan, as a close friend, esteemed colleague ... and all round good human being. The Mooloolah community is poorer for his passing.

It sure is, Anita. Rest in peace, Alan.

Redcliffe Electorate; Ludwig, Mr WP, OAM




Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (6.04 pm): There is nothing more important than having a roof over your head. The Palaszczuk government knows the important role social and affordable housing plays in our community. That is why I was pleased to be joined by the Treasurer and the Minister for Communities and Housing in Sutton Street, Redcliffe to announce 84 new social and affordable homes for our community. This exciting development will target over 55s and inject 60 social housing properties and 24 affordable housing properties in our local community. My office has been contacted by many people about the need for an increase in social and affordable housing in the Redcliffe community and their concern about the number of homeless people sleeping rough in the area. I am pleased to be able to deliver this important investment in our community with early works commencing later this year and tenants moving in from late 2024. This project is one of the first as part of the Palaszczuk government's \$1 billion Housing Investment Fund which will see an accelerated supply of thousands of social and affordable housing stock in Queensland.

In more great news for Redcliffe, the Palaszczuk government, through its Active Gameday Projects grants, has provided Peninsula and Districts Football and Sporting Club with a grant of \$87,159 to upgrade their lighting to a lux level of 100 to support football at Dalton Park, Clontarf. This builds on the government's commitment to local sport. Recently I was able to join the council, which co-funded the lighting upgrades at Filmer Park Oval, a great addition to the field that hosts the mighty Peninsula Cricket Club. We know that it is important for everyone, including our younger generations, to keep active and moving and these grants will support these great sporting clubs continue their work.

While I am on my feet, I want to pay tribute to the late Bill Ludwig OAM, the former state secretary of the Australian Workers' Union of Employees Queensland and national president of the AWU. My background is no secret. I am a proud member of the Australian Workers' Union. I started my advocacy

career at the union as an industrial advocate. My time at the AWU was under the strong stewardship of Bill Ludwig, a man of great conviction, courage, determination and, indeed, warmth. Bill was a no-nonsense man. What you saw was what you got. People saw a tough giant of the Labor movement. I saw a compassionate and caring person, a person who was loyal to the bootstraps. He was passionate about workers' rights and getting a fair deal for his members, something that has been instilled in me. Bill was more than a boss. He was a mentor and a friend to me and will be sorely missed, and I know sorely missed by his family and grandchild as well. Mr Deputy Speaker, I know you had the pleasure of working at the AWU with Bill. My thoughts are with Bill's family and friends at this time. Vale, Bill Ludwig.

Agricultural Workers, Solomon Islands

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (6.07 pm): I rise to talk about the wonderful relationship that my community has with the Solomon Islands. Earlier in the House I heard a remark from the opposite side about the federal government and our relationship with the Solomon Islands. In one of the communities I represent, the Granite Belt, the Solomon Islanders are a cherished and valued part of our community. They leave their families behind for a year at a time to do the jobs in our agricultural industry that Australians will not do.


A couple of weeks ago I went out and visited a primary production property at night. Under lights Solomon Islanders were harvesting and doing a fantastic job. Many of them would then go on to do a day shift in the apple orchards. Many of them were making over \$1,500 a day. That money is of enormous importance to those people and their families. In the context of the Solomon Islands, even a small proportion of that is a very large sum. That gives a very warm, enduring and efficacious connection between our two nations.

When I hear the bilateral relationship with the Solomon Islands invoked in a tawdry debate it disappoints me. Whatever we may think of Mr Sogavare, whether he is on the take from the Chinese, is immaterial, because the people of the Solomon Islands are great friends of ours, they are great friends of the people in my electorate, as are many nationalities who feature prominently in the workforce that helps feed and sustain us and provide prosperity for the people I represent.

I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Solomon Islanders I met the other night and to the many others I have not met who are here as part of the federal government's Pacific worker scheme. That scheme provides not only a beneficial bilateral engagement with the people of the Solomon Islands; it also provides us with the workforce that we need to get things done. My community cannot survive without a workforce to bring in the crops that give us prosperity and food.

I say to those opposite: please do not come in here and raise matters that you do not understand. I stand with the people of the Solomon Islands and I thank them for the contribution that they make to my electorate.

Member for Whitsunday, Spanish Mackerel Fishery

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (6.10 pm): The people of Whitsunday are being misled by their member. Just recently the member placed a misleading ad in her local paper, asking readers to look up a QR code and sign a petition about the Spanish mackerel fishery. It claims the Palaszczuk government has not consulted the public on the future management of the Spanish mackerel fishery. That is clearly untrue because the member selectively used information from the consultation discussion paper as part of her misleading ad. The ad deceitfully uses information selectively pinched from a widely available departmental discussion paper. The ad is scurrilous, deceptive and downright wrong. The material even claims that the deceptively skewed information has been sourced from Queensland Fisheries. The member for Whitsunday should hang her head in shame because that is not the case.

This LNP commissioned the MRAG report on the future of Queensland Fisheries but lacked the intestinal fortitude to table it and, more importantly, to act on it. In this chamber the LNP tried to disallow regulations so that black marketers could have a five-day head start before being inspected. The LNP has not bothered to seek a briefing on this fishery, despite one being offered. The science does not lie: stocks of Spanish mackerel are at 17 per cent and doing nothing is not an option. When LNP members talk about fisheries science they sound like climate deniers who watch an ever-increasing tide of climate disasters while denying the science.


The Palaszczuk government promised to consult on this important fishery and we did. Submissions on the discussion paper closed last week and the department has met commercial fishers along the coast. Information from the consultation is being analysed and, as promised, we will do another round of consultation before a decision on action is made.

The Palaszczuk government knows that without a sustainable Spanish mackerel fishery there will be no jobs for the people who catch those fish for a living. We will get on with ensuring a sustainable fishery while the member for Whitsunday and her LNP colleagues spread misinformation. They put their fishy political instincts and interests before the Queensland people. The LNP are like a dead fish: they are rotting from the head down.

If the member for Whitsunday cannot be trusted to tell the whole truth to her constituents then she and the LNP cannot be trusted to protect Queensland's fisheries sector. It is high time the LNP woke up and put Queenslanders first by backing our sustainable fisheries reforms. I do question whether the ad was paid from the member's EO allowance, in which case the money spent on that ad should be paid back to the government because it gives the public misleading information. This demonstrates the scurrilous attacks and the misinformation they are spreading right throughout the community.

(Time expired)

South Brisbane Electorate, 192 Bus Service

 **Dr MacMAHON** (South Brisbane—Grn) (6.13 pm): Over the last decade South Brisbane has experienced a development boom without the infrastructure to keep up. Developers have been allowed to ignore height limits and boundary setbacks and to build higher and wider right across the neighbourhood, and the community is fed up. Developers have made huge profits while investment in local infrastructure has lagged. The community has had to fight for crucial infrastructure, active transport, safe pedestrian routes and green space. Investment in public housing is dismal and big sections of our public transport system remain inaccessible for people with disabilities.

Our community is fighting yet again. We are fighting for frequent and free public transport and an urgent upgrade to the 192 bus service. The 192 runs between the CBD and UQ. It is one of the only buses that services sections of Highgate Hill. Despite massive population growth, the service has not seen a significant upgrade to services in around 15 years.

The state government funds public transport and both the Brisbane City Council and the government are responsible for timetabling. If the council wants to add stops or add more services to the route, it needs support and increased funding from the state government. That is why I am tabling this petition here today and my colleague Jonathan Sri, councillor for the Gabba ward, will be tabling it in council.

Tabled paper: Nonconforming petition regarding improvement to No. 192 bus service [\[659\]](#).

The government has said that we cannot afford free public transport, forgetting the huge amounts of money Queensland could be gathering from taxing big corporations. In a wealthy state like Queensland, free public transport is well within reach and would be a powerful tool for tackling inequality and climate change and getting more people onto public transport. As we have seen in other parts of the world, free public transport systems are incredibly popular.

The government has also said that buses such as the 192, which is one of the only buses that services Highgate Hill, are poorly used. It is forgetting that if you make services frequent and allow them to run when people need them, including on nights and weekends, people will use those services in droves. The proof is in the hundreds of people who have been helping to fight for a decent 192 service. 954 community members signed the petition calling for the 192 to include weekend services, night services and turn-up-and-go services at least every 15 minutes.

Last month, a busload of people travelled on the 192, heading from Montague Road to our local Eritrean restaurant, Mu'ooz. People from all walks of life joined us: pensioners, students, parents, professionals and people with disabilities. We were joined by Brendan Donohue, an amazing young man. Brendan is blind. He has been pushing for an accessible and active public transport system. He talked about how valuable a decent 192 service would be to him and others in the community.

The rubber has truly hit the road on the free ride the state government has given to property developers. It is time we matched the infrastructure with the need in South Brisbane and funded public transport to get our community where it needs to go.

Mount Ommaney Electorate, Democracy Sausages



Ms PUGH (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (6.16 pm): It will not have escaped the notice of members of this House that we have a very important event coming up on 21 May. That is right: it is the day of the democracy sausage. I have here the definitive list of the fantastic local P&Cs in the Mount Ommaney electorate that will be putting on democracy sausage sizzles on election day, 21 May. While pre-polls are fantastic, in my humble view nothing beats the delicious taste of democracy on election day.

Here in my hot little hands I have the definitive list of the places where democracy sausages and snacks will be available in Mount Ommaney on 21 May. I say 'definitive', but the list is subject to additions and changes at any time up to 8 am on 21 May when polling opens. I will be posting the list online. If you are organising a local polling venue and you have not made up your mind, fear not: I can add you to said list.

Now, to the main event: the democracy sausage extravaganza. The Oxley State School P&C is hosting a sausage sizzle from 8 am until those sausages run out so get them while you can, folks. Jamboree Heights primary school will be hosting a polling booth but the food will be supplied by the fabulous team at the Jamboree Heights Swimming Club, as per usual. Jindalee primary school will have a sausage sizzle and a cake stall from 8 am in the morning and Saint Joey's at Corinda will have democracy sausages on offer from 8 am and there are rumours of a breakfast burger. Get excited! Corinda primary will have a bake stall, breakfast burgers and a cake stall. I am informed reliably that from 8 am until 11 am Middle Park State School will have the barbeque fired up for democracy snags.

You can also vote at the Oxley Senior Citizens Club hall. At the Jindalee Catholic Church they have not yet decided if they will be offering democracy sausages and we are yet to hear back from a few of our other fantastic polling booths. Last time, iSEE Church had some awesome baked goods that sold out by the end of the day. The Good News Lutheran School has a new polling booth so they may well offer something as well as Darra State School.

Once again I take this opportunity to thank my local P&Cs for their work to fundraise for our kids. In my community, the P&Cs do the lion's share of fundraising for hundreds of air-conditioning units for our schools before the Palaszczuk government completed the job and I thank the education minister for her work in that space. As the local member for a hot area, I was so glad to get that job finished. For the rest of my life I will be grateful to our amazing P&Cs for their huge and herculean efforts to get the job done. On election day I encourage locals to stop by for a democracy sausage.

Hinchinbrook Electorate, Roads; International Nurses Day; Ingham, Nurses




Mr DAMETTO (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (6.19 pm): I rise to bring to the House's attention the population explosion in the northern beaches of Townsville, the southern part of the Hinchinbrook electorate. Communities such as Deeragun, Mount Low, Bushland Beach, North Shore and Burdell are growing at exponential rates. Unfortunately, the main road that takes traffic into Townsville is at full capacity. This road used to be part of the Bruce Highway but, since ring road stages 4 and 5 were completed, it is no longer part of the Bruce Highway and, therefore, does not qualify for 80 per cent federal funding for an upgrade of this part of the road. The Townsville City Council and the state government need to work through fixing this problem.

We have a problem with the lower bridge at the Bohle River—I share part of the bridge with the member for Townsville—and the rest of Woolcock Street that follows into Townsville. Unfortunately, any traffic disruption along Woolcock Street or the adjacent streets results in 1½- to two-hour wait times into town. We saw that over the past weekend and during the week with the flooding rains that raised the level of the Bohle River in Townsville. Also last week there was a tragic motorcycle accident at this location involving a 28-year-old Black River man who lost his life. Any roadworks between Duckworth and Pilkington streets and on the streets adjacent to Duckworth Street cause delays, because this road being at capacity results in unintended consequences.

I acknowledge all nurses across Hinchinbrook and Queensland on International Nurses Day. Last week we had the opportunity to open the renal unit at Ingham Hospital. We have been fighting for that for some time. I acknowledge the now Deputy Premier for the work he did last term to ensure funding was made available. This term we have been able to deliver it. I acknowledge the families of those who passed away due to their need for renal services. I acknowledge the work of the families of Christine Bullen, Trevor Prior, Elsie Gasnaroli and Joan Giorcelli, not only for lobbying my office but also for helping us to collate the data to ensure we had the evidence base to secure these services for Hinchinbrook.

I refer to the nurse shortage in Ingham at the moment. We have unvaccinated nurses itching to get back to work. I was tapped on the shoulder as recently as last week. We are struggling to get nurses to staff maternity services in Ingham. There is a real threat that we may lose that service from the Hinchinbrook electorate and the Ingham Hospital if something is not done soon.

McCracken, Mr M


 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (6.22 pm): I rise to pay tribute to the life of Matt McCracken, a giant in the Morayfield state electorate and a great advocate for people with disability. Matt passed away at the end of last month. He will be sadly and sorely missed not only by people in the Morayfield state electorate but also by people around Australia and people in the disability sector.

I have known Matt for over 15 years. He was a good person. Every fibre of his being was about standing up and speaking up for people with disability. He was instrumental in the Every Australian Counts campaign in 2011 which led to the introduction by a Labor government of the NDIS. He had this great gift of being able to get into photos with people who would go on to do great things, just like Matt did great things. Some of the favourite photos he had were of him with Annastacia Palaszczuk when she was the disabilities minister during the Bligh government and also Julia Gillard when she was prime minister.

Matt was very proud of his advocacy. His advocacy was not just at a national level; it was also locally on behalf of people with disability. He was the founder of the Caboolture Disability Support Network, an organisation that advocated for people with disability, helped them navigate the NDIS and supported them—gave them information and the knowledge they needed—to get the best for family and friends and people with disability. Matt was also on the board of the Queensland Disability Network, QDN, and was a strong advocate in the community.

Matt was also the founder of an event called Is Everybody Here, which was meant to raise awareness for people with disability and the broader community. One of the last events that I hosted with Matt was a truth-telling experience for people with disability at Lee Street Special School. It was all about those people's experience with the NDIS. It was heartbreaking, because under the current federal government those experiences are terrible. A lot of people who are trying to access the NDIS are finding it so difficult to navigate. A lot of people who are accessing the NDIS are having their hearts broken by having their plans cut and their funding cut and by having all sorts of bureaucratic nonsense impact their lives. Matt had a service this week that many people attended. I am sad that I could not join those people. At the end they all said, 'Let's get rid of this federal government so Matt's legacy can live on.'

Theodore Electorate, Roads and Transport; Godbold, Inspector A

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (6.25 pm): This week I again placed a question on notice to the transport minister regarding the Coomera Connector, specifically referring to Helensvale Road and the important feeder—

Mr RYAN: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. I seek your direction around the same question rule. The member started his contribution by saying that he asked a question on notice. Now he is seeking to speak to that question on notice.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): It is not a point of order.


Mr BOOTHMAN: Thank you for protection, Mr Deputy Speaker. Helensvale Road traverses the heart of the suburb of Helensvale and is a major connection road for Hope Island, Paradise Point and Oxenford. I have previously mentioned in this chamber the heavy congestion that occurs on Helensvale Road, especially during school pickup and drop-off times. Additionally, much of the length of this road is a single-lane, bidirectional carriageway.

Helensvale Road simply will not cope with the additional traffic that the Coomera Connector will force onto it. The minister has previously answered a question on notice claiming that the council receives developer contributions to perform the necessary upgrades, yet at a recent Helensvale Neighbourhood Watch meeting the local councillor stated that council had no available funds. Again, I urge the minister to facilitate a funding agreement between the Gold Coast City council and the state government to ensure that Helensvale Road receives the necessary upgrades and that commuters are not left with a half-thought-out plan that will continually gridlock and cause congestion on our local roads.

On another topic, residents have expressed their concerns about the Hope Island Railway Station and its 179 car-parking facilities. Currently, local businesses and government department workers use the proposed train station site as a parking facility. If this behaviour continues it will leave limited parking for commuters, therefore forcing more vehicles to use the already congested residential streets. Furthermore, local streets will simply not be able to cater for this amount of vehicles. These congested, narrow streets can be difficult to traverse, especially for emergency vehicles, potentially placing lives at risk. Residents have a reasonable request: build sufficient car parks to cater for the expected number of transport commuters and do not force workers who already use this area to park on local streets. Please build at least 500 car spaces.

Finally, I give a big shout-out to the recently promoted Inspector Andrew Godbold, who now is moving to the Mackay area. Andrew was a fantastic officer for the Coomera region. He served the Coomera region with dedication and distinction. He will be sorely missed. I wish him all the best when he moves to Mackay. The Mackay region has a great ally and a great officer coming their way.

Springfield Central Railway Station, Park-and-Ride

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (6.29 pm): The Springfield Central Railway Station park-and-ride is officially open. I say this with great pride because this is a project that I championed even before I was elected to the Queensland parliament. The Springfield Central Railway Station is an important and busy terminus station, attracting commuters not only from Greater Springfield but also from Redbank Plains, Ripley, Deebling Heights and Yamanto, from Greenbank and from as far as Jimboomba. I discovered this because in 2017 I stood at the station for many days collecting hundreds of signatures for a petition on improving the parking. It was a key question that I asked: where were commuters coming from?

The car park at Springfield Central Railway Station at that time had just over 400 car parks and that was simply not enough for a terminus station. Commuters would park dangerously and illegally along the road, they would have to arrive super early to ensure they could get a park or would not find a park at all. I was very proud that it was the Palaszczuk Labor government that committed to a brand new park-and-ride in Springfield Central and it is the Palaszczuk Labor government that has delivered the brand new park-and-ride.

This is a five-storey car park delivering around 1,100 car parks in the precinct—more than double what we had previously at the station. The design is unique with a double helix ramp. It is predominantly undercover, has lifts, safe open stairs, 24-hour CCTV and lights—significantly improving safety for all. In addition, we have also created 24 undercover disability parking spaces in the car park closest to the station and the current at-grade car park will also be redeveloped in line with works on the new Brisbane Lions AFLW stadium.

I would like to thank the Minister for Transport and Main Roads for his unwavering support of this important public transport project in my community. I would also like to acknowledge the project officers from TMR, particularly Jack Ryan who was always very helpful with briefings and answering my many questions.

I would like to acknowledge ADCO Constructions—a quality build that they did on time and on budget. It is a challenging site. I was pleased with how they worked within the site, leading to minimal disruption to motorists along the busy Springfield Greenbank Arterial, or, as we call it, the SGA.

I wish to say something about the local road that is well due for an upgrade. The state government and Brisbane Lions did make a request of the Ipswich City Council to undertake the upgrade of the SGA in front of the park-and-ride and the new AFLW stadium first to lessen the impact on motorists and commuters. Council made the decision to not do this. I appreciate that this has caused some angst in our local community as the proper roads are not yet built, forcing us to incorporate interim measures whilst we wait. I fear the Brisbane Lions will be in the same boat when they open their doors later this year. I will be writing to the mayor of Ipswich seeking an update on the upgrade of the SGA. This is the final and important piece in what will be an exceptional station and stadium precinct. We need this road upgrade as soon as possible.

Finally, construction on the Centenary Highway-Logan Motorway interchange will begin in July, which is very exciting.

The House adjourned at 6.32 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, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Janetzki, Kelly, King A, King S, Krause, Langbroek, Last, 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, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Skelton, Smith, Stevens, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Watts, Weir, Whiting