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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Friday, 24 June 2022

Subject	Page
ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF CALLIDE.....	1821
By-Election, Return of Writ.....	1821
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Endorsed Writ for the election of the Electoral District of Callide .	1821
MEMBER SWORN	1821
PRIVILEGE	1821
Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Contravention of Parliament's Terms and Conditions of Broadcast.....	1821
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 24 December 2021, from the member for Bancroft, Mr Chris Whiting MP to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt, regarding a matter of privilege	1822
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 26 April 2022, from the member for Bancroft, Mr Chris Whiting MP to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt, regarding a matter of privilege	1822
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 8 June 2022, from the member for Bancroft, Mr Chris Whiting MP to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt, regarding a matter of privilege	1822
SPEAKER'S STATEMENT	1822
School Group Tours.....	1822
TABLED PAPERS.....	1822
MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS	1822
Coronavirus, Restrictions.....	1822
Regional Sitzings of Parliament, Cairns.....	1823
Queenslanders, Recognition.....	1823
Women's State of Origin.....	1823
Floods, Recovery Assistance.....	1824
Mental Health Services, Reforms	1824
Budget, Education	1825
Coronavirus, Fever Clinics.....	1825

Table of Contents – Friday, 24 June 2022

Resources Industry Development Plan	1826
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Government report titled 'Queensland resources industry development plan, June 2022'	1826
Hospital Infrastructure; Energy Industry	1827
TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE	1827
Membership	1827
SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT	1828
PERSONAL EXPLANATION	1828
Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee, Attendance	1828
QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE	1828
Trad, Ms J	1828
Trad, Ms J	1829
Budget, Flood Recovery	1829
Trad, Ms J	1829
Indigenous Councils, Community Infrastructure	1830
Premier and Minister for the Olympics	1830
Budget, Revenue Measures.....	1831
Palaszczuk Labor Government, Integrity.....	1832
Australian South Sea Islanders	1832
Lobbyists	1833
Moreton Bay, Health Services	1834
APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL	1834
Second Reading (Cognate Debate)	1834
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Government report titled 'Respecting Country: A sustainable waste strategy for First Nation communities', April 2021	1867
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Council of Mayors South East Queensland report titled 'SEQ Waste Management Plan: Final report 2021'	1867
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Government report titled 'Queensland Organics Strategy 2022-2032: A strategy to improve the management of organic materials along the organics supply and consumption chain'	1867
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Government report titled 'Keeping Queensland Clean: The Litter and Illegal Dumping Plan'	1867
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Government report titled 'Tackling plastic waste: Queensland's Plastic Pollution Reduction Plan'	1867
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Government report titled 'Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy'	1867
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Article from <i>InQueensland</i> , undated, titled 'Tokyo closes the book on its troubled Olympics—with a final cost of \$19 billion	1872
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 16 October 2020, from the member for Southern Downs, Mr James Lister MP, to Whom It May Concern, regarding Care Goondiwindi tender for community legal assistance	1881
COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY	1903
Portfolio Committees, Reporting Dates and Referral of Auditor-General's Reports.....	1903
MOTIONS	1903
Referral to Community Support and Services Committee.....	1903
Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders.....	1903
APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL	1903
Second Reading (Cognate Debate)	1903
Referral to Portfolio Committees.....	1908
Second Reading	1909
Consideration in Detail.....	1909
Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill	1909
Clauses 1 to 5, as read, agreed to.	1909
Clause 6—.....	1909
Clause 6, as read, agreed to.....	1910
Clauses 7 to 34, as read, agreed to.	1910
Clause 35—.....	1910
Clause 35, as read, agreed to.	1912
Clauses 36 to 64, as read, agreed to.	1912
Clause 65—.....	1912
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 9 June 2022, from the member for Maiwar, Mr Berkman MP, and the member for South Brisbane, Dr Amy MacMahon MP, to the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment, Hon. Cameron Dick, titled 'Statewide Budget 2022- 23: The Greens' vision for a fairer Queensland'	1914
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Media release, dated 29 October 2020, by the Queensland Resources Council titled 'Labor fails to give certainty to Queensland's resources sector'	1916
Clause 65, as read, agreed to.	1918
Clauses 66 to 84, as read agreed to.	1918
Clause 85—.....	1918
Clause 85, as read, agreed to.	1921
Clauses 86 to 94, as read, agreed to.	1921
Third Reading	1921
Long Title.....	1921
ADJOURNMENT	1921
ATTENDANCE	1922

FRIDAY, 24 JUNE 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.

ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF CALLIDE

By-Election, Return of Writ



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have to report that the writ issued by me on 23 May 2022 for the election of a member to serve in the Legislative Assembly for the electoral district of Callide has been returned to me with a certificate endorsed thereon by the Electoral Commission of Queensland of the election, on 18 June 2022, of Bryson Warwick Head to serve as such member.

Tabled paper: Endorsed Writ for the election of the Electoral District of Callide [\[938\]](#).

MEMBER SWORN

Mr Bryson Head, having waited at the bar of the House, was invited by Mr Speaker to enter the chamber.

Mr Speaker administered the oath of allegiance and of office to Mr Head, who then signed the Roll of Members.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on behalf of the parliament, I welcome to the Queensland Legislative Assembly the new member for Callide.

Opposition members: Hear, hear!

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable member, please do not be like the previous member for Callide; I would hate to see a warning issued on your first day.

PRIVILEGE

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Contravention of Parliament's Terms and Conditions of Broadcast



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, in December 2021 and April and June 2022, the member for Bancroft wrote to me regarding various alleged breaches of the conditions of use of the broadcast. The conditions of access for the broadcast of proceedings provide that material must only be used for the purposes of fair and accurate reports of proceedings and must not in any circumstances be used for political advertising, election campaigning or any advertising campaign; satire or ridicule; and commercial sponsorship or commercial advertising. Use of the broadcast material in contravention of a condition imposed by the Legislative Assembly or its committees constitutes a contempt of parliament.

Complaints about the misuse of the broadcast have been dealt with informally, usually through the Clerk communicating with the persons responsible for the publication. This is an approach largely endorsed by the Ethics Committee—see Ethics Committee report No. 181. The member for Bancroft's complaints have been dealt with in this manner and I will not be referring any matter to the Ethics Committee. This informal approach has largely been adopted because in most instances breaches are not intentional, but are the result of ignorance or misunderstanding.

However, the recent number of instances of breaches identified by the member for Bancroft moves me to remind all members of the following. There are two important matters I wish to stress. Firstly, the splicing of broadcast material may not only offend the conditions of use, but the result of

splicing of the broadcast resulting in footage being taken out of context may result in a more serious contempt under standing order 260(13) which provides that publishing a false or misleading account of proceedings before the House or a committee is a contempt.

Secondly, whilst I appreciate that the actual splicing of footage is usually undertaken by employed officers for a political party, members who participate in the compilation or in whose name that material is published, may be held responsible for the end product. That is, I may hold them vicariously liable for the breaches by their agents.

Thirdly, the rapidity with which an offending party responds to an informal approach by the Clerk or my office will be a significant factor in my decision as to whether to escalate a matter to the Ethics Committee. Lastly, the repetition of offences may be a significant factor in my decision as to whether to escalate a matter to the Ethics Committee. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 24 December 2021, from the member for Bancroft, Mr Chris Whiting MP to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt, regarding a matter of privilege [\[939\]](#).

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 26 April 2022, from the member for Bancroft, Mr Chris Whiting MP to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt, regarding a matter of privilege [\[940\]](#).

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 8 June 2022, from the member for Bancroft, Mr Chris Whiting MP to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt, regarding a matter of privilege [\[941\]](#).

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

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 Nashville State School in the electorate of Sandgate and student leaders from the electorate of Mudgeeraba.

TABLED PAPERS

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

MINISTERIAL PAPERS

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Minister for Resources (Hon. Stewart)—

[942](#) Electronic Conveyancing (Adoption of National Law) Amendment Bill 2022

Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (Hon. Linard)—

[943](#) Response from the Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (Hon. Linard), to an ePetition (3720-22) sponsored by the member for Mirani, Mr Andrew, from 2,776 petitioners, requesting the House to review and amend legislation to ensure perpetrators of serious crime and recidivist offenders receive more severe penalties

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Coronavirus, Restrictions




Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.38 am): The cornerstone of this week's budget is health. As we have demonstrated since the pandemic arrived, nothing is more important to this government than protecting the health and safety of Queenslanders. We have stood strong and Queensland has remained strong. Almost alone in the world, we were able to vaccinate the majority of our population before COVID arrived. Restrictions that protected us have eased in sensible stages.

Today I announce, with the advice of the Chief Health Officer, that we are removing some of the last remaining COVID restrictions. From 1 am on 30 June, COVID-19 vaccinations will no longer be required for visitors to residential aged care, disability accommodation and corrective services facilities. In addition, the Chief Health Officer is revoking the high-risk worker COVID-19 vaccine mandate in schools, early childhood education, outside school care, kindergartens, family day care, police watch houses, youth detention centres and airports. Decisions around mandatory vaccinations will instead be made by employers. Mandatory vaccines are still required for workers in health care, hospitals, aged care and disability care.

The public health direction requiring post-arrival testing for those travelling to Queensland from international locations is also removed. I once again pay tribute to the resilience of Queenslanders for the strength of response to this pandemic. We have stood shoulder to shoulder side by side looking after each other through the worst of times. I once again urge everyone to get vaccinated and to get your free flu vaccine before 30 June.

Regional Sitzings of Parliament, Cairns

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.39 am): I have more good news for Queensland. This week's budget is about good jobs, better services and a great lifestyle for every region. Our regional action plans set out the budget highlights from Far North Queensland to the border. Almost two-thirds of our capital works investment is in regional Queensland. Our Health and Hospitals Plan will build and expand hospitals and health facilities in every health district. We govern for all Queensland. That includes regional cabinet meetings like the one last week in Stanthorpe and our regional community forums—and even parliament itself.

Today I am delighted to announce that the next regional sitting of parliament will be in Cairns. It will be next year from 9 to 11 May. I am sure the members for Cairns, Barron River and Cook will be excellent hosts. Mr Speaker, I am sure you will be as well, especially as it means a much shorter trip from Mulgrave to the Speaker's chair than usual.

The venue will be the wonderful Cairns Convention Centre, for which our government has put in the money for the refurbishment and expansion—over \$175 million. We look forward to showcasing our investment to the rest of the community.

A government member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Infrastructure and jobs—I take the interjection from the honourable minister.


Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left, you may appreciate that I actually really want to hear this statement.

Ms Grace: They don't like Cairns.


Ms PALASZCZUK: We love Cairns. I love Cairns. My local members love Cairns too. The last regional parliament was in Townsville and it was a great success. The people of Cairns and the Far North deserve their chance to see the parliamentary process from the public gallery. We are absolutely looking forward to it.

Queenslanders, Recognition

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.41 am): June is when we celebrate our escape from New South Wales 163 years ago. On Queensland Day, 6 June, it was my honour to announce this year's Queensland Greats: Indigenous elder Uncle Albert Holt; Usman Khawaja for youth and multicultural work; burns doctor Dr Stuart Pegg; Else Shepherd, a pioneering engineer; First Nations advocate Gracelyn Smallwood; Peter Timms for his koala conservation work—the Minister for the Environment will be very pleased—world famous artist the late Sally Gabori; and our world-leading Queensland Museum Network. Again this year we were inspired by every recipient, every story, every great achievement.

I also congratulate the 119 Queenslanders named in the Queen's Birthday Honours. One of them was Ash Barty, who had a very significant moment this week. She and her childhood coach Jimmy Joyce had a last hit at the West Brisbane Tennis Centre, in my electorate of Inala at Richlands, before it quietly closed for the last time. After more than 50 years, the old Richlands courts, which nurtured one of our greatest champions we have ever seen, have passed into history. It is the end of an era for my local area and for our state's sporting heritage.

Women's State of Origin

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.43 am): Finally, I would like to wish Ali Briggshaw and her team all the best for their State of Origin clash in Canberra tonight. Origin is a great spectacle, but tonight's game is particularly important in the context of women's sport. For the last time in history, the Women's State of Origin will be 'winner takes all'. Next year the series will grow to a two-match format, as the women's NRL competition expands from six teams to 10. This is great for the women's game and it is great for Queensland, with more footy to inspire our next generation of athletes in years to come.

Floods, Recovery Assistance



Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (9.43 am): This year Queenslanders have endured the worst disaster season since 2011, and recovery from these extraordinary disasters is a long process—but we will be there for Queenslanders long after the flood waters recede. That is why we are making extraordinary disaster assistance of \$105 million available to local councils and state agencies to clean up and repair community assets damaged in the major floods of the 2021-22 disaster season.

A total of \$100 million is available for the repair of community assets, while \$5 million will be spent to repair recreational assets in public parks. The funding is part of the \$150 million Community and Recreational Assets Recovery and Resilience Program, which includes \$45 million to directly support not-for-profit community sporting clubs affected by the recent flood and rain events.

Expressions of interest have opened for the funding, which is available to councils and state agencies in 37 flood affected local government areas affected by the recent disaster events. This program offers a chance for eligible councils and state agencies to apply for funding to clean up, repair and, in some cases, make these recreational assets more resilient to future floods.

The three severe rainfall and flooding events have also seen a large amount of damage to nature based recreation and fire management infrastructure within the Queensland national parks and state forests. More than 40 national parks, conservation parks and key visitor areas managed by the environment department between Hervey Bay and the Gold Coast have been impacted, and \$5 million will be available to help repair those.

For assets such as showgrounds, council or state owned sporting grounds, bikeways, parks, playgrounds, fire trails and beach access points, eligible councils and state agencies are encouraged to submit an expression of interest. Fixing damaged recreational facilities will help restore social and community networks and can also help the economic recovery of local communities that rely on these assets for tourism and visitor numbers. The Queensland Reconstruction Authority will administer this \$105 million program.

The Community and Recreational Assets Recovery and Resilience Program is part of a \$721 million jointly funded Commonwealth and Queensland government DRFA exceptional circumstances package for Queensland which includes human and social recovery, and economic, environmental and infrastructure recovery.

Mental Health Services, Reforms



Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.46 am): The record sustainable investment in mental health announced in the 2022 state budget will make a positive difference to the lives of untold Queenslanders. Almost one in two Queenslanders will experience a mental illness in their lifetime. In any year in Queensland, approximately 20 per cent of adults and 14 per cent of children and young people experience a mental illness.

The impacts of mental health issues affect not just individuals but their families, friends and carers. That is why our government has acted to create a sustainable, ongoing source of funding to enable us to address the challenge of mental illness across the state. Our mental health levy will fund our commitment of an additional \$1.6 billion over five years, and \$28 million in capital funding, to address the key issues that surround mental health, addiction, substance abuse and suicide.

To address the recommendations of the parliamentary inquiry into mental health issues, these measures will cast a wide net—rehabilitation care, additional community care units and adolescent day programs. Importantly, we will invest in step-up step-down services. These services help people through what can be a difficult journey leaving hospital. They can do even more, helping some people stay out of hospital in the first place.


To do anything less than introduce a reliable and sustainable source of funding through a dedicated mental health levy would be to fail to treat the issue of mental health with the high priority it deserves. While the toll of mental health is high, so are the benefits from doing more to address it. Based on data from the Productivity Commission, mental illness costs the Queensland economy around \$40 billion each year. Respected economist Professor Allan Fels says a 25 per cent improvement in mental health would increase GDP by around 2.5 per cent. Today, that would represent around \$52 billion in additional output in Queensland.

The link between the health of Queenslanders and the health of our economy became clear during COVID-19, but it has always been there. For those in our state like the LNP who oppose the levy and oppose this reform and our vision for improved mental health care in this state, I have a message: talk to the Queenslanders—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr DICK: I say to the member for Kawana and others: talk to the Queenslanders living with the challenge of mental health and their families. Talk to them today and ask how much this means to them, because this budget and our government are committed to improving the lives and livelihoods of Queenslanders, no matter where they live.

Budget, Education

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.49 am): I would like to start by wishing all of our school communities, students and staff, a happy last day of term, and I hope they enjoy a well-deserved break in the upcoming holidays.

Improving education for all students continues to be a major focus for all of us on this side of the House, and at the centre of this is increasing the number of teachers and teacher aides and improving school infrastructure for our kids and teachers, especially in our discrete Indigenous communities. Isn't it great, Mr Speaker, that we have air-conditioned every classroom, every staffroom and every library!

In the budget we have announced a \$43.2 million renewal program for schools in all 18 discrete communities so that education facilities can be refurbished and renewed. This is a targeted renewal program where projects will be co-designed with local communities so that the best outcomes for all are achieved. Schools in Aurukun, Cherbourg, Coen, Kowanyama, Napranum, Woorabinda and Yarrabah, just to name a few, will benefit from this investment.

I will also mention our ongoing support for the Achieving Results Through Indigenous Education program—or ARTIE, as it is affectionately known—with a \$5.6 million investment in this budget. ARTIE, which operates in 37 state primary and secondary schools, provides an opportunity to participate in programs that encourage improvements in school attendance, behaviour, academic achievement, effort and ultimately year 12 attainment or its equivalent. ARTIE is just one of our partnerships to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students' attendance, engagement and success alongside Stars Foundation, Clontarf Academy, Netball Queensland's Diamond Spirit program and the Brisbane Broncos.

As we know, the ARTIE program was named in honour of the late Artie Beetson, so hopefully our ongoing support of the program inspired the Maroons to their wonderful victory a couple of Wednesdays ago. If it did, let's hope that inspiration continues for the second game on Saturday.

An honourable member: Sunday!

Ms GRACE: I actually had Sunday, Mr Speaker.


Dr Miles: And the women tonight.

Ms GRACE: And the women tonight, of course, as the Premier mentioned.

Dr Miles: Go the Maroons!

Ms GRACE: Go the Maroons! And the second game on Sunday, Mr Speaker, as per my text. And the third game, Mr Speaker. And the next season.

Coronavirus, Fever Clinics

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.52 am): Queensland's world-class pandemic response, which has saved thousands of lives and helped protect our economy, would not have been possible without our network of fever clinics. Our testing capacity has been one of our most important weapons in keeping this virus contained by confirming cases quickly and taking swift action to head off further transmission. Fever clinics were particularly critical before the COVID vaccine became available.

Today I can announce that because they have done their job so well Queensland Health's standalone fever clinics are now winding down. The staff who have been operating fever clinics will now return to their normal roles to help manage the growing demand on our health services. We are at

the stage of the pandemic at which we can, and should, direct our health resources to where they are needed most. This means that we can focus more on delivering essential health care. Fever clinics were always a temporary measure, and transitioning our clinical expertise back to hospitals and frontline health services was always part of the plan. This will help our hospitals manage the increasing demand for services during our busy winter period.

While PCR testing will continue to be available at a small number of Queensland Health locations across Queensland, particularly in areas where other testing options are limited, the focus is now firmly on RAT kits. Queenslanders should use a rapid antigen test kit when they have COVID-19 symptoms. They should isolate if they test positive and they should stay home while they have acute respiratory symptoms. In total, 108 standalone testing facilities were rolled out during the pandemic, with the first two established on the Gold Coast and the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital. Public sites have performed around 4.3 million tests throughout the course of the pandemic.

I would like to offer my wholehearted thanks to the frontline health professionals who have been part of our COVID-19 testing network. I also want to applaud the private pathology providers for their support, and of course Pathology Queensland, particularly during peak periods. It is great news that we can now move to lifting some mandatory vaccinations. Once again I would like to reiterate that the vaccine is the best way to protect the community and your loved ones from COVID. If you are yet to get vaccinated, come forward now for the free COVID vaccine. The vaccine can save your life and the lives of others.

Resources Industry Development Plan



Hon. SJ STEWART (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (9.54 am): As the Minister for Resources, nothing is more satisfying than seeing our resources sector and our workers thrive. At the last election we promised to deliver a Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan, and that is what we have delivered. This is our 30-year vision for the Queensland resources industry as a resilient, responsible and sustainable sector that grows as it transforms. I would like to thank the former director-general of resources, Mr Mike Kaiser, and his team for their outstanding work. They worked exceptionally hard to put this together, let me tell you.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! Are you going to table that document?

Mr STEWART: Absolutely. You bet I will, Mr Speaker.

Tabled paper: Queensland Government report titled 'Queensland resources industry development plan, June 2022' [944].

As we examine these trends, our 30-year plan will ensure that government, industry and communities continue to build on our traditional strengths and act with agility to seize opportunities well into the future. Our Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan—or QRIDP—sets out 43 initiatives to diversify the industry, strengthen our ESG credentials, foster coexistence, ensure strong and genuine First Nations partnerships, build a safe and resilient workforce and improve our regulatory efficiency.

We know that global trends are shifting, particularly towards electrification, and low-carbon technologies will create a high demand for the new economy minerals that we have right here in Queensland. We will capitalise on this demand by ramping up our exploration for, and production of, these resources. The Palaszczuk government's 2022-23 budget invests more than \$68 million across government agencies to implement our 30-year vision for Queensland's resources. This budget will transform our new economy minerals sector into a long-term mine-to-manufacturer mega industry that will create good, solid jobs for Queenslanders.


Specifically, we are injecting \$40 million into the discovery, development and manufacturing of the minerals needed for renewable and advanced technologies. This includes an additional \$17.5 million over four years for exploration, particularly for those new economy minerals. That is a total investment of \$22.6 million over five years to find future mines to produce the minerals and metals the world is desperately searching for.

Coexistence is an essential part of that resource plan and it is a key part of where we are heading. I know there has been significant community interest in two proposals for gas exploration in the Scenic Rim. I can inform the House that Arrow Energy has formally withdrawn their application to renew exploration permits ATP 641 and 644 in the Scenic Rim. My department has accepted these withdrawal applications, which means these exploration permits no longer exist. I would like to place on record my

thanks to all those who engaged with me in a respectful manner in relation to this matter, including: Arrow Energy, the mayor of Scenic Rim Regional Council, Greg Christensen, and the state member for Scenic Rim.

The resource sector, although it is incredibly important to this state through the royalties it generates, is helping to fund our hospitals, our health workers, our schools and our police. It is the Palaszczuk government's budget that is investing in a diversified and resilient resource industry, creating good, secure Queensland jobs now and into the future.

Hospital Infrastructure; Energy Industry

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement) (9.58 am): This week has seen the Palaszczuk government commit to the largest hospital building program in the history of Queensland. This building program boasts a record investment in new hospitals, hospital expansions and thousands of extra hospital beds. This building program will deliver a new cancer centre, which is something that will have an immeasurable impact. Premier, Queensland says thank you. Make no mistake, with this state budget, the Palaszczuk government will deliver a stronger health system for Queenslanders.

With this state budget, the Palaszczuk government will also deliver a stronger energy system for Queenslanders. As the Treasurer has made clear, energy storage is the key to unlocking Queensland's renewable energy revolution. Energy storage will put downward pressure on power prices. Storing Queensland energy builds this state's energy independence. Indeed, batteries are critical for soaking up our sunshine and wind to feed into the system when Queenslanders need it.

Queensland's publicly owned power companies are already investing in 430 megawatts of batteries, and we are just getting started. The 2022 state budget is ramping up our 40-megawatt-hour battery blitz, announced last year, and things are about to get a whole lot bigger. Today I can announce that we will start work to build the largest utility scale battery in the state's history. At 400 megawatt hours, this big battery will be connected to Powerlink's Greenbank substation in the electorate of Jordan. I know the member for Jordan supports public ownership of Queensland energy assets because she knows it means we can invest in publicly owned assets just like this. The Greenbank battery will deliver additional stability and security for the network during periods of high demand. Once again, this will be the largest battery in Queensland. We have the Big Pineapple and we have the Big Mango, and now we have the big battery.

Opposition members interjected.


Mr de BRENNI: They love it. They love batteries now. Where have they been on batteries for nine years?

Storage is critical in Queensland's energy transformation, and batteries are the form of storage we can get into the network the fastest. We have already connected the first of five batteries announced in our first blitz in the electorate of Thuringowa, with Keppel, Burnett, Toowoomba North and Hervey Bay to follow. Full credit goes to our Energy Queensland and Yurika teams, and we are going to be keeping them busy because today I can also announce a further 12 batteries will be connected to the network right around the state. These new batteries will individually store eight megawatt hours of energy, and work is now underway to identify suitable sites across the state.

A big battery for Greenbank, 12 network connected batteries around the state—it is a baker's dozen battery blitz, creating 336 construction jobs, delivering an additional 496 megawatt hours of energy storage and unlocking Queensland's renewable energy revolution. Whether it is a stronger health system or a stronger energy system, Queenslanders know they can trust the Palaszczuk government to deliver.

TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Membership

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.02 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the member for Condamine be discharged from and the member for Callide be appointed to the Transport and Resources Committee.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.02 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 16 August 2022.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee, Attendance



Mr BROWN (Capalaba—ALP) (10.02 am): Following yesterday's reports and today's reports about my non-attendance at the PCCC, I felt it necessary to give a personal explanation this morning. In my role as Chief Government Whip, the busiest hour of the day is the hour before the parliamentary sittings start. The member for Mount Ommaney is my deputy whip so it is also the same for her, and we make up half of the Labor contingent on the PCCC. As this week is budget week, there are extra demands on our responsibilities. I also note that one of my deputies, the member for Lytton, is away with COVID this week. This has meant that the member for Mount Ommaney and I have had to do more work before the parliamentary sitting day.

This had been conveyed through the deputy chair so as to try to organise a suitable time for the PCCC to meet. Unfortunately, even though the chair of the PCCC knew this, he went ahead with yesterday's meeting. Again, he is putting forward, without consultation, a new meeting. Again, without consultation with other members—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left will cease their interjections. This is a personal explanation. I need to hear the content of that explanation.

Mr BROWN: Without consultation, there has been another meeting scheduled for today. We look forward to attending that meeting today.

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Southern Downs is warned under the standing orders. Member for Mermaid Beach, the mask does not hide—

Mr Stevens interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: You did prior.

Mr BROWN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and I ask for the member to withdraw.

Mr Stevens interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mermaid Beach, you are not warned; I am giving you some guidance. Member for Southern Downs, the member for Capalaba has found those words personally offensive. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr LISTER: I withdraw.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, question time will conclude today at 10.35 am. It is a shorter question time but it does not mean we try to pack an hour's worth in. I am giving forewarning to the House.

Trad, Ms J



Mr CRISAFULLI (10.05 am): My question is to the Premier. Why won't the government reveal how much they are paying in legal fees for Jackie Trad to prevent a CCC report being made public when the CCC is willing to release the costs?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. The Leader of the Opposition very well knows about legal indemnity rules that apply to all sides of parliament. Secondly, I am not commenting on committee business.

Dr Miles interjected.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The Deputy Premier, the Minister for Education and the Minister for Transport and Main Roads will cease their interjections or they will be warned under the standing orders.

Trad, Ms J

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question is to the Premier. When will the Premier finally tell Jackie Trad enough is enough—it is time to release the CCC report and pay back the taxpayers' money used to keep it secret?

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. It is not within the responsibility of the Premier to tell a private citizen what they should do.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The question as asked does relate to the use of public funds which can be attributed to the responsibility of the Premier as the chief minister of the government. I will allow the question but I will equally allow the Premier latitude in terms of her response.

Ms PALASZCZUK: My understanding is that the matter is before a court and once that decision is made by the court then the public will be aware of that report. That is my understanding.

Budget, Flood Recovery

Mr McCALLUM: My question is to the Premier and Minister for the Olympics. Will the Premier please update the House on what the state budget delivers for flood affected communities like mine throughout Queensland?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Bundamba because obviously those opposite are finished with the budget this week. It has been such a great budget for Queensland that they cannot even ask any questions about it. There are no questions to the Treasurer, no questions to the Deputy Premier and no questions to the transport minister because this is the best budget that Queenslanders have had. It is the best budget ever handed down by the Treasurer. They have given up on the budget.

Dr Miles interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take that interjection. We did not see the Leader of the Opposition's reply on the front page. They were going to have a committee for women on economic security, but there are not many women on that side. They were going to fight for women, but he knocked over a woman.

Onto more important business. In the budget, we have \$1.7 billion for the Queensland Reconstruction Authority and that is about rebuilding people's lives. We are happy to talk about Queenslanders and what matters to them. What matters to Queenslanders is a government that looks after them. That is why \$1.7 billion is going to help disaster impacted communities. As part of that, our \$721 million disaster assistance funding will deliver \$178 million for human and social initiatives, \$200 million for economic recovery, \$57 million for environmental recovery and management, and over \$300 million for infrastructure programs. The Deputy Premier announced that we will partner with the Commonwealth to deliver the \$150 million community and recreational assets program.

The member for Bundamba knows absolutely how his community was impacted. I went there and saw firsthand. Over 60 councils were impacted by the floods. It takes a while for people to rebuild their lives. This is what matters to Queenslanders.

Mrs Frecklington: It certainly matters to the people of Gympie.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Gympie is included as well. We will get on with the job in terms of delivering for Queenslanders: good jobs, better services and keeping our fantastic Queensland lifestyle.

(Time expired)

Trad, Ms J

Ms SIMPSON: My question is to the Premier. Is Jackie Trad, the puppetmaster, still pulling the strings of this government from her political grave?

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Firstly, the question needs to be heard in silence, members. It was not the case then and I will ask members to ensure that that is the case for all remaining questions.

Ms KING: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order which goes to standing order 115(b). That question contained inferences.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Pumicestone, thank you for your point of order. The inference could be seen to be against a member who is no longer in the House. Equally there could be some suggestion of inference towards the Premier. I will allow the question, but the Premier will be able to answer that question with a very broad scope.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The answer is no—N-O.

Indigenous Councils, Community Infrastructure

Ms LUI: My question is of the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure. Can the Deputy Premier outline to the House how the latest Palaszczuk government budget will support Indigenous councils to improve their community infrastructure, and is he aware of any alternative approaches?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Cook for her question. I know how important our support for remote Indigenous councils is across the entire state, but particularly in the electorate of Cook. That is one of the reasons I was so pleased that the budget and the Health and Hospitals Plan included so many investments right across the state into our remote Indigenous communities, including Pormpuraaw, close to my heart, and on the Torres Strait.

The Palaszczuk government has also been very pleased through this budget to support remote Indigenous councils through our critical infrastructure upgrades program. The \$120 million program supports our 16 remote First Nations councils to upgrade their vital water, waste water and solid waste infrastructure. Yesterday I was able to outline that \$22.3 million of that \$120 million program was included in this year's budget, assisting councils with the long-term strategic management of their water assets in places like Cherbourg where, since 2017, we have been working with them to refurbish their sewerage pump station upgrade, their water supplies, and refurbish their water treatment lab and their chlorine injection station. It is those kinds of investments that we are making right across the state into critical water and waste infrastructure that here in the city we often take for granted.

I was disappointed by the misleading claims made by the member for Broadwater in his budget reply speech yesterday where he incorrectly claimed that there had been a reduction in that program. As a former minister, he should understand that when council projects are delayed, then the funds acquitted are reported in that financial year and those not yet acquitted are carried over into future financial years. While we anticipated, based on council projects, that they would spend \$33.3 million in 2021-22, they in fact acquitted \$21.5 million. All other funds will be carried forward to future years.

We are all used to him walking in here and making misleading claims, but this kind of dangerous hoax is just cruel to our remote First Nations communities. It is below even him. Even he should be above telling our Indigenous communities that we are cutting funding from their water infrastructure projects when in fact we are working with them every day to deliver every single cent of that \$120 million critical infrastructure program.

Premier and Minister for the Olympics

Mr BLEIJIE: My question is to the Premier. Has the Premier eyeballed her MPs to find who said she was 'a part-time Premier who has checked out'?

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The House is extraordinarily disorderly. I am taking advice from the Clerk at the table. There is an element of responsibility in terms of the broader members of parliament in relation to your duties, Premier, but you can choose to answer the question in whichever way you see fit.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker, I did wish to raise a point of order.

Mr SPEAKER: I just made a ruling on the question. I am sure that is where you were headed, Leader of the House?

Mrs D'ATH: No.

Mr SPEAKER: I will hear your point of order.

Mrs D'ATH: In addition to the issue around any inferences or areas of responsibility, the point of order I wished to make was that there is also a responsibility on members to make sure that what they put forward is factually correct—simply reading off a media article is not—and they can substantiate it.

Dr Miles interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The Deputy Premier will cease his interjections. I need to rule on the point of order. Ultimately, if there is something which is publicly available and published, anyone will have difficulty authenticating those matters, but it has been long practice that media articles are a source which can be utilised in the House.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Every member of my team knows how hard I work for the people of this state.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock! Member for Buderim and member for Nanango, you are both warned under the standing orders. We will not have pointing and gesticulating in the House. It is very unseemly and completely disorderly. You are both very lucky I am not asking you to leave the House right now.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Every single member of my cabinet has worked incredibly hard in formulating this budget which delivers for the health of Queenslanders right across the state with the largest health infrastructure ever seen. To all the backbenchers who work hard in their community—every single one of my team has helped keep Queenslanders safe during the worst of times, day in, day out. Today we can see the results through the hard work—

Mr Bleijie: Especially with a part-time Premier.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: We know there is one person who has been out there critical of me and that is the member for Kawana. That is because he did not receive an invite to the premiere of *Elvis*. That is the reality.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am prepared to shout him a ticket. It is a very good movie. Let me tell honourable members about this. It was filmed in Queensland. While the rest of the industry all around the world was shut down, people had jobs in Queensland and they made that movie. It kept people in jobs. If honourable members want to know what motivates all of us, it is jobs for Queenslanders. We have the lowest unemployment rate, four per cent, the likes of which I never thought I would see amidst a pandemic.

I love going out there and speaking to people, whether it is in Stanthorpe or elsewhere. I love talking to them about how they were able to continue to survive during the worst pandemic because we kept people safe, kept people in employment and kept them in good jobs. Just because we have the laziest opposition that this state has ever seen—

Ms Grace: How many questions?

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right, there has been not one question on the budget. I am more than happy to give them all a copy of the health plan. We received nothing when Scott Morrison was the Prime Minister. We had to fight tooth and nail to get sense out of them. Now we have a great new Prime Minister in Anthony Albanese whom we can work with—a breath of fresh air—to deliver even more for this state. I can understand why every one of those members opposite is upset this week, because this is the best budget which will see this government—

(Time expired)

Budget, Revenue Measures

Mr WHITING: My question is of the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment. Will the Treasurer update the House on how the revenue measures outlined in this week's state budget underpin important investments across Queensland, and is the Treasurer aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Bancroft for his question. The prudent revenue measures I outlined in this week's budget provide funding for new and better services for Queenslanders. Very importantly, our mental health levy provides ongoing, sustainable funding for our \$1.6 billion five-year investment in addressing mental health care. Our new progressive coal royalties will fund new and better hospitals in regional Queensland, in places like Moranbah in the electorate of Burdekin.

Yesterday we heard the contribution from the Leader of the Opposition and the shadow Treasurer, but there was not one word from them on coal royalties. In fact, the Leader of the Opposition could not even bring himself to say the word 'coal'. Why will the Leader of the Opposition not talk about coal? This is a big issue. It is the second biggest revenue measure in the budget. It was on the front page of the *Courier-Mail* for two days in a row. It has been in all the national newspapers and in all TV bulletins, yet the LNP have nothing to say about it, and all Queenslanders know why: because they are going to repeal the revenue measures. They are going to repeal these revenue measures and hand back money to big coal companies, and they will cut spending on regional hospitals in places like Moranbah to pay for it. They do not support the mental health levy, they will hand back money to big business and cut \$400 million a year out of mental health. They will cut the new Coomera Hospital, the new Toowoomba Hospital and the new Moranbah Hospital. They will all be cut back by the LNP which is obsessed with giving money back to big business and big coal companies.

Do honourable members know who will be backing them every step of the way when they repeal the mental health levy? The Greens political party! The member for Maiwar and the member for South Brisbane will be voting to repeal the mental health levy because in the dissenting report of the parliamentary committee they explicitly opposed a mental health levy on big business. The Greens political party will be voting to cut mental health services to Queenslanders. The two of them, the LNP and the Greens political party, will be in an unholy alliance to undermine the revenue base of the state so that the LNP can then sack the frontline workers who got us through the pandemic, just like they did in 2012 when they sacked 14,000 workers in this state—over 4,400 health workers including 1,200 nurses and midwives. They will be cheered on every step of the way by the Greens political party who oppose the mental health levy. When it comes to our revenue measures and frontline workers, the choice is clear: you can back a Labor government or the LNP can sack them. That is the choice.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Integrity

Mr BOOTHMAN: My question is to the Premier. Why will the Premier not call a royal commission into the integrity of her government?

Ms PALASZCZUK: We definitely need one into the Newman years.

Dr Miles: Leftovers.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right, those opposite are Campbell Newman's leftovers. That is what we are dealing with. They remember it is 10 years since the member for Clayfield's budget and Queenslanders do not forget. I say to the member for Broadwater that Queenslanders do not forget. We know you have a problem with getting some traction out there.

Mr SPEAKER: Through the chair, Premier.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: They still think the member for Nanango is the leader, but that is his problem, not mine.

Let me say very clearly that, as I have said, we have Peter Coaldrake's report coming down. I understand that is due next week. I am very much looking forward to seeing that. We will be looking at it. As I said yesterday in the House, we are absolutely looking at tightening those lobbying rules. We believe at the moment we do have very strict rules in this state compared to other states—the strictest in the country. However, if we can tighten them even further, we will absolutely do that. That is in stark contrast to what happened under the LNP government and under Campbell Newman.

We look forward to Peter Coaldrake's report. As I said, the government will implement the recommendations that he hands down.

Australian South Sea Islanders

Mrs GILBERT: My question is of the Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs. Will the minister advise what steps the Palaszczuk government is taking to deliver better outcomes for Queensland's South Sea islander communities?

Ms LINARD: I thank the member for Mackay for her question and also for her ongoing advocacy on behalf of the Australian South Sea islander community. In Mackay there are rich and long connections. I really enjoyed the opportunity recently to meet with some of the leaders and the member for Mackay, and I will be going back again soon to continue that conversation.

Australian South Sea islander peoples have maintained a rich cultural identity throughout Queensland from beginnings that more often than not were quite horrendous. Australian South Sea islander people are the Australian-born direct descendants of around 50,000 people who were brought to Queensland from some 80 Pacific islands to work on cotton and sugar plantations between 1840 and 1901. The majority of these people were kidnapped, blackbirded or deceived into coming. They experienced harsh treatment and discrimination during a shameful time in Australia's history.

I would like to respectfully acknowledge the member for Mirani in this place and his deep connections with, and membership of, the Australian South Sea islander community. I know these issues are of deep importance to him also.

We cannot right the wrongs of the past but together we can shape our future and build on the benefits Australian South Sea islander people have brought to Queensland's cultural and economic prosperity. It is with great pleasure that I can announce that in this year's budget over a million dollars over the next four years will be committed and spent to raise awareness of Australian South Sea islander people's unique culture and history of contributing to Queensland's cultural and economic development. It will deliver more targeted and culturally appropriate support, it will help address disadvantages and it will meaningfully acknowledge past harm and trauma.

A dedicated engagement officer will be appointed in my department to develop and oversee the delivery of initiatives, in collaboration with the Queensland United Australian South Sea Islander Council. This position will be an important conduit between government and Australian South Sea islander people. It will ensure their needs are understood across government and will build on existing work and seize future opportunities, particularly around culturally appropriate service delivery.

I acknowledge the strong advocacy of Clacy Fatnowna, the president of QUASSIC. He has been amazing. He is a delightful person but, as well as that, he is focused on achieving positive outcomes for his community. He has been travelling across Queensland, uniting Australian South Sea islander people in this combined purpose. We want to acknowledge that. We want to invest in the work that he is doing, walk alongside him and partner with him. That is what we will be doing in the coming year and the years that follow. I also acknowledge the personal interest and advocacy of the Premier on this issue. The Premier has been following this issue closely and has argued in support of this funding.

Lobbyists

Mr KRAUSE: My question is to the Premier. The boss of the CFMMEU, one of the largest donors to the ALP, says that the biggest commodity a government has with Queenslanders is trust. When the head of the CFMMEU does not trust that the government is making decisions for everyone, how can Queenslanders?

Ms PALASZCZUK: This question sounds very similar to one that was asked yesterday. Obviously, those opposite have run out of questions and have run out of ideas. There has been not one question on the budget—unbelievable. I urge everyone to go back to their communities after this sitting and ask the people of Queensland what they think of the health funding in this budget. Do they support the brand new Toowoomba Hospital? Do they support the brand new Coomera Hospital? Do they support the first Queensland dedicated cancer centre?

Mr Dick: And the revenue measures that support it.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. Do they support the revenue measures? Do they support the new schools? Do they support the upgrades to the tuckshops? Do they support the expansion of national parks? Do they support extra housing or money for the tourism sector?

I love this state. The people of this state deserve our admiration and respect. Unfortunately, they do not deserve this opposition. They are lazy. They have not even read the budget papers. This is the worst opposition question time after a budget I have ever witnessed. They have checked out. We are dealing with Campbell Newman's leftovers.

Mr Watts: So integrity doesn't matter?

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: It matters to the people of this state that they can have access to good quality health care, that they have good access to education and that they have a government that cares about their children getting into a job—a job that gives them dignity so that they can provide for their family—

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Everton!

Ms PALASZCZUK:—a government that honoured the commitment to keep our public assets in public hands and can now return dividends from those assets to people's pockets to help them with cost-of-living pressures—

Mr Mander interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK:—a government that puts back \$6 million in concessions, helping our most vulnerable; a government that believes that treaty is the way in which we can reconcile the ills of the past for a positive future for all Queenslanders; a government that is committed to working with the new federal Labor government to deliver the infrastructure that is needed for our state. Those opposite have no new ideas. They have checked out and it is about time they thought about a new opposition leader.

(Time expired)

Moreton Bay, Health Services

Ms KING: My question is for the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Can the minister inform the House how our budget is investing in the health of the people of the Moreton Bay region?

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you have one minute to respond.

Mrs D'ATH: One minute to talk about all of the amazing work that is happening in Moreton Bay for health services! There is \$1.06 billion for the Redcliffe Hospital—204 beds—and three satellite hospitals being built. There is the investment in Caboolture Hospital and the expansion of Prince Charles Hospital. Another \$300 million and 93 additional beds will also make a difference. The investment of over \$1.6 billion in mental health will help us right across the region.

There are seven elected members—one on the opposite side and six on the government side—representing the wonderful communities across the Moreton Bay region. We are so proud of this budget and its support for ambulance services, including Morayfield ambulance station and Petrie ambulance station being built. These are amazing initiatives, supported by the Palaszczuk government. This budget is a record budget—one that all Labor members across the Moreton Bay region can be proud of.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed from 23 June (see p. 1819), on motion of Mr Dick—

That the bills be now read a second time.



Hon. MC de BRENNI (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement) (10.35 am): Good jobs, better services and protecting the great Queensland lifestyle—that is our commitment to Queenslanders and what this budget is all about. We are making a record investment in education, jobs, renewables, environmental protection and community services.

The centrepiece of this budget is the Palaszczuk government's \$23.6 billion investment in new health facilities and programs. We will deliver the largest hospital building program in the history of this state. This includes three new hospitals—over 2,000 extra beds—and expansions in Cairns, Townsville,

Robina, Mackay, Redcliffe, Ipswich and Hervey Bay. Importantly for our community, the Logan and Redland hospitals will be expanded, too. This is building on the two satellite hospitals and an urgent care clinic to be delivered by the Albanese government. In an Australian first, we will build a comprehensive Queensland Cancer Centre. We all know someone who would have benefited from this—this is for you. I commend the Premier and the Treasurer for delivering a budget that, just like this Labor government, continues to put the health of Queenslanders first.

In the community I am honoured to represent, we are creating thousands of decent jobs, with huge investments in transport infrastructure. The budget commits funds to continue the next stages of the Pacific Motorway upgrade, the busway, the park-and-rides and the Veloway. We will plan for major upgrades to Mount Cotton Road and we will build stage 1 of the Coomera Connector. When families in our community put the kids in the car, it is these better and safer roads that will take our families to the better services that we are delivering and that they deserve.

Whether that is the extra 460 hospital beds at the Logan and Redland hospitals, the new hall at Rochedale State High School, the new public use tennis courts at Daisy Hill State School or the new classrooms at our local state schools, there is no better place to enjoy our great Queensland lifestyle than in the beautiful community that we call home. It is a community where, thanks to the Palaszczuk government, locals will be able to explore the new walking tracks, new mountain bike trails and new visitor facilities at Daisy Hill Conservation Park. They will be able to take a ride down the Cinderella Drive cycleway or the M1 Veloway. They will be able to kick the footy, pass the netball or swing a bat under bright new lights at Slacks Creek Lions, at Underwood Park, at Redland Rays and at Victoria Point Sharks.

When it comes to creating more jobs in more industries, this is a budget that delivers big. The Palaszczuk government has reaffirmed its commitment to reliable and affordable energy supply and to jobs in more industries with this budget. We will deliver over \$2 billion in large-scale storage, renewable energy generation and investment in the transmission network. Plus, we will deliver a \$13 million investment to advance the business case for pumped hydro storage at Borumba Dam and a \$35 million commitment to identify sites for additional pumped hydro storage further afield in Queensland, because you cannot be serious about renewables unless you are serious about storage, too. That is why the Palaszczuk government will invest funds from the 2022 Queensland state budget to ramp up the state's energy independence. We will build the largest utility scale battery in our state's history, as part of another battery blitz to grow Queensland's energy storage capacity.

There will be 13 large-scale batteries rolled out across the state, including a 400-megawatt-hour battery at Greenbank, the state's largest, as part of the state's second battery blitz. These significant investments will complement the government's \$2 million Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund powering more jobs in more industries across Queensland.

I would also like to briefly address some comments made by the Leader of the Opposition in his attempt at a budget reply speech. First and foremost this government will not be lectured to about planning for renewables from an LNP that dismisses the science and has campaigned for a new coal-fired power station and campaigned for a nuclear power station.

Ms Boyd: Dinosaurs!

Mr de BRENNI: I take the interjection: they are dinosaurs. We will not be lectured to by an LNP that failed to deliver a single large-scale renewable project in their three years in office—a dismal record. We will not be lectured to by an LNP that vetoes wind farms and sends someone like Colin Boyce to Canberra. The idiocies did not stop there though. Regarding the retention of dividends and electricity company revenues which were mentioned in speeches by those opposite, they have a bad habit of misleading this House. Perhaps it is worse: that they just do not understand. It is hard to say which. We are always happy to educate them. What they should know is that Queensland's publicly owned energy assets include transmission and distribution companies Powerlink and Energy Queensland. Neither of these companies bid into the wholesale energy market yet both are projected to return the bulk of total dividends—up to \$356 million. I am sorry to have burst the conspiracy bubble of those opposite.

The LNP should know that generators bidding into the market are tightly regulated, including legislative requirements around their maintenance. Whilst it might not suit the political purposes of those opposite, they need to understand that the Australian Energy Market Operator sets the rules for the way in which generators bid into the market. The budget outlines that our energy companies will retain dividends and they will retain that for purposes of investing in critical storage, in renewable energy and in network investment. This was stated in the budget. It was made clear three times.

If the LNP were not stopped in their asset sale of the century they would have flogged off CS Energy and Stanwell and those dividends would have gone straight into the pockets of overseas shareholders. That is the policy of those opposite. We have always said the Palaszczuk government is a government for all Queenslanders. It is why we are delivering better services across the state. It is why our budget confirms a \$519 million housing construction package that will build more than 400 new homes for Queensland's frontline workers in regional and remote Queensland. This will protect locals from housing market impacts, putting downward pressure on private rental costs while welcoming more frontline workers to remote and regional communities. I would like to acknowledge the unions that have advocated for this housing supply boost, especially the Queensland Teachers' Union, the United Workers Union, the Together union, the Queensland Police Union and the Nurses and Midwives Union.


This investment will deliver 400 new homes for doctors in Doomadgee, ambos in Aurukun, teachers in Tambo, midwives in Maranoa and police in Paroo. I know members of this House are pleased to have secured as well the return of the Household Resilience Program. I acknowledge the advocacy of regional members, the members for Bundaberg, Mackay, Cook and Keppel and more across the Palaszczuk government caucus. It has been thanks to their advocacy for their communities that this budget delivers a further \$20 million of new funding for the Household Resilience Program phase 3.

Queensland is the most natural disaster prone state in the country and the return of this program will provide practical solutions for thousands of Queenslanders who need a helping hand to feel safe in their home when severe storms hit, an initiative that backs good jobs for local tradies in regional Queensland. The Leader of the Opposition waxed lyrical about devastating floods and natural disasters in his budget reply speech. That is despite leading a party that has campaigned against renewable energy and a party that has campaigned against climate change mitigation measures leading to more severe and frequent storms.

Ms Fentiman: They're all over the shop.

Mr de BRENNI: I take the interjection from the Attorney-General; their policies on climate change and energy are all over the shop. The speeches so far from the opposition reveal that the LNP is planning more cuts. It is their only way. The Leader of the Opposition did not talk about that. There was not one word from those opposite to support the revenue measures in the budget. They will not support overseas coal companies paying their fair share to Queenslanders. They will not support the top one per cent of the biggest businesses in this state chipping in to pay for critical mental health services. They will not support that. Their failure to support these revenue measures means that they must cut.

If the LNP do not support the royalty measures they must cut the expansion of hospitals. Will they cut the expansion of Logan and Redland hospitals? If they do not support the levy on Australia's richest companies they must cut hundreds of millions of dollars a year out of health programs. Will they cut the new mental health program budget? I guess what is worse is that they are not even honest enough to say where they stand on it. That is a complete failure of leadership. It is a failure of leadership by rejecting our revenue measures yet refusing to say how they would fund their incredibly limited initiatives. When it comes to good jobs, good services and protecting the great Queensland lifestyle, Queenslanders know it is only the Palaszczuk government, it is only Labor and it is only this budget that delivers. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10.46 am): In speaking to the appropriation bills, I firstly acknowledge the new member for Callide, the wonderful Mr Bryson Head. I loved going up to his electorate in regional Queensland and campaigning—unlike the Premier, who made not one visit during the by-election to endorse or support her Labor Party candidate. Is it any wonder they kept the Premier away? The Labor Party suffered a 19 per cent primary vote swing. Their vote absolutely tanked in regional Queensland. There was a six per cent swing to Mr Bryson Head, two-party preferred.

I congratulate the new member for Callide because, guess what? He turns up to work! He turns up to work on his first day on the job, unlike the four Labor MPs who did not show up to their job yesterday in a PCCC meeting. Where were they? We heard bizarre excuses this morning: 'I am the whip.' As if he does anything anyway. It is all run from the back room. We know that it is not even run from the Premier's office. The ghost of Jackie Trad still haunts this place. I thought when Jackie got booted from parliament it was the last we would see of her. Alas, the ghost of Jackie still roams around here. She is the puppetmaster for the Palaszczuk Labor government. She pulls the strings. She has her bodyguard, the member for Pumicestone, stand up here and defend her integrity. No way, I say. The other bodyguard is the Attorney-General. Let us not forget this is the Attorney-General who went

skiing with Jackie Trad in Whistler and forgot to update her pecuniary interest register. Are we going to take integrity advice from the Attorney-General who, incidentally, signed off on the legal indemnity paying—

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Pause the clock. I will wait for silence. Member for Kawana, you have been making an enthusiastic contribution. You have not mentioned the budget yet. I am hoping that you bring it back to the long title of the bill.

Mr BLEIJIE: Of course this budget is covering the cost of Jackie Trad's legal expenses to hide a CCC report from the people of Queensland.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I will take that interjection. I have no issues at all with legal indemnities, but when a former minister goes off to the Supreme Court to try to hide a CCC report then it is a different story. A former minister should not have their legal expenses covered when trying to cover up a report. It is a cover-up. It is corrupt.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. We will wait for silence again. I ask all members to refrain from gesticulating.

Mr BLEIJIE: Get me some rope. I will tie my hands behind my back. It will help the House and the Attorney-General, I might add. Indemnities are offered to former ministers. We have no problem with that. But we do have a problem when a former minister goes off to the Supreme Court, uses taxpayer money and is granted an indemnity by her Labor mates and then tries to hide a CCC report. Imagine if a court finds in Jackie Trad's favour: the public will never know what happened with the appointment of Frankie Carroll, the former under treasurer, and the public will never find out about the involvement of Jackie Trad. As I have said in this House, what has Jackie Trad got to hide if she is running off to the Supreme Court?

The PCCC members who were completely derelict in their duties yesterday by not showing up to the meeting should consider whether they even want to be a part of the committee system in the first place. They have an obligation to show up. I echo the words of former Labor Speaker John Mickel who, only a short time ago on 4BC, said he was bemused that the Labor members of parliament would not show up for their duties. They are paid to show up to their job. The protection racket for Jackie Trad continues by the Labor government.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Waterford.

Ms Bates: Could we stop the screeching?

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection. This is protecting a former minister who clearly still controls—

Ms FENTIMAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. If I understand it correctly, the member for Mudgeeraba described me as 'shrieking', in another use of gendered language. If that is the case, I take offence and ask her to withdraw.

Mr POWELL: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order in relation to that point of order. If the member for Waterford is suggesting that what was said by the member for Mudgeeraba was directed personally at her and named her, then that is false. *Hansard* would show that.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. Member for Mudgeeraba, personal offence has been taken. Do you withdraw?

Ms BATES: I withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: As the Treasurer has said, this budget is a typical Labor budget and I completely agree. There are higher taxes. He misrepresented what he was going to do in the budget. There is bigger debt. It is more Labor nonsense. Of course, the biggest promise they made: 'Trust us, trust us, trust us. We're going to build hospitals in two elections time.' That is what the budget does. There is no actual commitment to fix the health crisis today. There is no actual commitment to fix the ambulance ramping today. You could be on a stretcher in a ramped ambulance tonight, but there is no incentive in the budget to fix the crisis we have now. There is no fix to the housing crisis we have now and there is simply no fix to the integrity crisis.

Where is the money for all the royal commissions we have in Queensland at the moment? This would be the most royal commissions into a government that I have seen going at any given time. We have a royal commission into the CCC itself. We have a royal commission into how the police handle DV victims in the state of Queensland. We have a royal commission into the forensic lab, which they denied was needed but then they did it, although it is not funded in the budget. Where is the money? We have investigations of the QBCC, which should be a royal commission. We have investigations into all the other integrity matters. There is the Coaldrake review that is doing investigations. We have the laptop affair currently before the CCC. The only one we do not have is a royal commission into the Palaszczuk government.

If you look at what the CCC has recently released in terms of influencing practices in government, it talks very much about lobbyists. It also underlines the focus of another influencing practice in Queensland, which is the unions—the absolute influence of the unions. I will be making a submission to that CCC inquiry because for years I have been trying to get the CCC to take seriously the relationship and the coexistence between the union movement and the Labor Party, the donations they receive and the benefits that they get from those donations, which is legislative reform and changes. That is what they get. I look forward to making a submission to that CCC inquiry in relation to influencing practices.

As I said in the House yesterday, when talking about those union influencing practices you only have to take this example: if you are a nurse in Queensland and you join the nurses union, at the moment you will pay \$717.50 a year.

Mr Kelly: Money well spent.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take that interjection. Labor cannot do maths. That is 'Labornomics'. That is not the case. I would ask for a refund. I would join the NPAQ because you get a better service. You might as well give your 300 bucks to the Labor Party anyway, which is where it goes. It is \$717.50 for the nurses union, but you can join the Nurses Professional Association of Queensland for \$442. That is a \$275 difference.

Mr BROWN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. It is my understanding that there is a bill before parliament that he is pre-empting the debate of.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Capalaba, there is no point of order.

Mr BLEIJIE: I am talking about the union fees and membership fees of different organisations in Queensland. If you look at those two groups, you see there is a \$275 difference. If one union group can provide services to their members, such as hardworking teachers and nurses, for about \$300 less, it begs the question: where does the money go? I can tell the House where it goes: campaigning for the Labor Party! At the federal election the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union put up big anti-coalition billboards across all the federal electorates. That is where the \$300 goes.

If people want bang for their dollar and actual choice about which organisations to use, why is the Labor Party so opposed to teachers and nurses making that choice? It is not about other unions; it is about choice for nurses and teachers. This is not about other unions or competition between unions; it is about teachers and nurses. It is their choice. The QTU and the QNMU exist to support the Labor Party. If you ask how much of that additional money goes into the Labor Party then the answer is, about \$300. I say to teachers and nurses across Queensland that the LNP will not tell you what to do with your money. We will not tell you what is the right or wrong choice or which organisation to choose, because you deserve a choice.

The member who rose on a point of order does not want me to anticipate debate and I will not talk about the corrupt piece of legislation that was introduced yesterday into the parliament. It is absolute corruption and it goes to the heart of choices for nurses and teachers in the state of Queensland. We will debate the bill that they introduced yesterday at another time. However, I suspect that when the CCC looks at the influencing practices of the union movement they will only need to look at the bill that was introduced yesterday in the parliament to see exactly that. They will see exactly the corrupt government we have in Queensland and what they want to do is outlaw—and I take the nodding from the Attorney-General; yes, they do.

Ms Fentiman: They want to outlaw organisations that purport to be a union but that are not.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection: the Attorney said they want to outlaw the competitive unions to the Labor Party friendly unions in this state.

Ms Fentiman: That is not what I said.

Mr BLEIJIE: That is essentially what she is saying. What the Attorney-General is saying to teachers and nurses is that if you are a teacher or a nurse you can join a union; just make sure that it is the one that supports the Labor Party. That is what they are saying.

That is a corruption risk in Queensland. I hope the CCC looks at that influencing practice. Their pre-selections, jobs in this place and ministerial responsibilities rely on it. I look forward to when we debate the influencing practices of the nurses' union and others. It is a disgrace that, in the middle of a budget week, the government would sneak in legislation to outlaw competitive unions, because it does not want teachers and nurses having a choice—to better representation and better service. Yes, Deputy Speaker, I am anticipating debate and I will stop right now. Thank you. I saw the warning.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Could the member for Kawana bring his speech back to talking about the budget.

Mr BLEIJIE: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, I will. Talking about the budget, it is a sneaky budget. I heard the Treasurer in Kuranda when he was asked about the increase in taxation and business taxes. He said, 'No, no, no. There will be no tax increase. There will be no increased or new taxes.' When trying to explain his misrepresentation, he got himself in a twist on live crosses and said, 'Well, no, I didn't really mention business.' Therefore, he always knew that he was going to attack the business community in Queensland and decided purposely not to tell people before the election about the great big new taxes. That is what they did.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: 'Tricky Dicky', I take the interjection. Absolutely it was 'Tricky Dicky'—or 'Slippery Dick'. That is what he is: 'Treasurer Slippery Dick'; that is what it is.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Referring to members not by their proper titles and then doubling down by making it unparliamentary is very unorthodox and unparliamentary.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I agree, member for Sandgate. Member for Kawana, I find some of the language you used was unparliamentary and ask that you withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: My apologies, Deputy Speaker. I withdraw. The Treasurer had his Julia Gillard moment when she said, 'There will be no carbon tax under the government I lead' in terms of no new or increased taxes. The Treasurer turned around and increased all these taxes.

I refer to the neglect of the Sunshine Coast, again, by the Palaszczuk Labor government—no commitment to our rail infrastructure; no commitment to the Beerwah to Caloundra to Kawana to Maroochydore rail infrastructure; and no commitment to say that we will match the 50 per cent funding of the former Morrison government. There was none of that. Absolutely, there was not a dime to build the important rail infrastructure on the Sunshine Coast.

I do thank the government for not funding the terrible light rail on the Sunshine Coast. We do not want light rail on the Sunshine Coast. The Gold Coast has it. They can leave it there and expand it. I do not care. We do not want it on the Sunshine Coast. We do want heavy passenger rail, which I know all my Sunshine Coast colleagues have been fighting so hard for, and we will keep encouraging the government in this respect. I am very pleased that in his budget reply the opposition leader committed a Crisafulli government, in 2½ years time, to 50 per cent funding to build the CAMCOS rail corridor from Beerwah to Caloundra to Kawana to Maroochydore. It will better connect South-East Queensland to the Sunshine Coast. It will connect the coast to Brisbane and other areas. It is so important. It was a project promised by Paul Lucas that was to be delivered by 2009. Finally we will see it, but only under an LNP government and not under a Labor government.

I also refer to the MRI, the Mooloolah River Interchange. The government cut its funding for the \$320 million MRI project. It is only giving \$40 million. It is a project about which I and my coast colleagues have been so passionate. We want to see it. It absolutely has to get built to bust congestion on the Sunshine Coast.

I congratulate the opposition leader on his budget reply yesterday. This is the type of future that can happen under a united team in an LNP government. What do we have in Queensland? We have a Premier under many integrity clouds. She is the only Premier in history found in contempt of this House. The fish rots from the head. At the moment, it is rotting from the Premier's office, from the Premier herself. She has given up on leading and governing in Queensland or, as more accurately put by members of the Labor Party, she has checked out and checked onto the red carpet. She has checked into every premiere across Queensland. There is more to being Premier in this state than red carpets. It is about rolling your sleeves up and getting on with the job.

(Time expired)



Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement) (11.04 am): I feel blessed to follow that most gesticular contribution! I start by congratulating the Treasurer on handing down his third budget, the 2022-23 budget, which delivers good jobs, provides better services and supports Queensland's great lifestyle. In particular, I welcome a budget that puts health care first with \$23.6 billion invested in 2022-23. In my local area, there is over \$1 billion for the Redcliffe Hospital expansion and \$300 million for the Prince Charles Hospital expansion, which I will touch on later when I address the budget measures in my electorate of Sandgate.

The 2022-23 budget marks our state's emergence from the sacrifice and resilience shown by Queenslanders during a pandemic that has shaken and disrupted us like nothing before. Queensland tourism is one industry bouncing back strongly following the Palaszczuk government's \$1.1 billion in support for the tourism, events and hospitality industry since the onset of the global pandemic. Holidays in Queensland are officially back in full swing, with the last school holidays generating up to \$2 billion for the state's tourism operators. I know that the upcoming June-July holidays are showing high bookings for Queensland's major tourism markets. This is very good to see.

The 2022-23 budget builds on this support for the tourism industry with a \$200 million investment in aviation attraction announced earlier this year. The budget also commits up to \$66.4 million over four years for the Action Plan for Tourism Recovery to help our tourism operators rebound even more strongly, particularly in regional communities.

On Tuesday I was pleased to release the Tourism Industry Reference Panel's final Action Plan for Tourism Recovery titled *Towards 2032: Reshaping Queensland's visitor economy to welcome the world*. When the panel was first established in early 2021, it was at a time when we were in the midst of rolling COVID impacts where many could not see beyond the challenges in front of us. In any case, we thought we knew better days were coming. Those days are here. The panel has now set the course for Queensland to recover not just from the pandemic but to re-emerge from supply and staff shortages, rising costs and uncertainty to make the industry more futureproof.

The panel recommends 75 actions. We will consider all the recommendations and shape a Queensland government response with input from industry and broader stakeholders. The \$66.4 million over four years for key initiatives aligned with the action plan's recommendations include: up to \$15 million over two years for the Tourism Experience Development Fund; up to \$4 million over two years towards a First Nations tourism program; up to \$27.4 million over two years for priority tourism projects as part of the Recovery for Regional Tourism program; and \$5 million for the Act Eco initiative to activate low-impact ecotourism infrastructure near state forests, timber reserves and national parks.

The Treasurer also announced as part of Tuesday's budget that we will provide payroll tax relief to more than 12,000 small- and medium-sized Queensland businesses. This will be achieved by increasing the payroll deductions to businesses with annual Australian taxable wages between \$1.3 million and \$10.4 million. I know that this will be particularly welcomed by the thousands of small- to medium-sized tourism and hospitality businesses that have been doing it tough over the past few years.

I also mention the \$262.5 million over four years in the Department of Environment and Science budget for the continuation of the Protected Area Strategy 2020—2030 for land acquisitions and capital works to increase Queensland's public protected area estate. This investment aligns very well with our ecotourism focus.

This is just the beginning. The action plan steps out the key focus areas for Queensland over the next 10 years. My department, the whole of our cabinet and team will lead the development of a 10-year industry strategy working closely with operators, RTOs, industry peaks and informed by the government response.

The Deputy Speaker has reviewed and approved my budget speech for incorporation and, as such, I ask that the remainder of my speech is incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

Sport and 2032

In my portfolio areas of Minister for Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement the 2022-23 Budget will support Queenslanders to leverage opportunity and legacy from the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Queensland's two golden decades of unrivalled opportunity before and after the 2032 Games have started and are transforming the state before our eyes.

Creating more good jobs through innovation and preparing Queensland for the biggest show on earth are budget priorities.

We're investing in sport, from community club infrastructure and gameday support to building games legacies, developing sport tech, and discovering and nurturing elite Queensland athletes with You For 2032.

The 2022-23 Budget commits an extra \$80.2 million over three years to support socioeconomic recovery from the pandemic, maximise opportunities to increase physical activity participation including the delivery of the infrastructure projects in line with Activate! Queensland 2019-2029, bringing the total allocation to \$394 million to help Queenslanders stay active more often.

The budget also invests an additional \$31.4 million in the Queensland Academy of Sport to ensure Queensland athletes will be able to compete with the best in the world.

The funding represents an additional \$15 million per year, taking the total to \$60 million over four years to ensure Queensland athletes are best prepared for the Paris 2024 Games and beyond, as the Queensland Academy of Sport continues the delivery of their Vision Inspiring Extraordinary Sporting Success.

This year's budget also starts planning the legacy Queenslanders want to achieve from the 2032 Games and support development of a world-leading sports technology industry.

We have a 10-year runway of transformational opportunity to 2032 and we're determined not to waste a second.

The Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games and its legacy are another example of the Palaszczuk Government delivering better services for Queenslanders.

The 2022-23 Budget also includes \$254.2 million over four years for Stadium Queensland's day-to-day operations, maintenance and to upgrade its \$2.9 billion of assets to a contemporary standard in the lead up to the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Innovation

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to building on the success of Advance Queensland to accelerate innovation for a strong Queensland future economy and jobs growth.

Since 2015, Advance Queensland and its partners have invested more than \$1.7 billion in Queensland, backing more than 7800 innovation projects and supporting more than 28,000 new Queensland jobs.

Thanks to Advance Queensland, our innovation ecosystem has matured, and we are more aware than ever of the important role innovation plays in building new businesses, new industries and new economies.

We need to build on that success and we now have an innovation community and leadership that is ready to lead the way, including Mr Wayne Gerard, our Queensland Chief Entrepreneur working hand in hand with the Innovation Advisory Council and government.

In partnership with the Chief Entrepreneur and Innovation Advisory Council, we continue to listen to our state's innovators about the future innovation priorities and opportunities that will drive new jobs and economic growth in Queensland.

As a result, we will soon release the details of the Palaszczuk Government's new innovation funding contained in the budget but not yet announced.

Sandgate

Turning to my electorate of Sandgate I mentioned at the outset the record investment in healthcare in this budget and particularly the \$1.06 billion for Redcliffe Hospital expansion and \$300 million for the Prince Charles Hospital expansion as part of the \$9.785 billion for the Queensland Health Capacity Expansion Program to deliver around 2,200 additional overnight beds over 6 years.

As Redcliffe and Prince Charles Hospitals service our area, I know the people of Sandgate will benefit from both these expansions.

Schools are also the big winners in this budget, with funding including:

\$8 million for a new building at Taigum State School to add modern classrooms and improved support spaces, in addition to \$200,000 for refurbishing an outdoor learning centre.

Confirmed \$5 million funding for Sandgate District State High School Performance Hall

Start of a \$2.2 million for refurbishment and upgrade of Sandgate High's Industrial Technology and Design block

Extended funding for Bracken Ridge State High's new building—\$7.75 million in the 2022-23 year

Over \$1 million in upgrades and maintenance at local State schools in 2022-23, and

\$777,000 towards maintenance and investment in Bracken Ridge TAFE's training infrastructure.


But the biggest local projects will be on our Main Roads:

Almost \$5 million to complete the upgrade at Gympie Arterial Road and Hoyland Street interchange at Bald Hills

A further commitment to replacing and improving noise barriers on Gympie Arterial Road at Bald Hills

And of course, the planning of the \$1 billion upgrade of the Bracken Ridge to Pine Rivers section of the Gateway Motorway which will have a huge impact on my electorate.

I commend the Budget Bills and Revenue Bill to the House.

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (11.08 am): *The Canterbury Tales*, Mozart's *Requiem*, *The Brothers Karamazov*; I ask members: what do all these have in common with the Leader of the Opposition's budget reply? They were all unfinished works. But we could not describe the Leader of the Opposition's unfinished work as a masterpiece. This is my eighth budget debate. To describe the Leader of the Opposition's reply as underwhelming would be a compliment. It was an uninspiring contribution with a finish so flat I thought it was just a pause, but then I realised it was actually over.

I saw on social media before his reply speech the Leader of the Opposition touting the fact that he was going to deliver positive plans for Queensland. I heard plenty of complaints, but I did not hear any solutions. I certainly did not hear or see any vision whatsoever. I have heard that seven times before from various LNP opposition leaders. They get stuck pointing out problems, take no account of changing situations and completely lack any real solutions.

This caused me to reflect on what the Palaszczuk government has achieved with successive budgets in relation to health. Initially it was all about repairing the massive damage done by the Newman government—damage I am well aware of because I was there when it was being done. Thankfully, the Premier and the Minister for Health listened to now Governor Jeannette Young and rebuilt our capacity, particularly in population health—an area absolutely destroyed by the Newman government. This was a key part of how we got through the pandemic.

Then we turned our minds to other reforms like safe nurse- and midwife-to-patient ratios, establishing nurse navigator positions, building new hospitals and rolling out proper digital hospitals. These were all important reforms. We did not stop there. We tackled some of the big and difficult issues that have been around for a long time in health care. Medicinal cannabis, termination of pregnancy, and end-of-life care, including voluntary assisted dying, were all difficult and divisive issues, but the community demanded that we debate and deal with them in this parliament. This government had the courage to do that. Not everyone, including me, agreed with all aspects of these issues. However, this government listened to the community and led these important debates in a respectful manner that gives these reforms a chance to be enduring.

Then the Premier and the Chief Health Officer led our community through the COVID-19 pandemic. The then health minister—the Deputy Premier—and the Treasurer took the difficult decisions to steer Queenslanders safely through the pandemic. There was a key focus on using the budget measures to keep Queenslanders safe. The first economic response was the health response. That is what set our economy on the great trajectory we see continuing to this day.

During the last election the reforms kept rolling with satellite hospitals to deliver care closer to people's homes. COVID-19 has impacted and changed our healthcare system and our society significantly. The government has taken the opportunity to hold three inquiries: an inquiry on the impacts of primary health care, allied health care, NDIS and aged care on the hospital system; an inquiry into social isolation; and an inquiry, that I had the privilege to lead, into the opportunities to improve the lives of people impacted by mental health issues and alcohol and other drug issues.

These inquiries show that the Palaszczuk Labor government is a forward-looking, visionary government when it comes to health—and a government with a hospital and health plan. This plan has been backed up in this budget. It was backed up with a sustainable revenue plan. Those opposite now need to make a choice. The choice is between more mental health beds and services for new mums or having mums not supported at this crucial time. The choice is between more detox beds or letting people continue on a path of destruction. The choice is between new regional hospitals in Toowoomba or Coomera or telling regional Queenslanders that you just do not care about their health. The choice is between properly funding neighbourhood centres to reduce social isolation or letting people languish. It is a choice between rolling out more co-responder models to support people in crisis or allowing them to continue to struggle along.

The Greens also need to make a choice. They have had billboards up all over Brisbane saying that we should tax billionaires and put the money into health care. Sadly, instead of backing Labor's plan to develop a sustainable revenue stream to fund health and mental health services, the Greens have chosen to play strange semantic games trying to wriggle out of doing the right thing. With both the blues and the Greens rejecting a sustainable revenue plan for funding mental health and AOD services, Queenslanders will know that it is only Labor that will deliver on these important issues.

When it comes to health care, with the LNP and now sadly also with the Greens, the people of Queensland get parties that lack vision, have no credible policy, are prepared to play political games rather than solve problems and have a track record of voting against successive reforms like nurse-to-patient ratios, transparency measures for aged care and abortion reform. Now the LNP have been joined by the Greens in opposing the next big reform of sustainable funding for the mental health and AOD services.

When it comes to health care, with Labor the people of Queensland get vision, significant reforms, funding, action, courage and outcomes. I congratulate the Premier, Treasurer, Deputy Premier, health minister and all other ministers on a great budget. It delivers good jobs, better services and a great lifestyle.

Over the last 12 months leading up to this budget I have been championing for the budget big six for the people in my electorate. These are the big six issues: jobs, schools, public transport, social housing, clean energy and mental health. This has been truly a big six-budget. Planning will start to fix the Coorparoo rail crossing. We will have another velobridge built over O'Keefe Street, keeping cyclists safe. I am proud that Whites Hill College and Holland Park High School will see the biggest ever investment in new classrooms, manual arts blocks and other facilities since they opened.

Construction is almost complete on the new social housing complex at Steele Street. There will be more coming with \$132 million being invested in Brisbane. The new battery testing facility and the \$48 million put towards pumped hydro at Borumba Dam complement the 50 large-scale renewable projects completed or underway. The \$1.6 billion in dedicated funding over the next five years for mental health and alcohol and other drug services will see Queenslanders lead better lives.

Of course, if we invest in schools, public transport, social housing, clean energy and mental health services, we are going to create jobs. Thanks to free TAFE and the Skilling Queenslanders for Work programs from past budgets, we are going to have workforces ready to step into these new jobs. This is truly a big-six budget. For the people of the Greenslopes electorate, it will mean a future that is better, safer and brighter. I commend the budget to the House.



Mr POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (11.16 am): I rise to address the 2022-23 state budget. To be blunt, I was tempted to dust off and recycle previous speeches I have given on Labor government budgets because, yet again, we have a budget of broken promises and missed opportunities. Let me start on those broken promises. Prior to this week, Queenslanders had already lost faith in the Palaszczuk Labor government. We have had the Jackie Trad saga. We had further revelations about that this morning—or a lack of revelations. We have had the raid on the Integrity Commissioner, the treatment of the State Archivist, Labor lobbyists, red carpets and a Premier who has checked out.

The actions of the Treasurer this week further demonstrate that this government cannot be trusted. Some 26 times before the last election the government said that there would be no new or increased taxes. What do we see? We see three new taxes. What we were told by the Treasurer was: 'But did you notice that I never once mentioned business.' That is just tricky. Queenslanders have lost faith and they cannot trust this Palaszczuk Labor government anymore.

It is also a budget of missed opportunities. I heard the Premier say that budgets are about ensuring governments look after Queenslanders. Let us unpack whether they have achieved that. I want to focus on how this budget does or does not do that, how it delivers for Queenslanders and how it delivers for the Glass House electorate in four key areas—health, housing, education and roads and public transport.

Let us start with health. Every member in this House has heard the hospital horror stories and the ramping horror stories—constituents waiting dangerously long times for surgery or dental services. The Premier, the Treasurer and the health minister want us to think that this budget will address the health crisis. In terms of the centrepiece—the big announcement around three new hospitals at Coomera, Toowoomba and Bundaberg—what they do not want people to know is that there will be two more elections and more than five years before Queenslanders will see one bed open in those hospitals.

Take the northern part of the Gold Coast, for example. The AMAQ, the pre-eminent professional association of doctors in this state, suggest that the region is short 500 hospital beds today—not in five years but today. In five years what will the new Coomera Hospital deliver? It will deliver 400 beds. Five hundred beds are needed now versus 400 beds delivered in five years. That just does not add up. That still leaves us far behind what we need. It does nothing to address the health crisis.

The Premier in question time yesterday challenged us to listen to what our communities are saying about this record health budget. Premier, let me read just one comment from one of my constituents who took the time to share this with me. They state—

Andrew, six years for the Labor government to fix the hospital system. What have they been doing for the last six years? Tell them, when John F Kennedy made his speech that the USA would put a man on the moon and bring him back again, it only took eight years from start to finish to achieve a moon landing and return. Yet Queenslanders cannot get half decent medical care for another six years! By then population growth will completely outstrip their budget and it will be as bad as it is now. Long delivery times from this government means just another bandaid.

The Premier wants us to listen to our communities. How about the Premier start listening to Queenslanders, start listening to the communities herself? The Premier, the Treasurer, the health minister and all Labor MPs walk around with their glossy health plans and brochures. They even do rather odd social media videos. To be blunt, Queenslanders can see right through them. This is no health fix. Ramping will get worse. Surgery waiting lists will continue to grow. It is not about record health budgets; it is about Labor's record on health.

I do want to spend a bit of time acknowledging a positive note in this budget. Every Queenslanders knows someone experiencing mental illness. For many of us it is a loved one. Nothing causes you more anguish. Nothing causes you more frustration—frustration that it takes three to six months to see a psychologist from the time of referral; frustration that the existing community and not-for-profit services are so overwhelmed they can rarely take on new clients; frustration that a young person with suicidal ideation cannot be seen by the state mental health team because they are not serious enough, that the young person actually needs to attempt suicide before they will be seen; frustration that even then services are stretched too thin.

I do welcome the additional funding of \$1.64 billion in operating funds and \$28.5 million in capital funds for mental health. That money will go to new beds for adolescents, young adults, adults, people with perinatal disorders or eating disorders, and older persons requiring mental health services. There will be new beds for crisis response services. There will be more than 1,000 new staff and there will be improved delivery of psychological supports for non-government providers. This cannot happen soon enough.

I am appalled, despite rivers of revenue including a windfall of \$5 billion in coal royalties, that the government has decided this increased funding requires a new levy on our businesses. Again, it is naive on their part to believe that a tax on Woolies and Coles is not going to be passed on through the cost of groceries. While they might be fixing one crisis in mental health, they are adding to another. We are already in the throes of a full-blown cost-of-living crisis. This is just going to exacerbate that crisis—which brings me to housing.

I am sorry, Glass House, but there is nothing that I can see in this budget that will address housing affordability, our local rental crisis or homelessness any time soon. There is no new social housing in the electorate. In fact, I just received a response to a question on notice that shows in a town such as Maleny there has not been a new social housing unit built by a Labor government since 2004. There is no new crisis or emergency housing. In fact, the entire Sunshine Coast Regional Council is only going to get 137 new social housing units over the next five years.

There is no plan to open up more land other than Caboolture West, which was opening up anyway. There is no plan to review restrictive planning laws. There is no plan to consider innovative solutions like tiny homes. There is nothing. Like health, I fear our housing affordability crisis in the Moreton Bay and Sunshine Coast hinterland will get much worse before it will get better.

When it comes to education there was an announcement for the electorate. There will be a new school built in that growing region of Caboolture West, but you do not need to be a rocket scientist to realise that, with a city the size of Gladstone progressively being built out at Caboolture West, we will need to build at least five government schools, so that announcement is very much business as usual.

Of more interest to me and impact on the electorate of Glass House, the education minister has explained to me that she has tasked her department to look at something called 'school optimisation'. That is where we use existing schools, particularly those with capacity, rather than racing off to build new schools. As I explained to the minister, we have several classic examples, but it may require some out-of-the-box thinking.

Take the beautiful Mount Mee State School, for example. It is a beautiful school. It has wonderful teachers and staff. It has plenty of space in a truly spectacular setting. All it would take to increase student numbers is greater flexibility in school transport. Currently kids at Ocean View are bussed off the D'Aguilar Range to Dayboro, and Dayboro is a school that is bursting at the seams. Instead of building more buildings at Dayboro, by changing a bus service we could increase the student numbers

at Mount Mee. By offering a bus service from Ocean View to Mount Mee, we could kill two birds with one stone. We could relieve pressure on Dayboro, reduce costs and increase student numbers at Mount Mee.

Then there is the Woodford P-10. Currently, after year 10, students are sent to Kilcoy or Tullawong state high schools for years 11 and 12. Both now I understand—and perhaps the member for Nanango can confirm for me—are enrolment capped.

Mrs Frecklington: Correct.

Mr POWELL: Let's not build a new school. Let's just take Woodford to a P-12 school. The minister herself said she is not a big fan of P-10s, and neither am I. Let's make it a P-12. Let's make it a true state college. These sorts of solutions are sensible, they are responsible and, at the end of the day, they also build community.


Finally, let's talk about roads and rail. There is no question that there is a lot happening in Glass House. I have spoken previously about some of the significant works occurring at the moment. On the D'Aguilar Highway between Caboolture and Wamuran we have a widening and safety improvement program. On Steve Irwin Way at Beerburrum we have works starting to occur to allow for the duplication of the north coast rail line. On Steve Irwin Way between Beerwah and Landsborough we also have widening and safety improvements including traffic lights going in at the intersection at Australia Zoo.

On the Bruce Highway between Caboolture and Elimbah we have six-laning. Starting this year we have the rail duplication itself between Beerburrum and Beerwah. But do not be fooled. All of this is only happening because of funding—in some cases significant funding beyond what they are required to contribute—from the then federal Morrison government, even on wholly state controlled roads like the D'Aguilar Highway and Steve Irwin Way. So it will come as no surprise that there is no new funding for road projects in Glass House from this Palaszczuk Labor government. Clearly, their one source of funding—the federal Morrison government—is now no longer there, and they have no solutions themselves.

There is nothing for Mount Mee Road at Ocean View or at Delaneys Creek or for lights on the D'Aguilar Highway at Campbells Pocket Road at Wamuran or at Mount Mee Road at D'Aguilar. There is no money for an intersection upgrade on Landsborough Maleny Road and Maleny Montville Road, where unfortunately there was another significant accident just last week. There is no money for Maleny Kenilworth Road at Witta. The money for the upgrade of Maleny Kenilworth Road at Cambroon is fortunately still there, but sadly I cannot tell residents when that will actually start. I simply do not know. I am simply not told.

Unbelievably, there is nothing for the heavy rail from Beerwah to Caloundra to Kawana to Maroochydore, despite the Morrison federal government putting \$1.6 billion—that is 50 per cent of the funding for that critical project—on the table. If they will not build it, we will. That is our commitment to the people of the Sunshine Coast. I thank the Leader of the Opposition, David Crisafulli, the member for Broadwater, for that commitment. I know that that is needed not only now but when we become a host of the 2032 Olympics. That infrastructure is vital.

Queenslanders have lost faith in the Palaszczuk Labor government. The Palaszczuk Labor government has stopped listening to Queenslanders. Yes, there are lots of words, there are lots of big numbers, there are lots of glossy brochures and awkward social media videos, but the details disappoint. The details are so disappointing. There is no immediate solution for our health crisis. There is no immediate solution for our housing affordability crisis. There is no solution for the appalling state of our state roads. Queenslanders deserve so much better.

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (11.29 am): The Palaszczuk government is delivering for Queensland's First Nations people, for our seniors and for those living with a disability, their carers and their families. We are delivering good jobs, better services and an even greater lifestyle.

Across my department's portfolio more than \$330 million will be delivered through services and support in this next financial year. More than \$258 million has been invested to support Queensland seniors and people with a disability. This is on top of the \$423 million for concessions and rebates that help alleviate cost-of-living pressures for our seniors and other members of society, while the \$175 cost-of-living rebate will also help Queensland households. These investments will make a real difference to Queenslanders at a time when households will most benefit from relief of cost-of-living stress.

I am thrilled that almost 90 per cent of eligible Queensland seniors aged 60 and over now hold a Seniors Card, Seniors Card +go or Seniors Business Discount Card, but unfortunately they do not necessarily access all of the discounts they are entitled to. That is why we are providing funding of

\$200,000 to support the delivery of our successful Seniors Expos across the state in the next financial year so that older Queenslanders can access information about the discounts and rebates they are entitled to. We will also provide \$710,000 for initiatives that assist us to better understand how we can support older people to connect, lead healthy and productive lives, and participate in Queensland's future. We will then enshrine those learnings in the new state seniors' strategy.

During the 2021 period the Elder Abuse Prevention Unit received 3,430 phone calls, including 2,022 notifications of elder abuse. Our seniors deserve to live their lives free of violence, neglect and abuse. That is why in this year's budget our government has committed a record \$7.7 million to prevent and respond to elder abuse. Funding for seniors legal and support services will increase by \$2.8 million per year to over \$6.6 million. This additional money will expand seniors legal and support services to Logan, Ipswich and Beaudesert and offer outreach services to older citizens in the outback and the cape and Torres regions.

In the coming year we will administer more than \$2.8 billion on behalf of Queenslanders with a disability, including over \$2.08 billion as Queensland's estimated cash contribution to the NDIS. This contribution to the NDIS ensures that people with disability can fully participate in society and that they are able to access the necessary supports required to give them quality of life. I recently attended the first Disability Reform Ministers' Meeting hosted by Bill Shorten, and can I say what an incredible experience that was. A bit like the Premier's experience with the first ministers, we were able to have a very good conversation. We were able to get through business very quickly. It is great to work with Bill Shorten on the NDIS.

I am also pleased to see the investment in much needed support for Queensland school students with disabilities through the Minister for Education's portfolio. It is my hope that this funding will support students with disabilities like dyslexia, ADHD and FASD to focus on their abilities rather than their disabilities while at school and to realise their aspirations.

As we continue to work along the Path to Treaty and increasing local decision-making, the government is continuing to invest in First Nations people with over \$74 million, including new funding focusing on strengthening culture and helping communities to thrive. This includes social and emotional wellbeing, health, education, employment, family violence, justice, language preservation, housing and access to land and waters. In this budget the Palaszczuk government has allocated extra funding of more than \$3 million over four years to make sure we are on track to meet the target of the Closing the Gap agreement by 2031. This is in addition to our record investment across health and mental health, education and training, community safety and wellbeing, caring for country and elevating First Nations women.

I am proud to be part of a government that introduces measures for our First Nations Queenslanders such as: \$1.9 million over two years to support local employment and economic development plans in each of the 19 remote and discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities; \$1.5 million in grants to support existing alcohol management plans with community-driven solutions to address community safety and sly grogging; \$16.6 million over four years to continue land administration and planning work which supports economic development, home ownership and jobs growth in the discrete remote and rural communities; and \$3 million over two years to the Office of the Commissioner (Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa), where I am pleased to report that three cultural recognition orders have been made so far, six more applications are currently being progressed, another four are prepared for lodgement, and hundreds of community members have been attending information sessions. This budget will deliver a more inclusive Queensland.

In my electorate of Barron River this year's budget has certainly been a win for my constituents. We have always fought hard to improve our roads, schools, health system and protect our pristine environment, and this budget reflects that. Over \$33 million has been allocated for much needed road upgrades, including funding for the ongoing duplication of the Cairns Western Arterial Road, where planning is currently underway for that next section. Nearly \$1.6 billion is being delivered in the Far North over four years as part of our seventh record road and transport budget in a total \$29.7 billion spend, supporting 25,000 jobs. Over 16,000 of those road and transport jobs will be in regional Queensland.


As our government embarks on the biggest expansion program ever seen in a state budget focussed squarely on health, Cairns will gain more than 100 extra hospital beds. The massive \$9.78 billion hospital and health infrastructure plan includes \$250 million for the Cairns hospital expansion to establish 96 new beds by 2026 and 45 extra beds through a leasing arrangement to expand subacute services in Cairns next year.

Water is one of the most precious commodities in the state's Far North, and \$107.5 million has been allocated over the next two years to shore up stage 1 of the Cairns Water Security program to support the growing needs of our city.

For our Barron River schools over \$9.2 million has been allocated for current and new projects. I want to give a big shout-out to: the Yorkeys Knob State School, which is getting \$1.1 million to renew their car parking and refurbish classrooms; the Freshwater State School is getting \$200,000 to start planning, design and consultation for their new school hall—they will be very happy with that; and Caravonica State School and Smithfield State High School will receive funding to install accessibility ramps.

Finally, \$1.1 million has been allocated to the Barron Gorge hydro station for the maintenance of existing assets—part of our Renewable Energy Target of 50 per cent by 2030.

This state budget is delivering good jobs, better services and even greater lifestyle for voters in my electorate and for seniors, people with disability and First Nations people all across this state who are represented by my portfolio. This budget delivers for all Queenslanders.

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (11.37 am): I rise today in support of the Palaszczuk government's 2022-23 budget. Central to our economic recovery has been the ongoing strength of the resources sector. As we all know, our resources industry has been the foundation of Queensland's prosperity for more than a century. This industry continues to support our great state, particularly after the economic impacts of COVID-19. This budget, which is providing record investments in health, creating good, quality jobs and delivering better services, owes much of its success to the rock-solid contribution made by the resources sector.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr STEWART: It is good to see you picked up that bad dad joke. Our resources, which are owned by all Queenslanders—including our kids who are sitting in the gallery today—have been put to work by the Palaszczuk government to serve all Queenslanders. Right now the resource industry supports nearly 80,000 jobs, and this budget will help create good long-term jobs for our emerging new economy minerals sector. It is an important part of our resource industry's future.

The global shift towards electrification and low-carbon technologies will see demand for our state's new economy minerals absolutely skyrocket. As the world searches for the new economy minerals and metals it needs to decarbonise economies, our government will capitalise on this demand by ramping up exploration for and production of these resources. The energy transformation already underway in Queensland will power the economic transformation of our state.

We have been working closely with the resources sector to take advantage of these emerging opportunities, particularly in regional Queensland where I am from. With the election of the Labor government in Canberra, we will finally have a national energy policy that will abandon the decade of policy inaction by the previous government. For a start, our new federal Labor government knows Queensland exists and understands the potential of our new economy minerals. It knows that minerals like cobalt, vanadium and copper, just to name a few, will be essential parts of Australia's energy mix moving forward. These minerals are needed for a wide range of renewable technologies, including batteries, electric vehicles, wind turbines and of course solar panels.

Even though this budget has an unashamed focus on new economy minerals, Queensland's traditional resources like coal and gas will continue to play a role in our energy mix for the foreseeable future. This is one of our state's strengths and we will continue to do the heavy lifting, particularly in the gas sector, to support the southern states. As always, the Palaszczuk Labor government will stand with and fight for Queensland workers.

You cannot have a renewable energy sector without a resources sector, and this budget has Queensland in prime position to take advantage of this as the world looks to decarbonise. The move to net zero by 2050 provides the opportunity to drive confidence and investment in emerging industries like hydrogen and new economy minerals.

The 2022-23 budget includes an increase in the level of royalties to be paid to the state by coalmining companies. The royalties our resources sector generates help pay for our hospitals, our doctors, our nurses and our paramedics and this is a credit to the resources industry. It is particularly good to see the resources industry contributing to our economy, particularly in regional areas where these coalmines are operating. As a regional minister, I know just how important regional communities are to our state and the amazing lifestyles that they offer, but it is important that these regional communities have access to top quality facilities as well. That is why these royalties are so important.

Look around this grand building. It was the gold from Gympie that helped build this Parliament House, which is an amazing legacy. In the coming years, our coal workers will be able to say exactly the same thing about our region's hospitals, and that will be and should be something the resources sector is proud of. These royalties will go towards giving our great mining town of Moranbah the hospital it deserves. They are the reason why we can upgrade our hospitals in Queensland resource centres like Townsville, Mackay and Rockhampton.

The budget handed down by the Treasurer earlier this week also contained a range of measures relevant to the resources sector, including funding, for the implementation of the Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan. Our kids in the gallery will have a great future knowing there is a great resources industry for them well into the future.

Mr Hinchliffe: They're smart kids at Nashville school.

Mr STEWART: They are smart kids at Nashville. I take that interjection from the very biased local member.

The QRIDP sets a comprehensive agenda for growth, diversification and transformation that details 43 actions across six areas of focus for government and industry alike. The plan establishes a blueprint for the future for the resources industry, including domestic opportunities in the development of new resources, and further development of new and emerging markets for our traditional exports. The 2022-23 budget takes a significant first step towards the goal of injecting \$39.8 million into the recovery and development of new economy minerals. This multimillion dollar shot in the arm for the new economy minerals sector will fast-track the development of projects and the jobs and the business opportunities that come with them. This will provide significant opportunities for regional economies and workers to secure the economic benefits of new economy minerals operations, processing and advanced manufacturing in their region.

The Deputy Speaker has reviewed and approved my budget speech for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

Key among these funded actions is an additional \$17.5 million over four years for the Collaborative Exploration Initiative.

This initiative provides grants to new economy minerals' explorers and supports innovative exploration techniques, encouraging exploration in frontier and under-explored areas of Queensland.

This takes the total investment over five years to \$22.6 million to find the deposits of the future that will supply the minerals and metals that the world needs to decarbonise.

There's also \$10 million over two years for geoscientific research to find out more about identified deposits and potential new ways to mine them.

And another \$5 million over two years has been allocated for research to better define Queensland's new economy minerals' potential.

While the Department of Resources will be undertaking these initiatives to create a pipeline of new economy minerals' projects, the development of the other end of the supply chain—processing and manufacturing—is also being supported.

The 2022-23 Budget has allocated \$5 million to develop the Queensland Battery Strategy by the departments of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water.

Also, earlier this month, my colleague the Treasurer and I were in Mackay to announce \$5.7 million over three years to the Resources Centre of Excellence.

Those funds will underpin expansion at the centre, and the development of a Future Industries Hub, to support new economy minerals' projects.

Speaker, these Budget funds come on top of at least \$10 million already committed for a common-user new economy mineral processing plant in my hometown of Townsville, initially for vanadium miners.

As I noted earlier, a key theme of the QRIDP is seizing new opportunities through genuine partnership between government and industry.

The common-user new economy minerals' processing plant is a prime example of the kinds of targeted investments the Queensland Government can, and will continue to, collaborate with industry on to de-risk the diversification of the Queensland resources industry.

And in a measure that will benefit across the industry, the Budget includes \$1.59 million for the Department of Resources to make mining and exploration assessment and approvals more efficient.

Another important measure the Department of Resources will be undertaking on the regulatory front will be to scope out a regulatory 'sandbox' to co-design with industry a regulatory environment that supports new economy minerals projects.

Many new economy mineral deposits will likely have a relatively small mining footprint. As a result, I'm keen to ensure the regulatory framework is proportionate—operating robustly to manage impacts but not creating unnecessary roadblocks to development.

This regulatory sandbox will be a valuable opportunity for government and industry to work together to establish an optimal, fit-for-purpose regulatory environment to support new economy minerals projects.

Speaker, Queensland's natural land resources are a significant contributor to our agricultural, resources and tourism industries.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to improving the sustainable productivity of our land resources to support regional jobs and economies.

We are doing this by providing \$40 million over four years and \$10 million per year ongoing to continue to increase the resilience of Queensland's landscapes through the Natural Resource Recovery Program.

Building on the success of the former Natural Resources Investment Program, the new program will support sustainable productivity, and good jobs, from Queensland's land resources, which will provide sustained economic benefits and outcomes.

Up to \$10 million of the committed funds will be made available to natural resource management organisations across Queensland on a yearly basis, with the potential for other groups to work in collaboration on projects.

This funding will go to developing and implementing projects that contribute to the state's soil and vegetation and demonstrate sustainable economic productivity of the land.

This program will also protect and enhance our great regional Queensland lifestyle.

Key priorities of the program include improved landscape resilience and ability to respond to natural disasters and climate change as well as utilisation of data to drive innovation and, working with communities and industry to adopt sustainable practices whilst driving regional economies.

A key objective of the program will include building genuine and enduring partnerships with Traditional Owners.

This commitment supports organisations and community groups we've worked with, and has delivered more than 330 jobs located in 33 offices across regional Queensland.

The new Natural Resource Recovery Program will maximise both investment and outcomes for our regions.

My department continues to support local government as the day-to-day managers of the crucial stock route network.

Like the resources industry Queensland's agricultural industry has been a traditional strength and our stock routes are a vital part of this.

In the coming financial year, \$900,000 will be allocated to improve and maintain stock route water facilities across the state to ensure their safe and efficient operation.

The stock routes network is a key piece of infrastructure for producers who use it for agistment in times of drought, and for drovers moving and feeding up to 330,000 head of stock each year.

Mr Speaker, I said earlier that the future of the resources sector is bright.

It is a future that is underpinned by this budget, and the investment it makes in the further development of a robust, viable and sustainable resources sector—most notably through our Queensland Resource Industry Development Plan.

It is nonetheless important to recognise the challenges our industry confronts today and will continue to confront into the future.

The war in Ukraine and the sectional challenges being made by some countries to the global rules-based order have profound implications for trade—notably for us, the recent embargo on our coal exports imposed by the Chinese Government.

Global trends toward cleaner sources of energy presents challenges as well as opportunities, and we must navigate the way forward with a steady and temperate hand upon the tiller.

But if the resources sector has demonstrated anything during the last decade, it has been its resilience and adaptability.

Change is already upon us—but I am confident that, as we continue to engage in extensive and inclusive consultation with the industry, the resources sector will continue to thrive, and continue to be the cornerstone of Queensland's economy.

Mr Speaker, through this budget, the Palaszczuk Government is supporting the resources industry through a range of measures including supporting our new economy minerals sector which is important to my hometown of Townsville.

But it's not just resources industry that will benefit from this budget Speaker.

In Townsville, like everywhere throughout Queensland we are investing in our health system.

The massive \$9.78 billion hospital and health infrastructure plan will include \$530 million for the Townsville Hospital Expansion to deliver 143 extra beds.

Townsville University Hospital is already world class and this investment will continue to make sure the biggest tertiary hospital in Northern Australia continues to provide a fantastic service to North Queenslanders.

The Palaszczuk Government has a proud record of delivering extra health services and I'm happy that is continuing in Townsville as part of this state budget.

Also another matter close to my heart being a former principal is our record investment in education.

In Townsville as part of this budget we are investing \$41 million to maintain, improve and upgrade our schools.

This is incredibly important because young people are our future and investing in top class facilities will help them achieve their goals.

I'm proud to say that in this budget there is \$7.2 million in out of a \$12.9 million total spend to deliver a long awaited new performing arts facility for Pimlico State High School as well as upgrade skills development and training facilities and construct additional specialist classrooms.

Being a former principal at that school I know how welcome this will be for this community and I'm proud to be delivering on another election commitment for my community.

Investing in facilities which help grow the skills of young Queenslanders is a key part of this budget and is a priority of this government.

We are investing \$5.3 million in this year's budget out of a \$10.6 million total for a Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Training facility at the Bohle TAFE campus.

Hydrogen and renewable energy are important parts of this state's future so it's essential that our young people have the skills to help this new industry thrive for decades to come while creating more good, secure jobs.

That's also why this government is also investing \$26 million for water infrastructure alongside the new Federal Albanese Government at the Lansdown Eco Industrial Precinct.

This will be used to construct a 13km raw water pipeline and pumping station connecting the Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct to the Haughton Pipeline, and a water reservoir.

We know there is huge potential in the Lansdown precinct, so does Townsville City Council and finally so does the Federal Government.

Speaker, this budget has a focus on creating good, secure jobs, delivering better services and capitalising on our great lifestyle.

And there's no better lifestyle than the one on offer in Townsville, which is why I'm so proud to be part of the Palaszczuk Government that through this budget is continuing to deliver for all of Queensland.

I congratulate the Treasurer on the budget he delivered this week, and agree wholeheartedly with the Premier that Queensland's best days are still to come.

I commend the budget to the House.



Mr MOLHOEK (Southport—LNP) (11.44 am): I rise to speak in respect of the appropriation bills. At the outset I want to acknowledge the hard work of our leader, David Crisafulli, and also our shadow Treasurer, David Janetzki. I agree with the sentiment that our leader expressed in his opening comments yesterday when he said that the greatest part of being a member of parliament is the ability to help people. I concur with that sentiment. Every day I am reminded by the people who come to my office that my job is to simply be there to help people.

If I am a little shabby this morning, it is because I participated in the CEO Sleepout last night on the Gold Coast. It was another record year, with over \$630,000 being raised. I especially want to pay tribute to Kris Martin and Tanya Mahoney, the organisers of the Gold Coast Sleepout from Vinnies. It was pleasing to hear them talk last night about the \$3 million that has been raised over the last six years and how they have been able to leverage that to borrow a further \$18 million to build 60 new apartments for people in crisis on the Gold Coast. They do great work.

There are many other great workers on the Gold Coast. I have not had the opportunity to speak with them all since the budget was handed down. Although they would be thankful that they do get funding and support from the government, I am sure that many of them would be disappointed with the lack of increased investment in public and social housing. The Gold Coast still receives less than its fair share. Over the past 12 years since 2010, the Queensland state government has invested approximately \$4.4 billion in social and affordable housing. Almost half of this—about \$1.8 billion—has been in the form of grants to community housing providers to provide housing. The balance of \$2.6 billion has been invested in new or upgraded public housing by the Queensland state government. However, over the same period, the Gold Coast has received only \$316 million, which is 7.2 per cent of the total. This year in the budget we are earmarked to receive \$29 million of the \$441 million that has been identified for the construction of new and upgraded housing, land acquisition and capital grants to community organisations. That is 6.6 per cent of the total.

I think it is important at this juncture to remind the Treasurer and the Minister for Housing that the Gold Coast has over 12 per cent of the state's population, so to receive less than seven per cent of the total spend on social housing is simply not good enough. Based on this 12 per cent population figure, we have missed out on more than \$200 million of investment over the past decade, and that is assuming that the investment that has been made was sufficient. Given the shortages we are seeing in housing and the demand for public and social housing, I think all in the House would agree that there is a need

for much more. Based on current commitments by this government, the Gold Coast will miss out on about \$50 million of its share this year and last year. Fundamentally, Queensland state housing budgets have been and continue to be grossly inadequate, and the Gold Coast continues to receive less than half of what is required to address the current housing crisis.

I struggled to find in the budget—and maybe the Treasurer can point this out to me at some point—any reference to additional drug and alcohol support on the Gold Coast, or for that matter anywhere in Queensland, in terms of facilities. We have three facilities on the Gold Coast that have been there since the 1980s and were upgraded through the 1990s: Mirikai at Burleigh; Goldbridge in Southport that operates out of what essentially is an old motel or block of flats; and the Salvation Army alcohol and rehabilitation centre at Mount Tamborine which was relocated when the Gold Coast University Hospital was built some 10 or 15 years ago. Essentially, with an increased population and an increased demand for services, there has been no investment in additional infrastructure or services for alcohol and drug treatment on the Gold Coast. Needless to say, I think Gold Coasters deserve far better.

In that respect, I want to mention a few people who do some tremendous work on the coast. I want to acknowledge the work of Michael and Corrine Barrett from Transformations who are a self-funded drug and alcohol service on the Gold Coast. I also want to acknowledge Mal and Edith Kennedy who run Set Free Care in Southport, again a largely unfunded service, but a service that provides a gateway and a meeting point for many of the government services that seek to work with homeless and disadvantaged people on the Gold Coast.

I also want to touch on matters in regard to my local schools. I note the capital statement of Budget Paper No. 3, and I went through it with a yellow highlighter pen as I was desperately looking to identify those projects that are happening within my patch. I have 18 schools in the electorate of Southport. I am grateful for the \$2.9 million for more classrooms for Bellevue Park State School which is a growing school, but because of infill development, the large number of people that have moved back to the Gold Coast, the amount of what used to be holiday rental accommodation that has now become permanent rental accommodation, and the large number of people who have moved into what was the old games village, every single school in my electorate is under pressure. It is disappointing to see that while there is some \$90 million allocated for new school halls across Queensland and for upgrades of school hall facilities, there is absolutely not one cent allocated for desperately needed facilities at Keebra Park State High School, a school that has grown from 600 to just under 1,100 students in a matter of three or four years.

I also want to note my disappointment at the fact that while there has been a lot of correspondence going backwards and forwards between the state, the Gold Coast council, myself and residents, and a number of different ministers have responded at different times over the last few years, there is still no funding or no commitment in regard to Ridgeway TAFE, the old site that was demolished and cleared, and was supposed to have been set aside for community purposes. I understand that negotiations between council and the state are ongoing. I look forward to a time when we know exactly what is planned because so many commitments have been made, but still absolutely nothing has happened in respect of that site.

What also concerns me is that while we heard a lot from the Treasurer around what a great job our police do across the state—and they certainly do—I do not think the police have ever been under so much pressure and nor have they had to deal with so many issues. What I do not see is any real commitment around an increase to police numbers at a time on the Gold Coast when we have seen an increase in youth crime and when we have seen increases in domestic violence. I am not sure what the current figure is, but I know historically about a third of the case load through the Southport police station, one of the largest police commands in the state, was just dealing with domestic violence incidents. During the hearings conducted by the Mental Health Select Committee, we also heard evidence that police are now spending more and more time looking after mental health patients and having to deal with mental health issues within the community, and we are seeing police, along with ambulance officers, ramped at some of our local hospitals, which leads me to address some of the challenges around health.

It has been stated categorically by those of us on this side of the House that there is a health crisis. There has been a lot of commentary around the timing of proposed new beds and a new hospital at Coomera. We have known for some time that this was a challenge for the Gold Coast, but there seems to be no urgent action on it. We have heard from the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service that within the next five or six years the equivalent of the entire population of Townsville will move into the northern growth corridor of the Gold Coast. I am not sure what the population of Townsville is these days—I think it is about 280,000 people—yet there is still no hospital there to service them. As we heard

from other members in the House today, even the hospital that is being proposed will be well short of the number of beds that has been recommended to service the northern end of the Gold Coast. Also disturbingly, we know that both of our two major hospitals, at Robina and Gold Coast University, for some time have been operating at more than double their built capacity in terms of the workload and the demands that are being placed on their emergency departments, and that is without even looking into significant issues around bed supply and the availability of beds.

I want to just comment very briefly on the estimates timetable because I was not given the opportunity to speak in the debate the other night. I thought it was shameful that that debate was introduced at such short notice. It has not been referred to the committees to make decisions, deliberations and recommendations around time frames, and the House was given half an hour to speak on it. I think that that is an absolute disgrace.

The Queensland health budget is at least a third of the entire state budget—in fact, it is almost half the entire state budget—but the health committee will be given 4½ hours to review the entire health budget, along with the budget of the Ambulance Service. If you break that down, there are 93 electorates across the state, so that gives us three minutes each. Assuming that all we will be doing is spending the time asking and answering questions, that will give us three minutes to talk about each electorate or raise concerns about each electorate across the state. Given that there were some 40 recommendations in the recent health inquiry that this government initiated and some fairly significant issues highlighted in that health inquiry, not just around the NDIS, not just around aged care, but also issues around workforce planning which the Queensland Audit Office has highlighted on many occasions, issues around IT failures, and significant issues and challenges facing rural and remote Queensland, I think it is appalling that the best the government will give us is 4½ hours to talk about health and the health budget in the forthcoming estimates process.

I want to turn briefly to the issue of mental health. It has been my great honour and privilege to be the co-chair of the select committee on mental health. The opposition also want to see exceptional care delivered for those Queenslanders struggling with mental health issues. It was an incredibly sobering process to sit through those many weeks of public hearings. Some of the lived experiences and stories that we heard were heartbreaking, and will continue to be heartbreaking, but there is just so much more to be done in that space.

While we raised significant concerns about the funding models, I believe that governments need to live within their means. We have never known a time of such unprecedented prosperity in terms of the increase in mining royalties, the state has enjoyed significant dividends from the sale of electricity to the southern states, and there has been natural growth in the budget. I believe that we should be living within our means and we should be looking at other measures to better fund mental health services. I look forward to seeing how the government responds to the 57 recommendations of the Mental Health Select Committee and playing a role in serving the people of Queensland in delivering better mental health.



Mr RUSSO (Toohey—ALP) (11.58 am): I rise in support of the 2022 appropriations and revenue legislation amendment bills. I want to start by thanking the Premier and the Treasurer. It is as a result of their strong leadership that we in this chamber can step up with confidence knowing that Queensland has weathered a major worldwide pandemic that has brought some governments to their figurative knees. I thank them for their leadership and dedication to our great state of Queensland. We are still a great state and I am pleased to be standing here representing my electorate as a member of the Palaszczuk government.

My electorate is genuinely remarkable. It is a true microcosm of the multicultural diversity we see across Queensland and, indeed, across our great country. We are many united nations in Toohey. We have a vibrant, enthusiastic and diverse community that is more robust and better for its diversity.

I congratulate the Treasurer, Cameron Dick, for once again providing for and looking after all Queenslanders' future. I am excited to stand here today to reflect on how this budget will help and grow not only my electorate of Toohey but also Queensland. Last year in 2021 I was able to speak to the budget promises for Toohey, so I would like to do a run-down on those promises.

We are strengthening our education system writ large. Our teachers, parents and carers want to know that we will look after the wellbeing of students who have faced disrupted learning due to the COVID pandemic. My school communities were promised over \$8.2 million for upgrades, refurbishment and maintenance. I know that the Warrigal Road State School was thrilled to welcome the Minister for Education on 25 November last year to open their newly completed building, block 10, which provided the school with much needed space and learning centres. This was a great outcome for my community.

The implementation of the Cooler Cleaner Schools Program introduced air conditioning to schools across Queensland. I know how difficult the hot classroom temperatures were for students and teachers alike, with some of the classrooms in my electorate recording over 40 degrees over summer. The program was supplemented by the \$168 million Advancing Clean Energy Schools Program, which focused on installing solar panels on school rooftops. Over half a billion dollars was invested in improving the learning environment for students across Queensland.

Just last week I was meeting with a representative from an independent school that is making plans for some of their campuses in my area. The representative raised and spoke with me about the heartless and thoughtless actions of the former LNP government when they closed schools to sell off assets and infrastructure. She had protested at the closure of those schools across the south side. She told me she would not forget.

I cannot speak highly enough of the programs on offer to help students at risk or struggling or those students who are just lost about what to do with their future. I introduced the Minister for Training and Skills Development, Di Farmer, to the fantastic team at Sunny Futures just a few weeks ago.

Mr Deputy Speaker, my budget speech has been reviewed and approved for incorporation. I ask that the remainder of my address be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

The Sunny Futures program is a Year 13 program the Sunnybank State High School designed and implemented to assist students in finding a pathway to a career, further study, or employment. Any of the esteemed members in this chamber who would like to hear more about the fantastic results this program has achieved, I am inviting you to speak with me later as I would be happy to arrange a time for you to visit the school and to see, in person, the stellar results the school has been able to achieve.

One of last year's commitments was the development of seven new satellite hospitals. This announcement included a commitment for one of the new satellite hospitals for the south side, in my electorate of Toohey.

On 14 February this year, I was pleased to welcome the Premier, Deputy Premier, Treasurer, and the health minister, to my electorate to Levington Rd, Eight Mile Plains, where it was announced the site had been chosen for the south side satellite hospital.

The satellite hospital will be a health care facility incorporating outpatient community-based health services with virtual healthcare opportunities to serve the local community. Services offered could include simple day therapy services such as chemotherapy, complex wound management, renal dialysis, and care for minor injuries or illnesses.

The project alone is planned to support 75 full-time equivalent construction jobs over the project's life and will further support local small businesses, building material suppliers, plumbers, and other tradespeople.

I was delighted about the increased commitment from the Palaszczuk Government to the Boundary Road level crossing removal in Coopers Plains. I campaigned on this issue back in 2015 when I was first elected. The \$133 million commitment will accelerate the work to remove the level crossing, making it safer for residents and commuters, and cutting travel times. We must remove the level crossing for both the broader rail network and the local road network.

Community and stakeholder consultation providing the opportunity for feedback has been undertaken, with two options being made available to address the deterioration of the transport networks in this area. This level crossing is the responsibility of local, state, and federal governments, so the funding for its removal should be split three ways.

The state government and the Federal Labor Government have shown their commitment to fixing what has been described as one of Queensland's worst traffic black spots. We need to see the Brisbane City Council properly commit to the project.

The 2022-2023 Budget builds on the impressive work from last year's budget. This year's budget realizes a record investment in Queensland's transport infrastructure. This investment is vital as we start work on building a legacy for Queensland that will be left over from the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Work is underway on the Cross River Rail, integrating with roads and bus services. The project enables a turn-up-and-go transport system for the whole of South-east Queensland. Cross River Rail will provide high-capacity train stations where they are needed most.

Cross River Rail is working on rebuilding the Moorooka, Rocklea, and Salisbury stations in my electorate. The upgrades to the stations will make them easier to access and improve connections to the surrounding suburbs.

Station accessibility will be boosted with an additional third platform, new overpasses, and new canopies on the media to improve weather protection and lifts. I could tell you about the amount of feedback I have received from older residents, people with disabilities and parents with prams, or even parents traveling with young children looking forward to not having to struggle with stairs at the stations. Kiss 'n' ride infrastructure and bike facilities will be included in the new package of works.

It is exciting to see the upgrades being rolled out. Commuters and residents understand the disruptions they may face during the construction phases will be far outweighed by the results!

I look forward to seeing the new stations in my area completed and checking out the planned and improved disability access, allowing more Queenslanders and visitors to travel across southeast Queensland and down to the Gold Coast.

Under the 2022-23 Budget, an additional amount will be allocated to design an upgrade for the Moorooka bus rail interchange. The planned improvements will improve the commute to and from the city, so workers get home quicker and spend more time with families and loved ones.

Some of the chamber members may know I am interested in cycling. I enjoy every chance I get to get into my gear and onto my bike. In 2018 I travelled to Taiwan, where I participated in a Ride to Conquer Cancer fundraising event for QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute in Herston. The ride was planned for across Taiwan, and it was a remarkable experience that I look forward to doing one day again.

My reminiscing about cycling is because one of this year's Budget commitments is planning for the missing piece of the cycleway from Balham Road at the western edge of Toohey and Logan Road has been included.

Riding a bike is undoubtedly fun, improves physical and mental wellbeing, and is convenient for getting around locally and environmentally friendly. There are so many reasons why riding is suitable for people, and I welcome the implementation of these active pathways across Brisbane.

I applaud the continued investment in education. Our future will be healthier, have higher rates of economic stability, lower crime, and greater equality when we invest in education.

The individual also personally benefits from the education they receive through higher incomes when employed, career advancement, skill development, and employment opportunities. A lack of access to education is a key to ongoing poverty, which can be reversed when access to education is provided. Indeed, you can't be what you don't see.

A record \$16.5 billion in school and early childhood education was included in this year's state budget. Hundreds of infrastructure projects to improve schools from the Gold Coast to the Cape will be given the much-needed investment.

Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk said another five new schools would be opened in 2025 and 2026 while existing buildings would be expanded and improved thanks to more than \$1.9 billion in infrastructure investment supporting thousands of jobs.

In Toohey, my schools will benefit from the ongoing allocations of monies for maintenance and minor works, and Salisbury State School will be boosted with a refurbishment of five of their learning spaces in Block C.

MacGregor State High School will benefit from funding for a site renewal. MacGregor State High School is one of two state high schools in my electorate. Combined, the schools have over 1800 full-time students.

Like many schools, MacGregor State High School and Sunnybank State High School need renewal. Existing facilities are outdated, and some are worse for wear.

This year's budget has allocated just over \$4 million for site renewal across high schools. This is good news for students and the school communities.

Sunnybank State High School has also been allocated funding for a security fence, additional classrooms, and new skills development and training facilities.

The team at the school is very excited about this outcome, and I look forward to watching the projects develop and come together.

The Sunnybank Special School is also included to receive additional classrooms in this budget. This is an exceptional school in many ways. It is always an absolute joy to visit with the students, teachers, and parents. The enthusiasm and joy the students express are infectious, so this is another valued addition to the school. The teachers are excellent. They are passionate about their work and fiercely dedicated to achieving the best possible outcomes for the students in their care.

We all know community centres across the state have been doing it tough. The Covid pandemic stretched their resources to the extreme. The centres are where people come together, seeking a friendly and supportive environment. They provide social interactions to those who are vulnerable and alone.

The community centres across my area were particularly hard hit this year after the flood event in February. The volunteers were overwhelmed by the needs of flood-affected residents.

The St David's Neighbourhood Centre in my electorate will benefit from a significant increase in operational funding, almost doubling to \$250 thousand a year over the next four years.

This will be life-changing for the Toohey locals who seek assistance at the very busy St David's Neighbourhood Centre every year. These are people who might be experiencing domestic and family violence, people at risk of or experiencing homelessness, First Nations people, people with disability, people impacted by disasters, and families under financial stress.

I know Kelly and the team at St David's will appreciate the support and recognition of the work she and her team have done so selflessly for many years.

The Palaszczuk Government will deliver the most significant investment in new hospitals and beds in Queensland's history, with the 2022-23 State Budget providing additional funding of \$9.78 billion over six years.

The new hospitals and expansion projects announced in the State Budget will deliver 2509 extra beds across Queensland over the next six years.

My electorate of Toohey means a \$465 million expansion that will deliver around 112 additional beds.

New initiatives to improve patient outcomes are vital to transforming our health services. We need to ensure they operate as effectively as possible. This means supporting patients to access hospital and health services when needed and then transitioning them home or to other appropriate settings when ready.

I welcome this hugely significant investment in the health and well-being of Queenslanders across the state that has been designed to meet the needs and demands of an ever-growing population.

The Queensland Health and Hospitals Plan shines a light on patient quality, safety strategies, and alternative models of care by expanding virtual care and working more closely with the primary care sector to care for people in the community.

A comprehensive outlook is what is needed. We need to provide better outcomes for all of us, no matter at what stage of our lives we may be or when we engage and interact with Queensland Health.

This significant investment in services across all levels will help ensure we can best support the ongoing health and wellbeing of all Queenslanders.

The 2022-23 State Budget will deliver more for health, education, and transport, and there will also be an investment of more than \$2 billion in large-scale storage, renewable energy projects, and generation and transmission investment.

This significant investment will power more safe and reliable jobs in more industries across the state. This will ensure Queenslanders maintain a stake in their energy future through publicly-owned energy corporations, with the retained dividends supporting continued renewable energy, storage, and strategic network investments for the benefit of all Queenslanders at a time when it has never been more important to do so.

Renewables create jobs, lower power prices, and help our state reduce emissions.

I am very proud of the Palaszczuk Government.

This is a government that tackles the significant issues head-on. We plan for a future post Covid pandemic, post-floods, and other natural disasters. We look for harsh economic measures that benefit the many, not just a few. We address the cost of living pressures, and we look for and weed out inequality.

We are planning. This Budget reflects planning. It considers what is likely to happen or what may be needed in the future.

We do this because we are a part of our local communities. We're in this with family, our friends, and our neighbours. We do this together for a better future for all Queenslanders.

I commend these bills to the House.



Mr O'ROURKE (Rockhampton—ALP) (12.02 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Appropriation Bill 2022-23 introduced by the Hon. Cameron Dick, Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment. I am pleased to be able to respond to another great jobs budget for Central Queensland. It is all about good jobs, better services and investing in our great lifestyle for Queenslanders. I feel great pride in the wonderful outcomes that this budget will bring for all Queenslanders, none more so than my constituents in the Rockhampton electorate. This is another great Labor budget for Queensland. This is an investment in Central Queensland that supports health, housing, education, skills and infrastructure. We are talking about a whole range of infrastructure projects here, from roads and bike and pedestrian pathways, Rookwood Weir, the Mount Morgan water pipeline, schools, health and also a new community neighbourhood centre—and the list goes on.

This budget again highlights the investment of the Palaszczuk government in Central Queensland and regional Queensland. This is a budget for all Queenslanders no matter where they live in this great state. This budget will be providing \$982.8 million for infrastructure spend for Central Queensland, supporting over 3,100 jobs. One of these infrastructure projects that I have fought hard for is \$40 million for the pipeline to Mount Morgan. I know that the residents of Mount Morgan deserve to have a reliable water supply. Currently, the Rockhampton Regional Council is carting water to Mount Morgan at a cost to ratepayers of approximately \$5 million per year.

Another is the \$4.55 million for the community neighbourhood centre. The construction of this new centre will improve access to community events, programs, information, and advice and referral services for the Rockhampton community, including the people experiencing domestic and family violence, social isolation and loneliness, homelessness, financial stress, people with disabilities and our First Nations people. I am so proud to be delivering this centre. As some honourable members would be aware, I am passionate about providing a hand up to those in our community who need assistance.

Again, in this health budget we will see record funding of \$753 million, up \$62 million on last year. The staff at the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service have been working under very challenging times with the impact of COVID and I thank them for the amazing work they do each and every day. I am pleased to see that we will be recruiting an additional 9,475 health staff across Queensland over the next four years. There is \$12.3 million out of a total spend of \$24.2 million to progress the cardiac hybrid theatre and the expansion of the mental health ward. Once again, I must say thank you to the amazing health staff across Central Queensland. There is also the ongoing funding for the major refurbishment of the Rockhampton ambulance station and operations centre. Again, I thank all the staff there, from the staff taking the calls to those responding in the field. They are legends.

There is assistance for small businesses through various forms of assistance like the Big Plans grants program to support businesses at various stages from new and emerging to fast growing. We will continue to contribute to the Queensland economy by providing quality skills programs and opportunities including free TAFE and apprenticeships for Central Queenslanders under 25 years of age in the priority skills area.

The Palaszczuk government is serious about training opportunities and increased workforce participation through Skilling Queenslanders for Work through funding of \$7.7 million to assist Central Queenslanders to get a job. I have enjoyed attending the graduations where participants have graduated with new skills, experience and qualifications that help them break into jobs like individual support for aged and disability care, horticulture and construction workforces or to launch their own small business.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Deputy Speaker has reviewed and approved my budget speech for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

Each of these Certificate Courses build the participants' self-esteem and motivation as well as the general everyday skills that are needed in any workplace. It is great to hear these courses are fostering new small businesses, green thumbs and builders who are looking to contribute to the local economy

At one of the recent graduations there were only a couple of participants there as more than a dozen others weren't able to attend the graduation because they got a job.

The Back to Work, has provided \$35.2m to the Central Qld Region assisting 3145 employers to employ 1386 eligible unemployed jobseekers. This is a wonderful programs that assists our unemployed gain jobs.

We all know how important education is to securing better life outcomes. This investment includes a minimum of \$21,480,000 for school infrastructure across the Rockhampton electorate and supports the government's commitment to good jobs and better services.

It is essential that our schools are maintained and there will be \$1.3 million for the schools. There will also be \$1 million for Allenstown School for security fencing, Glenmore State School \$150,000 for equitable access to core areas, North Rockhampton Special school will receive \$9.7 million of a total spend of \$15.9 million for additional classrooms. Rockhampton Special School \$3.6 million of a total spend of \$9.5 million for additional classrooms and \$1.2 million to refurbish existing facilities. And one of my favourite Schools, The Hall School will receive \$2.7 million towards their new hall. Rockhampton State High School will receive \$1.5million of \$2.5 million for the new skills development and training facilities. And the list goes on.

Across Rockhampton and Central Queensland we will continue to see an investment in our road infrastructure projects like the Bruce highway between Rockhampton and St Lawrence, some intersections and bridge upgrades on the Bruce Highway, completion of the Lawrie Street duplication, as well as additional passing lanes on the Bruce and Capricorn highways and these projects are supporting local jobs and let's not forget the billion \$\$ Rockhampton Ring Road in partnership with the federal government that will be commencing next year supporting approximately 800 jobs.

We will see an infrastructure and upgrade total spend \$10.2 million on Glenmore substation and a total spend of \$11.5 million for the Gracemere substation to ensure the continued reliability of electricity supply to the local areas.

Palaszczuk Government's support of Local Government through the Works for Queensland and we have seen the Rockhampton Regional Council deliver projects like the Airport upgrade, pathways at the botanical gardens, upgrades to playground equipment, the replacement of the boardwalk along the Fitzroy River and many other projects. We have seen hundreds of jobs supported through this very important program across Rockhampton and Central Queensland communities.

Our \$2.9 billion total housing investment is the largest concentrated investment in social housing in Queensland's history.

We are investing \$1.9 billion over four years and establishing a \$1 billion Housing Investment Fund to boost housing supply.

We are increasing the supply of social and affordable housing by almost 10,000 homes over the life of our Housing Strategy, and this includes 7,400 new builds over the next four years.

In Central Queensland, we have committed to commence 113 new social homes by 1 July 2025, through a planned investment of \$39.9 million over 4 years.

This will support more than 125 full-time equivalent jobs.

This is in addition to the 48 new social homes that we have already commenced in Central Queensland since 2017.

Given my passion for the provision of housing services it is also great to see ongoing funding of \$6.8 million across CQ for specialist homelessness services.

There is so much more in the budget across other portfolios like Child Safety and our Police, Fire and Emergency services and Corrective Services portfolios and the very importantly community organisations that provide support for the residents of Rockhampton and Central Queensland. I am pleased to be delivering a good budget for the people of the Rockhampton Electorate. This budget is all about good jobs, better services and a great lifestyle for all Queenslanders, particularly those in Central Queensland.

I congratulate the Treasurer and Minister for trade and Investment the Hon Cameron Dick on a budget for all Queenslanders.

I commend the bill to the House.



Mr ANDREW (Mirani—PHON) (12.07 pm): It is with pleasure that I rise to speak on the Appropriation Bill 2022. At the outset I would like to acknowledge the Minister for Multicultural Affairs and her contribution on the Australian South Sea islanders. I have with me today Mr Clacy Fatnowna

sitting in the gallery. He is my cousin and dear friend. I will tell honourable members right now that this budget and Queensland would not look the same if it were not for the contributions of the South Sea islanders in the cane fields, their blood sweat and tears and what they have done. They are great people. The amount of \$1.1 million is only the start of what these people deserve. I am hoping to see that this government actually supports them way more into the future.

Mr Katter interjected.

Mr ANDREW: That is correct. I take the interjection from the member for Traeger. Many of the things that I have wanted to see happen in Central Queensland for some time have been delivered in this budget. Notably, the biggest win for my electorate is a \$40.4 million allocation for the water pipeline to be built between Gracemere and Mount Morgan. I thank the member for Gladstone and Minister for Water for delivering this. This has been an ongoing issue and a long wait for the people of Mount Morgan. I thank the Rockhampton Regional Council for their contribution in taking the water to Mount Morgan to ensure that the people have water to drink, shower and also keep their plants alive. Mount Morgan's households and businesses have been without a reliable water supply since the beginning of last year, but it goes back much further than that; 22 years ago the dam was down at nine per cent.

It has been a long time coming. We need to make sure we utilise as many Mount Morgan locals as possible to put that infrastructure in place. I believe that corridor will be used as a slurry line for the soon-to-be-reopened mine, and the iron pyrite, and the acid that comes from the iron pyrite, will be used in Mount Isa to assist with mining.

Finding a permanent and secure water supply for Mount Morgan is crucial for the wellbeing of the town, the community and the businesses. This will deliver that to them, and they are so grateful. They are great people. We all know the contribution that Mount Morgan made to Australia by building the railway and paying off Australia's and the state's debt. I thank the minister and I look forward to working with the department and the Rockhampton Regional Council to ensure we get this infrastructure underway as soon as possible so that they do not have to keep taking the water up there at a cost to them.

I cannot help but feel that the budget missed a great opportunity to move forward with restoring the town's historic goldmine and the nearby Fireclay Caverns. We need to go further and ensure tourism in Mount Morgan reopens. I will be talking with the minister very soon. I spoke with the minister for mines about opening areas for fossicking, which would be a great thing. Mount Morgan has a lot of gold still. There's gold in them there hills! Mount Morgan is full of it. We need to make sure that the Rockhampton Regional Council and the Queensland state government allow these areas to be used for fossicking as soon as possible, because people want to come from down south and all over Australia—probably all over the world—to look for gold. This area is renowned for it.

With the right investment and support, these areas could easily be developed into major tourist attractions for the entire region. Queensland owes a debt of gratitude for the huge economic contributions the Mount Morgan community has made to the state for well over a hundred years. I will continue to lobby the government to help the community get back on its feet after years of hardship. The new water pipeline is a wonderful first step towards providing Mirani with the water security that it needs. The Fitzroy agricultural corridor needs water as well. While there is great soil on the flat country near the Barrage and the Fitzroy River, unfortunately there is not enough water to make it a viable source of income for the agricultural corridor itself. The situation is becoming unsustainable; it is unfair on the farmers and residents who live there. I urge the government to step up and help these communities.

There are 63,290 square kilometres of roads in the Mirani electorate. This makes road safety a major issue for the entire community. This budget offers a generous scope of much needed roadworks, including \$10.2 million for the widening of the Gavial-Gracemere Road to four lanes and upgrading intersections. The budget is shared between Rockhampton and Mirani, and Mackay and Mirani. There has been \$15 million allocated from a \$497.4 million spend for a stage 1 road between Bald Hill Road and the Mackay Ring Road. I was pleased to see that construction has started on the Walkerston Bypass after many years. The bypass will become a designated heavy vehicle route between the Bruce Highway and the Peak Downs Highway to provide safety to the many thousands of motorists who travel that road.

I was disappointed that the budget offered nothing towards the Sarina community's request for pedestrian safety upgrades, particularly on the Anzac Street level crossing. Hundreds of kids cross there daily. This is a situation that needs to be addressed. The funny thing is that there are no people

going back and forth on another street in Sarina that crosses the same railway line, yet there are proper boom gates there to stop pedestrians from accessing the railway line. Where the high school is located, there is nothing. This needs to be addressed. We do not want any of our kids put in danger.

There are many other roads in Mirani that require maintenance and safety work. As a result of the rain we have just had there has been lots of damage to dirt roads, and we need to ensure they are all looked after. We are talking to the councils every day in an attempt to get that maintenance underway. Construction is now underway on the \$367 million Rookwood Weir, which will help to expand agricultural production into the Lower Fitzroy agricultural corridor by providing an extra 86,000 megalitres of water.

At Stanwell, which is a much needed power station—it is only young—\$50.4 million has been signed off for the capital maintenance to replace and refurbish existing infrastructure. The moneys will be spent on overhauls and other sustaining projects to deliver improved reliability of electrical supply to Queensland—good, steady coal-fired power, which we all need. We should never look back on making sure that we build more coal-fired power stations, I believe. While there are many misguided calls to close—

Mr Berkman: No-one's going to build them.

Mr ANDREW: We have to build them.

Mr Berkman interjection.

Mr ANDREW: I take the interjection from the Greens member here, but when the dishwashers shut down and the phone towers shut down, it will not be because of coal-fired power.

Mr Berkman: That's exactly why it happened.

Mr ANDREW: Where were the renewables to back it?

Mr Berkman interjected.

Mr ANDREW: We have invested too much in it. We also know that coal-fired power stations are key to providing reliable power generation, which drives growth and development in the regions. It has for many years, and I am sure it will for many years to come. At any given time in Queensland, up to 80 per cent of the state's electricity is powered by fossil fuels. A considerable amount of it comes from our coal, because it is the best in the world. That is why we love using it; we will continue to use it and we should use more of it.

I was pleased to see that work is underway on the \$1 billion Olive Downs coalmine at Moranbah. Great, bring it on. We need the jobs and we also need the energy it produces. This project will generate considerable wealth and employment opportunities for the people of Queensland. The mine will create many hundreds of jobs over the life of the project and up to 1,000 long-term regional support jobs.

There was also \$4.5 million in the budget for expanding the heavy automotive facilities at the Mackay Ooralea Trade Training Centre, which offers vital opportunities for Central Queenslanders to acquire valuable skills for the future. I am a dual tradesman. We need to ensure our future apprentices get every opportunity they possibly can to learn their trades.

Some \$20.6 million was signed off for the new Sarina Hospital. That is great news, because that community is growing. Once it is completed, this project will provide Mirani with a first-class purpose-built hospital and new staff accommodation, which we are very pleased to accept. Many hospital and health facilities in the region were given generous allocations that will benefit the people of Mirani, including \$562 million to the Mackay HHS for upgrades and expansion, as well as 128 desperately needed extra beds at the Mackay Base Hospital.

Other spending allocations of benefit to my electorate include \$60 million for Rockhampton Airport's new aviation repair facility. I am sure the member for Rockhampton will be happy to receive that funding, which will also assist our people in Mirani. It will provide jobs and growth in the whole region. The seat of Mirani has a burgeoning young population, and many schools in the electorate are going to be bursting at the seams within a few years. I welcome the \$3,816,000 towards maintenance and refurbishment works at many schools throughout the electorate. Those receiving funds include Mount Morgan State School, Bouldercombe State School, Dundula State School—where I went—Swayneville State School in Sarina and Mirani State High School.

In other good news, \$1.5 million has been given to upgrade the hall, kitchen and dining facilities at the Kinchant Dam Outdoor Education Centre. Kinchant Waters will provide a safe haven for veterans and for people of the community to visit. We gladly welcome this. Unfortunately, the electorate missed out on moneys for a new school this year, but we do have one being built in Mackay, just outside the electorate.

The Appropriation Bill reveals that higher royalties, stamp duties and other taxes have helped to deliver Queensland's \$1.9 billion operating surplus and a lower deficit than was previously forecast. State revenue is up by over \$10 billion, or 15.9 per cent on the last financial year. Total royalty revenue for 2021-22 is a stunning \$9.1 billion, with most royalties coming from coal, at \$7.3 billion—much higher than was predicted. Coal, oil and gas prices are now at record highs, which has greatly boosted the government's coffers for the year.


However, the record prices for commodities have had the effect of driving up energy costs for struggling households and industry across Queensland. I was, therefore, disappointed that more was not done in the budget to help Queenslanders deal with the extraordinary cost-of-living pressures they face and will continue to face in the coming months. While the \$175 cost-of-living rebate on people's next power bill was included, this will do very little to offset the big rise in rents, mortgage payments and fuel costs that Queenslanders are being hit with. In my own seat of Mirani, the cost of fuel is a massive issue. While the federal rebate has helped offset the price of fuel, it is at an all-time high and is expected to soar higher once the rebate ends in September.

As many in the House would know, anything that moves on wheels in this country relies on fuel. There is nothing in Queensland that was not delivered on the back of a semitrailer run by diesel. Therefore, any fluctuation in fuel prices makes a huge difference to the cost of living for those in the bush and the regions because of the travel they do. I am sure you would understand that, Mr Deputy Speaker. A lot of people in my electorate are forced to take their children to school each day. There are people in my electorate just north of Rockhampton who drive up to 100 kilometres a day just to take their children to school because there is no bus service where they live. In fact, there are no bus stops in the electorate, which is a big shame. It is obvious that fuel hikes will have a huge impact.

According to this year's Auditor-General's report, the Palaszczuk government has added more than 34,000 workers to the public sector since 2015. The annual wages bill for this sector is now more than \$67 billion. The creation of public sector jobs removes workers from the private sector where they could be more profitably employed. More importantly, all these government funded construction projects have the effect of taking away resources from private construction; shifting vital resources away from the true wealth creators to those that are wholly dependent on the public purse.

The budget papers show that deficits will return next financial year and that the state total debt is marching towards \$130 billion. That extraordinary level of debt imposes significant costs on taxpayers both now and in the future. Upward pressure on interest rates, moreover, crowds out private investment and negatively impacts the state's economic growth. The higher interest rates on government bonds increases the interest rates on business loans which further reduces private business confidence and investment in our state. The state's aggregated data unfortunately tells us little about what is happening with individual businesses, but clearly there are many Queenslanders who are doing it very tough today. One of the many issues they face is major constraints around recruiting suitably qualified staff. Many are calling for funding and measures to revitalise workforces by providing more skilling and retraining opportunities in Queensland. The government should be doing more to help fast-track the economic recovery of these businesses by encouraging and developing skilled workforces. This is an issue that is greatly impacting agriculture in my region and we need to sort it.

One only has to look at the current international visitor numbers, which are significantly down, to understand that Queensland tourism is a long way from being back to normal, as per my question to the tourism minister yesterday. I note there is no real increase on last year's budget commitment to deliver 7,400 new social housing properties by 2025. Only 326 homes have been built this financial year, a significant slowdown. I understand it is due to ongoing labour and supply shortages in the building industry. This is going to make it very hard for the government to deliver on the state's Housing and Homelessness Action Plan over the next three years. Hopefully we will have more residential building lots released. There is still much that needs to be done after many years of neglect. I am committed to working as hard as I can to ensure the government continues to deliver for the people of Mirani the many projects and the infrastructure they need for a strong and prosperous future.

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (12.22 pm): This is a budget that regional Queensland will remember for a long time. We are delivering on things that matter to the people in our regions: good jobs, better services and a great lifestyle. Before I talk about my portfolio areas, I would like to take a moment to celebrate my wonderful electorate of Gladstone and what this budget has delivered for the community. More than \$34 million will be spent upgrading the facilities and resources of the local schools in the Gladstone region. I note the Minister for Education is sitting in front of me and I say a big thank you from my community for that support.

Children are our future, particularly in Gladstone with the current industries that are growing. The kids in Gladstone are being given the best leg-up possible because of this investment. Central Queensland is a powerhouse for the Queensland economy and to see more than \$750 million invested in public services around the region is absolutely fantastic. That is up nine per cent from last year's budget.

I was also thrilled to see \$125 million allocated to upgrading the Port Access Road, which we know is vital for our community, as well as nearly \$5 million allocated to upgrade other roads in the region. I could go on—\$79.8 million in our state development area, which we know is attracting huge new industries; \$15.3 million to the hydrogen industry being developed in Gladstone; a further \$15 million on local water projects in the area; and nearly \$80 million for our crown jewel, the Port of Gladstone. I should stop there and turn to my portfolios before I run out of time today.

The Palaszczuk government is delivering on our commitment to water security with more than half a billion dollars of funding for regional infrastructure and planning supporting water security projects right across this state. Making the phone calls to the mayors reminds me of why we do this job: to deliver for Queensland. I must say I find it funny that yesterday evening in the House the member for Nanango made a half-cooked attempt at attacking this budget. The shadow minister for construction of dams, whose record on constructing dams is zero—it is actually negative one because all the LNP did when it was in government was can a dam—has asked me one question all year and yesterday spent less than three minutes on her portfolio area while having a whinge about the budget.

The member made it clear to me that she had not read the budget papers. To help the member for Nanango, let me rattle off just some of what this budget included for her shadow portfolio: more than \$300 million—and I note the Deputy Speaker in the chair at the moment—for the Toowoomba to Warwick pipeline to provide long-term water security to the Southern Downs and Toowoomba's satellite communities. I have visited that region several times as minister. I have seen Storm King Dam, as you have Deputy Speaker, bone dry, Leslie Dam incredibly low and truck after truck of water delivering precious drops to Stanthorpe. Thanks to this government these communities will have long-term water security ensuring their economic prosperity into the future.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BUTCHER: Those opposite do not like the fact that we are delivering for water infrastructure here in Queensland. We are also investing \$40.4 million, as the previous member spoke to, building a pipeline from Gracemere to Mount Morgan. This means Rockhampton council will not need to cart water ever again to that community. Even the member for Mirani has thanked me personally. He can shout me a beer at the pub in Mount Morgan when I am next up that way.

In Cairns we have allocated more than \$107 million to shore up stage 1 of the Cairns Water Security Project. That has been matched by the federal Labor government to give certainty to that ever-growing Cairns community. The Townsville community will also benefit, with \$26 million for the Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct to be used to build a reservoir and 13-kilometre pipeline connecting the precinct and pumping station to the Haughton pipeline, which is another project that this government has funded for the great people of the Townsville region.

The Flinders Shire Council will receive \$25.6 million for stage 1 of the Hughenden Water Bank project. That will pay for 7,000 megalitres of off-stream storage and a distribution system. Round 6 of the highly successful Building our Regions program will progress with \$39 million allocated in this budget to further support regional communities with urban water supply and water treatment infrastructure, despite the fact that last night the member for Nanango said that there was nothing in the budget for regional development. I would argue that a \$39 million investment is something that is in the budget for building our regions in Queensland.

I will not be dictated to by those opposite when they are looking at their budget papers like they are flicking through the *Courier-Mail*. There are actually figures on the pages. We are doing what we said we would do. Our budget documents also detail the significant spending that our government owned corporations continue to make in water infrastructure across this state, which includes important preconstruction works to get us ready to start rebuilding Paradise Dam.

Sunwater's allocation of \$30 million for preparatory work this financial year is a whole lot more than the member for Nanango was going to allocate. She came into this place and said that she could fix it for \$25 million. The member for Burnett sat here last night whingeing that it is only \$30 million. In her budget, the member for Nanango said she could fix it with a concrete mixer and a bit of plaster for

a measly \$25 million. We are taking the time and we are making the investment to once and for all fix the dam for the people of the Bundaberg region. All up, it is a \$1.2 billion investment for the region on top of the \$3 million for the regional water assessments that we are doing at the moment.

We are building a bright future for manufacturers in this state. Thanks to a further \$50 million investment in two major grants programs, manufacturers across the state will continue to bolster their capability, create new jobs and re-shore work back to Queensland. That is on top of more than \$17 million that earlier this year this government committed to making our manufacturing hubs permanent.

Last night I had to sit here and listen to the member for Nanango have a half-hearted go at me. It was a bit rich given that she cut manufacturing spending and pledged to cut more if she were elected. Yesterday, in his speech in response to the budget, the Leader of the Opposition announced no new funding for water and no new funding for manufacturing. She cannot tell me that I have no sway at the cabinet table, as she did last night, because since I have been the water and manufacturing minister spending on water has only gone up. Our record is \$3.4 billion since 2015.

Clearly, no-one in their leadership team is listening to the member for Nanango. If they were, her shadow portfolio area would have had a mention in the response speech to the budget by the Leader of the Opposition, but he did not mention it at all except to say the word 'water' once. I will take that as a compliment. Clearly our budget and our water and manufacturing programs are so good for this state that the Leader of the Opposition would not change a thing. That is a compliment to the team and it is a big compliment to the way that we are doing things in Queensland with water and manufacturing.

The member for Nanango says that I never leave my electorate, but I can tell her, if she is listening to this, that her spies are mistaken. She must be thinking of my identical twin who is based in Gladstone. I am on the road every week—and I mean 'on the road'—in regional Queensland. I am not on a junket to the Margaret River wine region or on a ride at Luna Park in Sydney. I have witnessed the drought in Stanthorpe, Warwick, Barcaldine and Longreach. I did not have to go on a taxpayer funded junket to Sydney to talk about drought. That was absolutely pathetic from those opposite.

This budget delivers big time for Queensland, no matter where people live. There are more good jobs and better services to support the great lifestyle that we all enjoy in this wonderful state. Many of the projects in my portfolio will be jointly funded by the amazing new federal Labor government. Working with my new federal counterparts has been a breath of fresh air, even just in the past two weeks. I am looking forward to providing more for Queensland as we work together.

In my wonderful home region of Central Queensland, more good jobs will be created when construction gets underway on the Mount Morgan pipeline. Mayor Tony Williams from the Rockhampton Regional Council has said that he will sleep better at night knowing that the people of Mount Morgan have shored up their supply of liquid gold. In Townsville, Mayor Jenny Hill said exactly the same thing. She said she is reminded of how serious we are about water security every time she hears the words 'Haughton pipeline'. Right now, early works are due to continue on Paradise Dam. With the money in the budget, those early works will continue to be delivered.

As I said before, this budget takes our investment to over \$3.4 billion since 2015. This government is looking to the future and it is delivering funding that ensures our state and Queensland are prepared for whatever challenges there may be.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Speaker has reviewed and approved my budget speech for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech is incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

Of course, it's critical to fund the big projects but we have a number of vital programs, which help keep water flowing across Queensland.

Stage 2 of the Rural Water Futures program has received a \$9.3 million boost in funding over the next two years, to ensure the state's precious water resources are managed sustainably into the future and to deliver tangible benefits to irrigators, the environment and community more broadly.

\$7.1 million has been allocated, over four years, to enhance water modelling capacity to support water planning, water security and infrastructure assessments

The Queensland Government is committed to delivering water security, but we need to make sure our water infrastructure is an asset, not a liability, to future Queenslanders.

\$5.5 million provided over four years will be used to develop a Queensland bulk water infrastructure assessment plan, a strategic framework to inform future water infrastructure investment decisions

The Strategic Water Infrastructure Plan will help us to be sure we're building the right infrastructure, in the right place, at the right time, to deliver water security and prosperity for our state.

The budget has allocated \$4.9 million over four years for a Queensland rural water compliance system—the Improved Compliance Program—to develop improved systems and capability, which will support the department's compliance and enforcement of the Water Act 2000

\$3.4 million over four years will be used to address recommendations from the Queensland Audit Office report into dam safety regulation, including recruiting specialist regulation, compliance and engineering staff and further developing information communication technology capability

The Cloncurry Community Service Obligation payments will continue, with almost \$28 million over four years to subsidise the delivery of water to Cloncurry Shire Council, via the North West Queensland Pipeline.

This government is also providing funding of \$300,000 to the State Council of River Trusts Queensland, Mr Speaker.

The Queensland Water Regional Alliance Program has received a funding boost of \$2 million per year to go towards helping local governments across nine Q-WRAP regions, to deliver efficient urban water and sewerage services.

QWRAP helps the participating local governments—many of which are small or remote—to achieve efficiencies in water and sewerage service delivery by collaborating on projects at regional scale.

With these announcements and this Budget, Queenslanders can rest assured that urban water and irrigation water supplies are stable, safe and affordable.

We're into round six of the Building our Regions fund, Mr Speaker and this is a program I'm particularly passionate about.

Previous rounds of Building our Regions have seen more than \$348 million approved towards hundreds of projects, creating nearly 3,000 construction jobs.

A total of almost \$8.3 million has been just awarded to 23 councils, for 35 projects that will improve water supply and sewerage infrastructure throughout regional Queensland—all the way from the Torres Strait and Cape York, to the Gulf, western Queensland and further south in places like Quilpie, Maranoa and Goondiwindi.

This budget has allocated \$39 million for the next stage of round 6, which will enable regional and rural councils to begin construction on critical water supply and sewerage systems.

It's the Palaszczuk Government that you can count on, Mr Speaker, to deliver for these projects, to make sure there are good jobs, better services and a bright future for all Queenslanders, no matter where you live in this state.

This budget is bolstering job growth in all areas, Mr Speaker, but perhaps nowhere more than in the manufacturing industry.

As I mentioned at the outset, our manufacturing sector—which contributes more than \$20 billion each year to Queensland—is another focus of this Budget.

Our investment of \$40 million for the Made in Queensland grants program has been very well received in the industry, Mr Speaker.

Since 2017, we've invested millions of dollars in grants that have gone toward 105 projects; that investment has seen more than 5,300 jobs supported and created so far.

We expect this to rise to more than 7,600 jobs on completion of all 105 projects. The projects will generate more than \$140 million in private sector investment for our state.

A further \$10 million for the Manufacturing Hub grants program will mean exponential growth for mum-and-dad businesses in regional Queensland, enabling them to enter markets that were never before a possibility.

Through this grant program our Hubs have already awarded \$11 million, helping 38 manufacturers from Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, Gladstone, and the Gold Coast adopt LEAN practices and invest in advanced manufacturing technologies.

This has seen more than \$18 million in private sector investment pumped back into those regions.

The support doesn't stop there.

Our six Manufacturing Hubs are making all the difference to these businesses, Mr Speaker, and I'm so proud the Treasurer saw the value in the program and permanently funded the hubs earlier this year—another \$17 million.

The hub staff are experts and their expertise is there to help local manufacturers grow their business, create jobs, capture more customers and develop leading edge processes and efficiencies within their business.

Money has also been given to supporting new industry development that will create more supply-chain certainty.

Queensland has a unique opportunity to extend the local supply chain for new economy minerals, particularly the development of battery chemicals and battery manufacturing.

In this Budget we are committing \$500,000 over the next two years to support the development of a battery manufacturing industry as proposed in the Draft Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan. This is part of a \$5 million investment overall.

Our abundance of new economy minerals, such as vanadium, cobalt, graphite and nickel, are all used within emerging battery technologies and energy storage.

This places us in prime position to capitalise on what could become a billion-dollar industry.

This Budget and these priorities make it clear we are serious about Manufacturing in Queensland.

This sector contributed more than \$22 billion last financial year to our state's economy, something this government intends to build on.

As I said at the outset, Mr Speaker, we know that water and manufacturing are vital to keeping our regional economies strong and growing.

That's why, as Minister for Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water, I'm proud to stand behind this Budget and what it promises for regional Queensland—that's good jobs, better services and a great lifestyle today, and into the future.



Mr BERKMAN (Maiwar—Grn) (12.33 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the 2022 budget which, like each of the past five budgets in my time in this place, is an incredible missed opportunity. Despite the government's rhetoric, this is a middle-of-the-road, unambitious demonstration of this government's widely misplaced priorities. They are slim pickings but I will start with some of the good bits.

The school spending in Maiwar is very welcome. Indooroopilly State School will get a \$4 million upgrade of its admin area, which includes some new classrooms and frees up the old admin space for classrooms as well. Ironside State School is getting half a million dollars to increase its outside school hours care capacity, which is also very welcome. Figtree Pocket State School is getting \$650,000 for a new outdoor learning area for B block and there is around \$1 million for minor works and maintenance for schools across the electorate. I am very much looking forward to finding out what that entails.

The School Breakfast Program is an example of a great Greens' policy that the government has picked up, in part at least, although it is orders of magnitude less than what the Greens proposed to spend in the policy that we took to the 2020 state election for free school breakfasts and lunches. Just over a year ago, the member for South Brisbane moved a private member's motion seeking support for this policy from the government. Back then it was met with scorn and ridicule yet now it is in the budget. It is worth reflecting on some of the comments of the education minister in *Hansard*. She said—

Basically, we are trying to solve a problem that does not exist ... The Greens have not given one skerrick of evidence to suggest that this affects children in schools today ...

She went on to say—

I do not know of one school community that has come to me in relation to the Greens' policy.

Obviously they have found some of those schools. It is interesting that \$1.8 million has been snuck into the budget for the next four years and nearly \$600,000 in ongoing funding. However, there is absolutely no detail on this in the SDS—not a single word—other than the line item for the budget measure itself. I am very keen to understand exactly what the government has in mind.

The increase in royalties is another example where they have really done the bare minimum for a defensible increase in royalties. They have made absolutely no change to increase the royalty rate for lower priced thresholds. The problem with that is that if and when coal prices return to something like normal—which they inevitably will; they have moved because of international forces beyond our control—Queenslanders will be no better off. When we get to the point where prices are under \$175, Queenslanders will continue to get ripped off while multinational coal companies and coal billionaires will continue to profit off the climate crisis.

The Queensland Resources Council is unhappy and Macfarlane has his knickers in a knot so clearly it is a move in the right direction. However, it does nothing to make sure that Queenslanders get their fair share of profits, which will increasingly be generated through the extraction of new economy minerals, as we heard just this morning from the minister. These really are just half-measures. It is nice to see them picking up on some of our long-standing proposals, but it is time they saw fit to give Queenslanders our fair share of coal and gas royalties in their final years and the mineral resource profits of the future.

I want to touch on a few specific portfolio areas, all of which tell a story of minor incremental progress but, overall, show that the government's priorities are fundamentally misplaced. It is good to see some big spending for the acquisition of protected areas. I acknowledge that \$250 million is a big number and a significant improvement on previous spending. However, when you line that up against previous analysis from the QTC it makes it clear that it is still not enough to get to the government's target of 17 per cent protected areas estate. The QTC tells us that the kind of capital spending we are looking at will only expand the protected areas estate to around 13 per cent and we need an additional \$80 million a year to properly maintain the parks estate.

Jason Lyddieth from the ACF has made the clear observation that there is nothing in this budget for the climate and I agree with his observation that it is outrageous. Just this morning the Deputy Premier told us that we have experienced the worst disaster season since 2011. It beggars belief, especially in light of the recent federal election outcome, that they would so flagrantly ignore the need for urgent action on the climate crisis to address the impact it is having on Queenslanders' lives.

Energy priorities in this budget tell a similar story. There is no new money for publicly owned renewable energy beyond what was allocated in the 2021 budget. We have not forgotten the big announcement of a \$2 billion renewable energy and hydrogen fund, which in last year's budget turned out to be mostly hot air. They still have not allocated the money that was announced in last year's budget. The announced \$2 billion was actually only \$1 billion over the forward estimates and half of that—half a billion dollars of money committed. There is nothing additional in this budget. It is still just a nebulous promise to spend money and this budget confirms that. It confirms the fact that one billion of those promised dollars are out past the forward estimates.

We still are not on track to hit 50 per cent renewables by 2030. There is still no plan to phase out coal. The energy minister has committed to release the government's energy plan later this year, so he still has a chance to do the work and plan a stable, steady transition. Time will tell whether he has the spine for this task or if he will just continue to squib it as we have seen so far. I cannot say that I am particularly hopeful given the spending priorities set out for the state owned energy corporations in the budget.

When we look at three GOCs in electricity generation—Stanwell, CS Energy and CleanCo—their combined spending on fossil fuel generation will be more than twice what they will spend on increasing renewable energy storage capacity. We desperately need that storage infrastructure. That has to be an integral part of our transition to renewable energies, but the government has only made it as far as a feasibility study into pumped hydro at the scale we need in Queensland. The energy minister again told us just this morning that energy storage is key to our renewable energy future, but we still are taking only baby steps here in Queensland because the government will not invest in it. CleanCo, that bastion of publicly owned renewable generation, is spending \$13.6 million on the Kogan North gas fields. That is a joke. It is a bad joke.

Contrary to the narrative that we have heard in the media that energy GOCs appear to be banking the dividends or using these to prop themselves up, they are not giving them back to the government or to households. They have effectively scrapped dividends for one year but not to give us cheaper power. They are spending this on other stuff, including coal, gas and some batteries. Using the windfalls from the energy crisis to keep open the very same infrastructure that drove that crisis over the past few weeks is madness.

Turning to transport, it is good to see some commitments on rail. It is still heaps less than road spending which continues to dominate this budget, and that is something that has to change. It is incredibly disappointing that we again see no accessibility upgrades at Taringa station. This year marks 30 years from the Disability Discrimination Act introducing accessibility requirements. This is when we are supposed to have met those requirements, but we still miss the mark. I say it is disappointing—and it is—but what that misses is the fact that it makes a very real difference to the daily lives of Taringa residents who have mobility issues and who simply cannot use their local train station.

Beyond this, the new budget figures show that, even with patronage on public transport recovering slightly, fares in South-East Queensland are at \$275 million for the entire year. That will only cover about 10 per cent of the cost of running the public transport system. The government still will not tell us how much it will cost to run its new privatised ticketing system which is surely at this point getting close to a really significant proportion of all fare revenue. Why not simply make public transport free? Eliminate the burden and the hassle of dealing with fares, entice more people onto public transport, cut pollution, cut traffic, give people freedom to move around the city. Why?

An honourable member: Who's going to pay for it?

Mr BERKMAN: Someone's not listening. Jesus! Perhaps the most egregious and the most shocking demonstration—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr BERKMAN: If they would keep their mouths shut, maybe there would be something to learn from this process.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Order, members! The interjections are not being taken.

Mr BERKMAN: Perhaps the most egregious and shocking demonstration of this government's wrongheaded priorities can be seen in the extraordinary spending on prison expansion. This budget includes half a billion dollars of capital spending on prisons. In the coming year, there is \$513 million of capital spending on prisons. Next year they will spend \$454 million on one prison, the stage 2 expansion of the Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct. Let us compare that to the social housing capital spending in the coming year. Bear that figure in mind—\$454 million in one year on one prison. Let us add up the social housing capital spend. If we consider construction on new social housing, expanding existing social housing, land acquisition for new social housing and capital grants to community housing providers, that totals just under \$450 million. That figure deserves the stony silence it is getting from that side of the House. It is a shocking indictment on this government's priorities. It makes my blood boil. The government is spending more on one prison in a year than it is spending on the entire social housing construction budget.

Ms Grace interjected.

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

Mr BERKMAN: We are left wondering what the hell this government stands for. What does it stand for? These just are not progressive political priorities. This is not a progressive government or party. The figures in this budget tell the real story. Despite all the rhetoric, the government has abandoned genuine redistributive justice and progressive principles. The numbers in this budget paint a very plain picture of that. On social housing we have an implicit policy of never housing everyone on the social housing waiting list. We are spending more on prisons than we are on social housing.

In education we are still not meeting our SRS, schooling resource standards, obligations. State owned fossil fuel projects are outspending storage for renewables. Of course the Labor faithful want to think of themselves as progressive. Almost universally Labor folks I have met, whether they are rank and file members or members of parliament on the left or the right, want to see their governments actually be more progressive. Labor in Queensland is not progressive, just like their federal counterparts. They do not support welfare above the poverty line. They have abandoned the system of progressive taxation. They are more concerned about lying to coal communities and our energy communities than managing a smooth transition. They literally legislated against the right to protest—

Mr LANGBROEK: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The point of order is that the member is using unparliamentary language. I ask that he withdraw it.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will take some advice. Member for Surfers Paradise, yes, you do have a correct point of order. Member for Maiwar, you did use some unparliamentary language. I ask you please to withdraw and then continue with your contribution.

Mr BERKMAN: I withdraw. They have literally legislated against our right to protest in Queensland in the interests of their fossil fuel donors. It is a party that no longer even supports the right of workers to strike, while wages have stagnated for decades. How can we expect the conditions of workers to improve if they cannot even stand up for those rights? Neoliberalism is pretty much baked into their emphasis and their approach to economic management these days, especially this persistent focus on abstract economic measures rather than how hard real people's lives are.


What is the government doing to actually measure genuine progress or hardship in people's lives? Let us take a simple example. When our health system fails, resulting in someone's early or preventable death, that will only show up as a positive in our growth numbers in this and in every other budget. Whether we look at GDP or at gross state product, measures of economic growth do not show the loss, grief and hardship of the affected community and family. These numbers are bolstered by the health costs, the expense of health care and the funeral costs.

Look at the impacts of climate change. The clean-up costs from the floods we saw recently are all positive for economic growth and GDP. The insurance premiums are going up. That is a positive for GDP until of course properties become uninsurable and Queenslanders cannot afford to insure their homes. There is no meaningful measure for the trauma experienced by the floods, fires and other natural disasters that continue to be fuelled by decisions such as those made by this government as it continues to prop up coal and gas. They persistently claim they are doing the important work and that the economy is in fine form, but no-one gives a damn about GDP, GSP or economic growth if they can no longer afford to rent in the community that they belong to, let alone buy a home and enjoy the security that that offers. No-one gives a damn about economic growth when social housing is not only—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Maiwar, I am afraid that you have just used some unparliamentary language. I ask that you please withdraw and then continue with your contribution.

Mr BERKMAN: I withdraw. Economic growth means nothing to people for whom social housing is completely unavailable or to the vast majority of people who might benefit from that. It means nothing to those who might now own their own home but live with the very real threat of the so-called one-in-100-year flood every 10 years and who know that this government is only making those events more and more likely with every passing year as it continues to expand the coal and gas sector. It is time for us to say the quiet bit out loud. It is time for progressives across the state and the country to point out that Labor is a centre-right party. They are not representing progressive values. We will keep calling them out until they do better.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (12.49 pm): I rise to speak in support of this good Labor budget. I have been listening to the contributions of Liberal National Party members over the last two days. It is very clear that they have no new ideas and no solutions—just vibes. All we have heard is them stick up for their multinational and coal company mates. So that leaves the question: what would they do if they were elected? We have seen it all before. All they know how to do is cut frontline services, sack nurses and sell assets.

I will start with health. This budget delivers: \$1.3 billion for a new hospital in Coomera; a 114-bed expansion at Robina Hospital; and another \$16.5 million commitment for a 20-bed transit lounge at Robina. I heard the contribution of the member for Bonney yesterday who reckons there was nothing new in the budget for his electorate. I know that those opposite do not have a lot of experience with handing down budgets, but I would have thought that at least by this stage they would know how to read one. We have a summarised version with lots of pictures in it—and I have highlighted it for the benefit of those opposite—that shows there are new upgrades in the member for Bonney's electorate which he seems to have missed.

There is a \$72 million commitment for a 70-bed expansion at the Gold Coast University Hospital which is scheduled to be completed next year. This is in addition to the 40-bed mental health rehabilitation unit, construction of which will start soon. This is in addition to the mental health stabilisation clinic that we recently opened at Robina. This is in addition to the Tugun Satellite Hospital that we committed to. Both of these are election commitments that the LNP refused to match at the last election. The only election commitment that those opposite made was for a planning study—it was not to build a hospital. If those opposite do not support the sensible revenue measures that have been put forward, then they either do not support a new hospital on the northern Gold Coast or they will do what they did last time they were in government—they will sack nurses again.

Speaking of sacking frontline workers, let us talk about the hypocrisy from those opposite when it comes to the management of national parks. This year's budget will deliver a 37 per cent increase to the operational budget of the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service budget compared to that of the Newman government. I am happy to stand up here every day of the week and compare our track record to that of those opposite. They said they were going to be different this term and support good ideas, but they cannot even find anything good to say about the \$262 million investment in national parks. Maybe they missed what some of the leading groups have had to say—groups like the Queensland Conservation Council which said—

This investment is the greatest investment in national parks in our state's history.

We know the shadow environment spokesperson likes to get out to national parks like K'gari—Fraser Island—to post happy snaps and meet with Indigenous land and sea rangers, but those opposite refused to fund those very positions at the election. I am not surprised because he is a member of a political party whose deputy leader threw a ridiculous Twitter tantrum, refusing to respect the wishes of the traditional owners on K'gari by saying that he would keep calling it Fraser Island despite what the 'woke' Annastacia Palaszczuk says. That is the LNP's approach to the environment and to the traditional owners of this country.

The member for Bonney can post whatever he wants online—and I did enjoy seeing him posing with Arundel State School students and the equipment we bought for them recently through the organics grants. But, ultimately, he is a member of the Liberal National Party—the party that turned Queensland into Australia's dumping ground. I did note the change of heart by the Leader of the Opposition and his new-found support for our record \$2.1 billion waste package. I thank him for that change of heart. Although, clearly, the member for Bonney was not listening to his leader as intently as I was because just a few hours later he came in here and said the opposite of what the Leader of the Opposition said.

He suggested that this budget gives no clarity and does not have a clear path. I do not know how much more clear we can be than providing a decade of certainty, upfront payments for councils—they are already out the door—funding for industry and funding for regional waste plans. I table a number of regional waste plans for the benefit of the House. There is a number of them here that we are working on with regional councils.

Tabled paper: Queensland Government report titled 'Respecting Country: A sustainable waste strategy for First Nation communities', April 2021 [945].

Tabled paper: Council of Mayors South East Queensland report titled 'SEQ Waste Management Plan: Final report 2021' [946].

Tabled paper: Queensland Government report titled 'Queensland Organics Strategy 2022-2032: A strategy to improve the management of organic materials along the organics supply and consumption chain' [947].

Tabled paper: Queensland Government report titled 'Keeping Queensland Clean: The Litter and Illegal Dumping Plan' [948].

Tabled paper: Queensland Government report titled 'Tackling plastic waste: Queensland's Plastic Pollution Reduction Plan' [949].

Tabled paper: Queensland Government report titled 'Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy' [950].

I do agree with one comment that the opposition environment spokesperson made: climate change is the greatest challenge our environment is facing.

Ms McMillan interjected.

Ms SCANLON: I take the member's interjection. The rest of his party certainly does not acknowledge that. I am pleased that we now have a federal Labor government that takes this issue seriously and will work with us and not against us when it comes to investment in renewable energy.

We have in this budget a \$32 million investment to community groups and community organisations to reduce emissions and bolster our climate team. Of course, we remember that when those opposite were in power they axed the office of climate change and went to the last election saying that they would entirely reduce our emissions reduction targets and renewable energy targets altogether. They want a plan, but they do not want to set their own plan or their own emissions reduction targets, which is interesting.

I could go on and outline all of the failures of the LNP on the environment until I am blue or green in the face, but we do not have the time. Ultimately, I conclude by saying that I am incredibly proud of the investment we are making in this budget for the environment, for the Gold Coast and for my electorate.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Speaker has reviewed and approved my budget speech for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

We're continuing to deliver for roads and rail thanks to this budget.

We've got funding for the second M1, after those opposite blocked it when they were in government.

This budget will continue to see construction move ahead on a \$1 billion M1 upgrade between Varsity Lakes and Tugun, as well as critical upgrades to intersection at exits 41 and 49.

As well as progress on three new train stations on the Gold Coast funded entirely by the Palaszczuk Government.

Together with Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 3.

And a trial in my community of on-demand public transport.

This was a commitment I made at the last election, and now locals living within the Nerang West, Highland Park and Pacific Pines areas can be picked up at a time that suits them—either from their home or a pick-up point near their home and be taken to key shopping or transport hubs.

It'll provide critical funding for the \$4.9 million Beaudesert-Nerang and Maudsland roads intersection, where work is about to commence.

And it secures funding for the Yalkuri Drive and Beaudesert-Nerang Road intersection upgrade, again a key election commitment.

This critical road funding will join millions for education, like:

- Our \$5 million for the Nerang State High School Performing Arts upgrade
 - \$250,000 new outdoor learning area near Block E
- Share the dignity vending machines, which will now be available to all state schools in our community

It provides additional funding for the Nerang Neighbourhood Centre and for vulnerable Queenslanders experiencing homelessness.

Speaker, I want to conclude by touching on what this budget means for young people.

Having the privilege of being Youth Affairs Minister, I've heard the stories and issues that matter to young people right across our state.

As I speak with young Queenslanders they have made their voices clear that they want a government that will tackle the challenges of mental health, youth homelessness, equitable access to sanitary products, the transition for those coming out of care and closing the gap.

This week, the Palaszczuk government delivers a budget that focuses on addressing the issues that matter to not just all Queenslanders but also to our youngest cohort.

I spoke earlier about the record investment in hospitals and beds for the Gold Coast and Queensland.

It equally addresses the complex experiences of mental health, with a record \$1.6 billion to support Queenslanders experiencing mental ill health, including addiction.

It will give greater support and access to young Queenslanders who are struggling with mental ill health.

Headspace reports one in four young people experience some kind of mental ill health.

Beyond Blue reports that 75 per cent of mental health issues occur for many people before the age of 25.

Experiences with mental health are wide and varied, as are the circumstances, causes and stresses.

And this investment will respond with a holistic approach.

These issues are complex, and the solutions are not always quick and simple.

The courage for government to admit that is no small thing, but we owe it to those courageous Queenslanders who came forward asking for help.

It has always been Labor governments that take on hard reforms for the most vulnerable.

And this is one of them.

We'll support them with almost \$30 million to tackle youth homelessness, building on the work this government has already done around making housing more affordable and accessible including our announcement this week of up to 1200 new social homes.

It's hard to get a job, attend school and have every chance to succeed in life, if you don't have a safe, secure home.

Which is why this funding is so important.

It continues the record funding that we've locked in with \$2.9 billion committed to build more affordable housing.

That's \$1.9 billion to increase social housing stock, and \$1 billion for the Housing Investment Fund.

I've been fortunate to see the benefits of this government's investment into affordable housing already with youth foyers in Logan and the Gold Coast.

And I look forward to this vital funding helping young people experiencing homelessness.

As well as helping young people gain the skills they need to get a good job and have a great lifestyle.

There's \$1.2 billion in this budget for skills and training, with a \$100 million boost that builds on our commitment to free TAFE for under-25-year-olds.

Funded by seeking a fair share from companies that have recorded profits from Queensland.

Funding will also go towards \$15.5 million to expand consent education.

It was also pleasing to hear my colleague Minister Linard announce help for young adults transition out of care by extending support up to the age of 21, as well as expanding foster care payments.

Because Speaker, only Labor governments will deliver better health, better education, good jobs, great lifestyle and represent all Queenslanders, including our most vulnerable.



Hon. LM LINARD (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (12.55 pm): Budgets are an expression of what a government values and this budget is about people. It is about Queenslanders. It is about good jobs, better services and an investment in the lifestyle we love and value dearly as Queenslanders. There is record health investment for three new hospitals, 11 hospital expansions, 2,500 extra beds and 9,475 extra health staff. There is \$1.6 billion for mental health services over the next five years. There is \$390 million to build five new schools, money for additional and renewed infrastructure and \$20 million to upgrade school playgrounds and tuckshops. These are all welcome investments in delivering the quality health and education services Queenslanders expect.

It is the investment in my own portfolio of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs that truly gets to the heart of what this budget values most—people. This year, we are investing in a record budget that recognises two of the most important jobs that our government has: protecting vulnerable children and young people and building stronger and safer communities. Some \$2.2 billion over five years and \$500 million per annum ongoing for out-of-home care services has been allocated in this budget to respond to what has been a significant and sustained increase in demand in the child protection system since COVID commenced. We are seeing hopeful signs that the increase in demand is slowing, but my department will always be there to provide a child with a safe place when they need it, regardless of the circumstances or the cost.

My \$2.3 billion budget this financial year represents an increase in funding across all three of my portfolio responsibilities and, as I mentioned in this House yesterday, includes an historic commitment to extend support to young people leaving care to the age of 21. We are making a \$400,000 commitment to co-design, establish and review the extension of the availability of the foster care allowance by two years for carers of young people who remain living with them up to the age of 21. We will also be funding culturally appropriate non-government case worker support and financial support for young people leaving non-family based care from 18 up to the age of 21.

This reform was called for by young people and our government listened. Now it will be designed by young people, for young people and will commence from 1 July 2023. This will be life changing for so many young people—roughly 700 every year. I warmly acknowledge Create Foundation, their young consultants and so many stakeholders across our sector for their tireless advocacy for this reform. It has truly been my privilege to deliver it.

This budget also includes increased funding of \$75.3 million towards implementing our Youth Justice Strategy reforms, including an expansion of the number of locations from eight to 14 for the statewide multiagency collaborative panels. These panels work across government agencies, including police, education, health and housing, to reduce youth offending. We are also continuing our investment in Indigenous youth and family workers and family-led decision-making, the Mount Isa transitional hub, and our co-responder teams across the state, who work tirelessly with at-risk youth to keep our community safe.


Some \$3 million has also been allocated in this budget for a community partnership innovation grant scheme to partner with local communities on crime prevention projects. Local communities are often the first to identify when a young person starts to disengage and these grants are about honouring that knowledge in, and partnering with, local communities to support and divert young people from the youth justice system.

We are also investing \$16.2 million to continue to deliver on the whole-of-government Queensland Multicultural Action Plan to ensure equitable access to job opportunities and services for all Queenslanders, migrants and refugees from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. We have also allocated \$1.1 million over four years and \$170,000 ongoing to support and engage with the Australian South Sea islander community—a community with a rich history and culture and a community that has made a significant economic contribution to our state. I look forward to working alongside QUASSIC, the state body, and QUASSIC president Clacy to ensure that this investment delivers on what the community has been hoping and calling for.

In my own electorate of Nudgee, I warmly welcome the doubling in funding to Zillmere Community Centre—what would we do without our local neighbourhood centres? I thank the education minister Grace Grace for the funding to upgrade the Earnshaw State College tuckshop and refurbish two new learning spaces. As well, there is funding to extend the outside school hours care service and facility at Boondall State School—delivering on my election commitment. I am excited to announce funding to deliver a master plan for Virginia State School as principal Tania Abel, the P&C and I work closely with Education Queensland to create a standalone performing arts and instrumental music space. Mrs Mac, watch this space!

I also thank the transport minister Mark Bailey for the significant investment in our Banyo station upgrade and intersection improvements on Sandgate Road at Cameron Street, Northgate Road and at the intersection of Hamilton Road and Bilson Road to enhance safety in my local community. There are so many announcements; these are but a few. I look forward to delivering on these commitments in the year ahead.

Sitting suspended from 1.01 pm to 2.00 pm.

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (2.00 pm): I rise to respond to this year's budget. As a spokesperson for a large part of regional Queensland and as the Leader of the KAP, we say that it lacks vision. I think there is a fundamental difference in the way the KAP looks at the economy in Queensland to the way the government does—that is, we believe in creating jobs, not buying them. That is a fundamental difference that I would like to come back to in my contribution.

I do need to say thank you. There were some generous contributions made by the government. It is important to be thankful for those things. In particular, there were some good contributions for roads and education. There is a massive deficit in health. I note that this morning the Premier said to go back and talk to people in our electorates. I am not sure that anyone would want to hear the feedback that I get in my electorate about health because there are enormous deficits. People are very angry about the standard of health we put up with because of those deficits, whether you are talking about CT scanners or renal chairs.

Last year on the ABC Min Gaulai said, 'I'd rather die and stay in Mount Isa if I cannot get access to a renal chair.' It would cost a paltry \$3 million or \$4 million to add another 10 chairs in Mount Isa. He said, 'I'd rather die than have to move back to Cairns away from my family.' That is the sort of thing I hear regularly, whether it be in Charters Towers, Hughenden, Richmond, Mount Isa or any other town. That is a huge shortfall.

Mrs Gilbert: You got new chairs in Charters Towers.

Mr KATTER: I take that interjection. I was at the opening in Charters Towers. It is still a massive shortfall. That is fine but it is still just catching up because of the massive deficit. We did not have anything there for 10 years. Mount Isa now has 10 chairs when Alice Springs has 70. They have a similar size footprint, yet they have 70 chairs and we have 10! I do not think anyone on that side of the House would want to talk about renal chairs and the support that the government has given.

There is money towards a \$2 million spend for the Burketown Police Station. That is good. There is money for new accommodation for police in Mount Isa. That is excellent, because we are unique in Mount Isa and accommodation is fundamental to attracting the new constables. We rely on having first-year connies out there. We cannot force others to come out there otherwise. Having accommodation in the north-west is a good thing to have in respect of their experience.

There is \$7 million for the rail line in Mount Isa. That is a wolf in sheep's clothing, but I will come back to that. That is about the way the government manage their utilities and the accounting standards they apply to that.

The money allocated for the crossing at Scrubby Creek is excellent. I have had a lot of complaints about that crossing. It is along the Flinders Highway and the black soil plains where the road is constantly moving. There are more and more trucks on that highway because rail has been poorly managed by the government over many years since it has been privatised. That means more trucks are smashing the culverts—the concrete where it meets the bitumen—and that does more damage, so it is about safety. There is \$27 million to fix Scrubby Creek. That is a bad problem, so that is good.

There is an allocation for progressive sealing works on the Kennedy Developmental Road. That is about the inland highway. Trucks can save 13 hours by going from the Far North down to Melbourne via the inland highway. If you are interested in reducing your carbon footprint and if you are interested in competitive markets—that is, making our fruit and vegetables in the Far North more competitive in getting them down to the markets in Sydney and Melbourne—you should be investing in that road to make sure triple road trains can travel down the inland highway, away from the flooding on the coast.

The US government built that road initially during the war for that purpose when they said, 'You need a second route from the Far North.' That is how it started. We are close to finishing that now. There is money for the Alick Creek floodway upgrades and there is a lot of money for schools. I will not go through them individually, but there is some good money for education. That is the good part of the budget. Now I will go to the critical part.

The energy crisis, which we are still right smack bang in the middle of, has given us many reminders in a lot of ways. On reflection, you can see the value that coal has to our economy. Regardless of your ideologies and your sentiment towards intermittent renewable energy supply, we are in no position to switch over. We have just had a working example, a trial, of that and we cannot do it. Everyone can stop slagging off coal. We are stuck with it for a long time. The government better start reinvesting in these generators. After the recent by-election in Callide, the people working in maintenance teams on those generators were saying that there is not the funding there to keep the generators going. There are some big problems looming.

I received a terrible response to my question this week on the gas reserve policy. That is a real blight on the government—the fact that they were part of that original decision. I think we heard earlier that it is the essence of neoliberalism—economic rationalists. They say we should have a free market for everything: ‘Let’s sell off our competitive gas advantage.’ When we turned the LNG taps on, studies said back then, ‘For every dollar you earn from selling this overseas you will forgo \$21 in lost industrial output.’ That is exactly how it has played out.

Incitec Pivot said they were going to build plants right along the east coast. They are shutting down Gibson Island—no gas reserve policy. It is not about price or tinkering with elements at the edges. It is straight out about having a gas reserve policy and not the mickey mouse one that the state had in the Surat Basin for some individual users. We need a comprehensive gas reserve policy to make sure that we can guarantee domestic industry a pathway going forward. That is a long-term vision. That is where you say to them, ‘We’re going to look after you first before we worry about selling it to Santos, British Gas or overseas partners. We are worried about you first and the future of Queensland manufacturing.’ That is how you look after manufacturing. That is how you lay the platform.

How do we create jobs? Setting up a new state development office somewhere or putting consultants in some of these towns is fine but that is buying jobs. Creating jobs is where you have a farm in Richmond in the north-west where, if you irrigate the land, you can get four times the production out of it and you can put on another three workers. Now you have created three jobs where people are paying \$40,000 tax a year and putting \$30,000 into the economy by buying things with the money they make. You have created those jobs from the latent resource that was sitting there. It cost the taxpayer nothing. You just gave them the water to do it and then, whoosh, you are away—you can start to pay for public transport and Brisbane hospitals.

You need to concern yourself with creating jobs, activating the resources to create jobs, not buying jobs. All we do at the moment is more studies. We pay consultants to look at projects. None of them ever get built. It is the people at the end of this who need to create the revenue so they can spend it out there. That would then build the hospitals, but they never get built. It is a circular thing in the economy. The cash dissipates. There must be a reckoning at some point.

That brings me to ethanol. That is another way to create jobs. It is sitting out there. We all spoke about biofuels in the House. Everyone loved biofuels and said, ‘We are going to activate this. We are going to stimulate farming and clean up the air.’ There are studies out there that say that if you power a car from biofuels it has a lower carbon footprint than an EV. Also, photosynthesis is a pretty good solar panel to have for bioenergy. Where has the effort gone for that?

Not one fine has been handed out for not adhering to the E10 mandate we have. Not one fine has been issued for the E10 mandate of four per cent that the KAP got across the line. No-one has been serious about it. The oil companies are saying, ‘You guys aren’t serious.’ The US was serious and 63 other countries in the world were serious. You cannot import a vehicle into this country now without detuning it to non-E10 fuels. They have to detune them because we are the only backward you-know-what country that does not keep up. Biofuels have a strong future. If you love the environment, like we do in the KAP, using E10 in your tank can reduce your tail pipe emissions by 30 per cent.

That is the equivalent of taking 30 per cent of the petrol fuelled vehicles off the road in Queensland. That is a pretty good environmental outcome, if you ask me, for something we are already doing anyway. Guess how much that costs the taxpayers? Nothing. If anything, it has the potential to bring the price of fuel down or arrest rising fuel prices. It would address fuel security and stimulate agriculture. Why are we not pursuing that? Instead, we have jumped straight on to hydrogen. This is the new buzzword, a thing far off in the future. It will be great if it takes off; I will be fully supportive. But what about biofuels? They are sitting there now ready to be taken advantage of and we are not. If you go and talk to anyone involved in the industry, we are not. The United Ethanol plant has shut down, which is a shame. Shame on this government, because that represented future manufacturing jobs in that industry.

In relation to CopperString, we have a beautiful piece of infrastructure there and it is waiting to go. The Treasurer was criticising the federal government for not putting money in—which was completely valid for him to do—but we need to get that across the line. If we do not aggressively pursue those things now, they are not going to be there in the future. If that is not a priority and the Olympics are, then I have a problem with the budget.

I talked about the rail line before. I remember celebrating when there was \$20 million or \$30 million in the budget years ago. One of the managers from the mine tapped me on the shoulder and said, ‘Rob, that’s not that good, you know, because you know they just pass that price back on to

us.' Already we are resisting using rail because of the price, so when they do the upgrades on this it will be user pays. It is a fixed cost coming on to a diminishing number of users on the line, so there are more trucks on the road. A lot of them do not pay any road fees, so they are paying a bigger road bill on the Flinders Highway. There are at least a million tonnes that are on the road now that could be on rail generating funds for Queenslanders, but that all goes back to the economic rationalists who thought it was a brilliant idea to privatise all this. They lost 800 jobs from Townsville to Mount Isa. A lot of first Australian people out in those small towns never got employment again, and this was all a good idea? Executive salaries soared. They bumped up all of the salaries of the big executives in Aurizon and whatnot, sacked all the workers on the ground, and have diminishing use of that rail line. It needs a hell of a lot of work. It does not even need money; it just needs some effort to make it work again for the people of Queensland. Let's look at these utilities now as industry enablers, not cash cows.

In relation to water pricing on the Flinders, the first element in the tender is price. What are we trying to do with the water? Someone can come along who just wants to build one big cotton farm. They will fly in all of the workers and do all of their servicing down south. There is no benefit to outlying towns, but based on price they will get it. Would the government not want to step in at some point and say, 'Hang on, that doesn't really demonstrate much community benefit. We can't see how that plugs into the cattle industry very well. Let's pull that back'? There is no ability to do that. It is just based on price. That tells the story about all of these utilities. You are gouging all of the energy assets. You are treating them like privatised assets, which you should not need to because you rejected privatisation. But you signed up to these national accords so they have to act like they are private companies and you are ripping profits out of them, which all falls back on to these businesses, big or small. It puts the handbrake on the economy. That is where you lack a long-term approach by doing cash grabs in the short term—you not thinking about how this plays out in the long term.

About \$124 billion from the COVID stimulus came into the state. It is pretty hard for any government, whether it is Labor or whoever, to pat themselves on the back and say, 'Gee, we did a good job on the economy.' Of course you did: \$124 billion in cash was circulated into the economy. There was some downturn to counter that, but at the same time that is a pretty big cash injection. That is going to dissipate. You cannot just keep pumping an economy with cash all the time. You have to build some long-term industries and job-creating—not job-buying—industries. That means new industries. That means up the Flinders getting some dams built. It means making these rail lines work so there are more mines opening up and building transmission lines so there are more mines opening up, putting royalties into your economy. You have to be thinking beyond where we are now and not just about the big cash grab.

I do not have enough time to talk about the Olympics, but doesn't that really just say it all?

I will return to the COVID stimulus. There is a saying that the rising tide floats all boats. Stamp duty, bang, up \$2 billion in this budget cycle. That is a pretty big bump. Not everyone is saying, 'Yay, it's because the Queensland government's done a brilliant job keeping us safe.' They are just sick of being down there and seeing the freedom up here and cheap property prices. I am not trying to say it has nothing to do with the government, but you cannot get all of the glory from that. You are jumping on to the Olympics. I table this report.

Tabled paper: Article from *InQueensland*, undated, titled 'Tokyo closes the book on its troubled Olympics—with a final cost of \$19 billion' [951].

The total cost for Tokyo came in at \$19 billion. They said it would be something similar in Australia. It started off at a figure below \$10 billion. It was \$19 billion. How can you commit to something like that without taking from something else in the future? That is something you build once you have made some money. Once we build some dams, we start building transmission lines and we get some more taxes off industry, that is when we can start to do these things—not before. They are not the things that create the industry: they are the things you build industry for so we can pay the bills.

The First Home Buyers' Grant is to extend to existing homes so the regions can get a crack at this. We could turn post offices—this is a federal issue, but the state can get behind it—into a state bank or a Commonwealth bank so they can do loans in regional areas. There are big gaps in health that still need to be cleaned up. The budget falls well short of delivering for Queensland.



Mr McCALLUM (Bundamba—ALP) (2.15 pm): What a great budget for Queensland and what a great budget for Bundamba! This is a bumper \$1 billion Bundamba budget that delivers a fair go now and into the future. It delivers on the Palaszczuk government's steadfast commitment to good jobs, better services and a great lifestyle for Queenslanders.

Budgets are about values, vision and delivery, and this is a great Labor budget that is built on a rock-solid foundation of delivering for Queenslanders—delivering more jobs, more world-class health care, more world-class education, more infrastructure and more services for our local community. It stands in stark contrast diametrically opposite to the LNP, who in their budget speeches have shown that they have no vision, no plan and no idea—no plan other, that is, than to sack staff, cut services and sell assets.

We know this because they have said not one word to support the revenue measures that are contained in this budget. They have had their chance to back in more hospitals, houses, roads, schools and services, but they have deliberately and wilfully refused. They have been big on criticism, complaint and hyperbole but non-existent on positive ideas, plans or vision that will ensure a prosperous future for Queenslanders. They choose to hide their plans from Queenslanders, refusing to reveal the details of what they would do if in government, so the question is: what will they cut if they will not back this budget? I challenge them to be up-front, tell this House and tell Queenslanders.

For our local community the difference is crystal clear. When it comes to health care, the Palaszczuk Labor government is proudly delivering: an additional 200 beds at Ipswich Hospital as part of a \$710 million commitment; increased investment for a brand new \$85.4 million satellite hospital in South Ripley; 174 public beds at Springfield; \$4.4 million to progress a new ambulance station in Ripley; and record numbers of frontline health staff.

In their reply to this budget the LNP has not committed to one new health facility, not one new health service and not one new health job. Through their failure to support this budget's revenue measures the LNP has confirmed that they will cut funding in the order of \$1.2 billion from our Queensland Health and Hospitals Plan, which is delivering over 2,200 hospital beds statewide. What that means for our local community is cutting an additional 200 beds at the Ipswich Hospital. It means cutting our brand new satellite hospital at South Ripley, and we know that it means they will sack nurses and midwives. We know that because they sacked 1,200 of them last time they were in government.

It is the same when it comes to housing. Labor builds; the LNP cuts. Under the Palaszczuk Labor government, affordable housing in Ipswich is back in this budget with an additional \$34.3 million for new and improved social housing. Last year alone we opened four new local apartment complexes—three in Redbank and one in Bellbird Park—and there is already another underway being constructed in Goodna. This budget commits to 1,200 more social and affordable homes through our signature \$1 billion social housing fund.

We are unlocking more land for housing, with \$45 million for the Ripley Valley Priority Development Area, delivering essential infrastructure. That is what Labor represents. That is what Labor will deliver. Under the LNP, there was zero new social housing in Ipswich. In fact, there was zero across the entire state. Under the LNP, there was a reduction in social housing; social housing stock went backwards. There were fewer homes for vulnerable Queenslanders.

The LNP could not resist attacking our publicly owned energy assets as part of their budget reply. They could not resist it because they hate the fact that Queenslanders still own their power assets. They hate it because the LNP are just itching to sell them off and privatise them the first chance they get. They tried to do it the last time they were in government—mothballing Swanbank E in my community and sacking the entire workforce in preparation for sale—but my local community and the vast majority of Queenslanders said no. They said that our power assets are not for sale. They have entrusted the Palaszczuk Labor government to keep our power assets in public hands, and that is exactly what we have done. Queenslanders are continuing to reap the benefits.

We reopened Swanbank E, creating local jobs. This budget includes another \$3.7 million investment in our local power station where we are also looking to bring renewable hydrogen and energy storage to our local community. It is all about good jobs through cheaper, cleaner, renewable and reliable energy. It means we can support our local community and ease cost-of-living pressures with an additional \$175 electricity rebate this year. It means Queensland households have benefited from \$575 in rebates over the past four years. That is only made possible because we own our energy assets.

The Deputy Speaker has reviewed and approved my speech on the budget for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

We're supporting women and girls with \$363 million for safety, health and wellbeing; \$163 million for economic security; and \$2.8M to elevate First Nations women, and we're helping seniors and people with disability with over \$258 million, including the expansion of our local Seniors Legal and Support Services in Ipswich.

Our local youth will benefit from a boost in out-of-home care for vulnerable kids, a continued investment to keep communities safe, and promoting inclusive, accepting and diverse communities.

We're also backing better outcomes for our local First Nations people with over \$74 million to strengthen connection to culture and help our communities thrive.

We're providing increased funding of \$3.1 million to implement initiatives under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, and a further \$3 million will ensure the Office of the Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa Commissioner continues to legally recognise Torres Strait Islander traditional child rearing practice.

We're investing \$16.7 million to address land administration requirements and infrastructure planning in remote and regional communities, with another \$1.9 million to support local economic development plans.

We're also supporting our community with increased funding for the groups that continue to do so much to help so many.

Our local Goodna Neighbourhood House and Riverview Community Centre will see their funding more than double, meaning more services, more support and more programs that provide essential engagement, education and assistance.

This is part of our nearly \$116 million record investment in Queensland's 127 government-funded neighbourhood and community centres.

They are meeting places and safe spaces, and they continue to play an important part in our ongoing flood recovery.

That recovery has received a budget boost of almost \$1.7 billion as we continue to work alongside flood impacted communities like Bundamba to ensure we build back better.

Our nation-leading \$741 million Resilient Homes Fund provides options for the raising, retrofitting or voluntary buy-back of eligible homes, and a further \$721 million in extraordinary circumstances disaster assistance will address broader recovery needs.

Extraordinary assistance is available to help all sectors of our community including individuals, families, small businesses, primary producers, not-for-profits, community and sports organisations.

We are committed to building safer, stronger and more resilient communities, and these investments are testament to that.

This budget also includes about \$20 million for local education and training, along with more than \$57 million for new schools to support ongoing growth.

Goodna Special School will welcome a brand-new building with additional learning spaces, while our investment in training continues with the ongoing expansion of the Metal Trades, Manufacturing and Robotics Centre at our Ipswich TAFE campus at Bundamba.

Schools across our local community will also benefit from more than \$1 million in works and upgrades, and we're catering for current and future growth with new primary schools at Augustine Heights and Ripley Valley.

The budget also includes:

- \$7 million to progress the next stage of the \$34 million upgrade of Bundamba train station.
- \$3.7 million to support CleanCo and our proudly publicly owned Swanbank E Power Station as we continue to move towards our renewable energy target.
- More than \$4 million for safety improvements along the Cunningham Highway.
- \$1 million for progressing plans for the next stage of the Ipswich Motorway upgrade between Darra and Oxley.
- \$2 million to plan a brand-new state-of-the-art Police Academy at nearby Wacol.

This budget represents another huge investment in our local Bundamba community as we continue to deliver more jobs, improved infrastructure and world-class health and education.

It is another huge investment in our local Bundamba community—catering for increased population growth and delivering the good jobs, better services and great lifestyle we all deserve.

I commend the bills to the House.



Hon. LM ENOCH (Alger—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (2.21 pm): I am very proud to be the member for Alger and very happy to see this year's budget deliver for my local community. As a former teacher and a parent, I am particularly focused on the great outcomes for schools across the Alger electorate delivered in this year's budget. The 2022-23 budget includes over \$18 million for school infrastructure in the Alger electorate, supporting the Palaszczuk government's commitment to good jobs and better services for our community. This includes \$13.5 million out of a \$20.2 million total spend to construct a new building for additional learning spaces at Calamvale Special School and \$4.1 million of a nearly \$15.9 million commitment to additional classrooms at Pallara State School. I am also pleased to see the budget investing more than \$1.5 million into the Browns Plains TAFE and Acacia Ridge TAFE for ongoing maintenance and training infrastructure, supporting the jobs of the future.

Investment in health care and cohesive, connected communities is at the heart of this budget. Algester residents will benefit from significant health commitments, including \$530 million for a further expansion of Logan Hospital, a \$465 million investment to expand QEII Hospital and \$1 million to improve the quality and coverage of digital infrastructure in the Logan City Council area.

As Minister for Communities, I am absolutely thrilled to see this budget deliver a record investment to build capacity and expand our network of 127 state government funded neighbourhood and community centres across Queensland, with a record investment of \$115.8 million over four years. This includes \$51.8 million to support the single largest boost to neighbourhood and community centre operational funding ever. This includes a nearly \$124,000 funding uplift for the belong community centre at Acacia Ridge in the Algester electorate—to \$250,000 in 2022-23. The staff and volunteers at belong do such important work, supporting some of the most vulnerable members of our community and combatting a range of local concerns, including social isolation and loneliness.

At the heart of our support for some of our most vulnerable Queenslanders is the community and social services sector. It is a sector that people turn to when times are tough or when they need a helping hand. I am delighted that the 2022-23 state budget includes a significant investment of \$125.6 million over four years to strengthen the community and social services sector. Thanks to our \$115.8 million boost to the neighbourhood and community centre sector over four years, each of the 127 state government funded NCCs across Queensland will receive base operational funding of at least \$230,000 per year. This is a significant increase from the current minimum base funding of \$124,000 and it means a great deal to these neighbourhood and community centres.

In the seat of Hill, for instance—and I know the member for Hill is a strong advocate for the five centres across his electorate—this uplift will deliver a boost of nearly \$524,000. In the member for Burdekin's electorate, six neighbourhood centres will share an operational funding boost of more than \$680,000. The Lockyer and Laidley community centres in the member for Lockyer's seat will receive a combined boost of more than \$212,000 thanks to this year's budget. In the member for South Brisbane's electorate, West End Community House and the East Brisbane Community Centre will receive a combined boost of nearly \$190,000. This government is delivering for all Queenslanders wherever they might be, even in the bush.

Our Far-North communities will not miss out, with seven centres across the member for Cook's electorate sharing a combined operational funding boost of more than \$801,000. Of the \$115.8 million boost to NCCs over four years, there is also \$9.3 million to expand the neighbourhood and community connect worker program to 20 workers in areas of greatest need. We have also committed \$39 million to build new neighbourhood and community centres or undertake significant refurbishments at existing centres and a further \$9 million to undertake capital upgrades at existing neighbourhood and community centres.

In addition to our support for neighbourhood and community centres, the state budget includes further funding for us to act on the recommendations from the inquiry into social isolation and loneliness. I want to acknowledge the member for Mansfield, the chair of the committee that oversaw that inquiry, as well as all members of that committee. This includes \$4 million over four years for a new innovation fund that will support community-led responses to local issues, with a focus on responding to the causes and impacts of social isolation and loneliness. There is also \$2.1 million to support the further development of plans and initiatives to address social isolation and loneliness. This includes the development of training and resources to support workers and volunteers in the community and social services sector.

This year's state budget is also delivering a landmark investment of \$115.5 million over four years into Queensland's arts sector and cultural infrastructure. This includes a \$50 million new investment over four years to support the delivery of Grow 2022-2026, the second action plan of the whole-of-government Creative Together 10-year road map.

We are now 12 months into the Queensland Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2021-2025, which is a four-year plan for the next stage of the Queensland Housing Strategy 2017-2027. We are investing \$2.9 billion over four years to underpin the action plan. This is the largest concentrated investment in social and affordable housing in Queensland's history.

There are those, including the member for South Brisbane, who have tried to say that the government has reduced our expenditure commitment for social housing. This is not correct. Obviously, the member for South Brisbane and her colleagues struggle to understand how to read a budget properly, but let me be very clear. Funding for building more social housing has not been reduced. The \$1.813 billion Queensland Housing Investment Growth Initiative is a four-year rolling program, and this

investment remains unchanged. The impacts of COVID-19, mass migration into our great state, workforce and building supply chain shortages, and consecutive flooding events have all presented significant challenges to the construction industry, and we are not immune to these impacts. However, the department remains on track to deliver its targets and they have not changed either.

I also take exception to the comments that were made last night by the member for Oodgeroo in relation to homelessness services funding in the Redlands and bayside Wynnum area. They are not just incorrect; they are inflammatory and I find them personally offensive. The truth of the matter is that in September 2021, in response to the need for an ongoing service and in accordance with the Queensland procurement policy, the government released an open tender for a supplier to deliver outreach access and mobile support services in the Redlands and Brisbane, bayside Wynnum, local government areas.

The successful tenderer was evaluated as the provider who could deliver the best quality and value for money service that met the requirements of the tender. These are decisions made by the department based on the merits of applications received. The idea that the member for Oodgeroo would want us to somehow break those rules, to literally break the law, to meet his bizarre outlook of the world is quite astonishing. The inference—

Dr Robinson interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Order! Member for Oodgeroo will cease his interjections. If you continue, you will be warned.

Ms ENOCH: The inference that there was any interference from Labor members is completely untrue, and I will be writing to the Speaker about this matter. It is absolutely disgusting.

Dr Robinson interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock! Member for Oodgeroo, you are warned under the standing orders. I would like to hear the rest of the contribution from the member for Algester without any further interjections.

Ms ENOCH: This week, the Premier announced that this government will deliver an immediate housing response package backed by a \$16 million investment in services and supports to help families secure or sustain a home. The immediate housing response package will help house families who are living in insecure or unsafe situations. This immediate housing response package will be delivered alongside our current efforts to boost longer term housing supply through our historic \$2.9 billion investment in social and affordable housing in Queensland. We are also engaging with the market to explore all opportunities to deliver more supply to support our traditional construction program and make social homes available sooner which is why, as I announced earlier this week, we will be making an initial call for up to 50 factory-built homes this year to pilot this approach. As a government, we are working hard to respond to the pressures of the housing market, and our \$16 million immediate housing response package adds to our commitment.

The Palaszczuk government's commitment to boosting housing supply and increasing housing and homelessness supports across Queensland remains as strong as ever. The work of the department to support people on the social housing register is non-stop. We know that the COVID-19 pandemic created challenges for many Queenslanders, particularly families, and our priority during the pandemic was to provide stability and support for social housing tenants.

We also know that as we emerge from the pandemic, some people's circumstances have changed along with their housing needs. Over the past 12 months, my department has contacted 98 per cent of households on the social housing register to check on their wellbeing and housing needs. They have reported that a staggering 21 per cent were either uncontactable, were being assisted by the portfolio with other forms of support for stable accommodation, or were no longer in need of social housing. Right now we need the social housing register to be the sharpest instrument possible to ensure that we are able to identify those who are in greatest need, and I have asked the department to focus their energy on just that.

Many people on the social housing register are also supported in a number of ways. There is a suite of other products that we provide to help keep a roof over their heads. Social housing is not the only form of assistance. In fact, in 2020-21 there were more than 205,000 forms of housing assistance provided to Queensland households or individuals, including emergency housing, private market assistance and various other services. In total, we will increase the social and affordable housing supply by almost 10,000 over the life of the Queensland Housing Strategy 2017-2027. I want to acknowledge the former housing minister, Minister de Brenni, who initiated that strategy.

We have a proven track record with 4,153 new social and affordable homes already commenced across Queensland since the Palaszczuk government came to office in 2015. We have been working diligently to improve housing outcomes for Queenslanders. We remain on track to reach our target of commencing 727 new homes by the end of this financial year.

This budget is a budget for all of Queensland, and we continue to see it as a budget that will deliver not only in housing but also in our neighbourhood and community centres and for the arts.

Deputy Speaker, the Speaker has reviewed and approved my speech on the budget for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

Importantly, our program of work also creates jobs across the construction industry and supports the state's economic recovery.

This is not just bricks and mortar—these are safe, affordable, and stable homes for Queenslanders.

We also have a lot to be proud of as we enter the second year of rolling out our four-year strategy—backed by historic investment.

We've delivered a new 40-unit Youth Foyer on the Gold Coast after the success of the Logan Youth Foyer. We are building another one in Townsville which will provide 40 new homes for our young people who need it most.

We are investing \$14 million in our Housing Older Women Strategy to co-design new homes and deliver specialised support services for older women, including a new housing support hub and advisory group.

We've launched our Help to Home initiative. This program is designed to encourage investors sitting on vacant properties to sign up to a government headlease.

It incentivises private investors to sign up with a guaranteed lease for two years and three months' rent in advance paid each quarter.

Help to Home will mean 1,000 more housing solutions for vulnerable Queenslanders.

We've delivered Stage 1 rental law reforms and are committed to Stage 2 reforms to strengthen the rental sector.

We've ensured over 3,000 Queenslanders experiencing homelessness received longer term housing outcomes during COVID-19.

We've delivered 4 new and 4 replacement crisis shelters for women and children escaping domestic and family violence.

In 2022-23, over \$160 million has been committed to continue investment to provide housing, support, and specialist homelessness services to vulnerable people, including older women and those experiencing domestic and family violence.

This funding is allowing us to provide many forms of homelessness supports as well as pathways to longer-term, sustainable housing.

It includes specific service responses for people experiencing, and at risk of, homelessness and women and families experiencing domestic and family violence.

This year's State Budget also includes an investment of \$29.8 million over four years to support initiatives to specifically assist young people experiencing or at risk of homelessness in Queensland.

We are committed to helping young Queenslanders experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness to find safe, secure, and affordable housing.

This significant funding commitment in the State Budget complements our efforts to assist young people to overcome challenges they might experience in obtaining housing and sets them on a pathway to achieve their social and economic independence.

And the work we are doing extends right across government, because we understand how important these issues are.

In partnership with the private sector, the Treasurer has overseen Queensland's Build-to-Rent initiative, which is delivering 750 new dwellings specifically for the rental market.

Our \$1 billion Housing Investment Fund, the first of its kind, is already delivering for Queensland.

Recently the Treasurer, Minister D'Ath and I announced 118 new social and affordable homes to be built on Brisbane's north side.

The Treasurer has also announced that a further 1,200 new social and affordable homes will be delivered through a partnership with Brisbane Housing Company.

This is just the beginning for our \$1 billion investment through our Housing Investment Fund.

And on top of this, a few weeks ago, the Deputy Premier announced \$200 million to unlock land supply and make housing more affordable.

This new funding will boost land supply and deliver more affordable housing outcomes for Queenslanders.

Mr Speaker, the arts connect us, strengthen our communities, and deliver significant economic outcomes for our state.

The Palaszczuk Government has backed accelerated growth of the state's arts sector with new investment of \$50 million over four years to support the delivery of Grow 2022-2026, the second action plan of the whole-of-government Creative Together ten-year roadmap.

We are entering a transformational period in Queensland as we work to prepare for and embrace the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympics and the opportunity and legacy it creates for Queenslanders.

We will elevate First Nations arts to ensure Brisbane 2032 will be a true celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultures.

New investment will help us grow Queensland's reputation for exceptional First Nations performing and visual arts, the sharing of Aboriginal peoples' and Torres Strait Islander peoples' stories through the commissioning of new work and building robust supply chains to deliver economic outcomes for First Nations peoples and communities.

It will also boost the State's cultural experience economy by supporting the most talented Queensland artists and companies to make and present their work in Queensland and on a global stage.

Additionally, investment of \$2 million in 2022-23 will support QPAC to develop and showcase First Nations talent and stories, and enable QPAC to engage wider audiences across the state through digital initiatives that extend its reach beyond its theatre walls.

We're also investing \$63.1 million over four years to support critical infrastructure asset upgrades and maintenance works, and enhancements to security and access at the Queensland Cultural Centre; and \$400,000 in 2022-23 to develop a 10-year strategic plan for the acquisition and storage of the state collection.

Mr Speaker, the 2022-23 State Budget has a strong focus on supporting Queenslanders and our communities—particularly those who are vulnerable or need a helping hand.

Through our record investment in housing, neighbourhood and community centres, the Arts and healthcare, the Palaszczuk Labor Government is supporting and delivering for Queenslanders.



Mr LISTER (Southern Downs—LNP) (2.34 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on this year's budget bills on behalf of the people of Southern Downs. I want to say at the outset that this budget, like all, has some good elements to it and some bad. I will start with some of the bad because I felt that some of the contributions that have been made by government members, in particular led by the Treasurer, deserve some scrutiny and rebuttal. The refrain that comes from the government is, 'You have a choice: you either spend this much or you cut.' That assertion is false. I think it goes to the lack of understanding of the Labor government that the money is not there in unlimited quantities and that taxpayers expect that money appropriated by this parliament is applied effectively. I would say that the government is in no position to argue that it gets full value for money from every expenditure that it makes. I believe that the government tends to pay too much for things, it tends to manage things poorly, and it tends to employ far more people for a given result than they should.

The people of Southern Downs, as a general principle, like to see government that runs a tight ship because that is the nature of the people of my electorate.

Mr Krause: Hardworking.

Mr LISTER: I take that interjection from my honourable friend, the member for Scenic Rim—hardworking, that is right. He neighbours my electorate and I think our communities have much in common. I think it is a complete fiction to taunt the opposition and say that if we have criticisms of the appropriation—how it has been conducted, how it is proposed to be raised and how it is proposed to be spent—then that equals a reduction in service. I think the government has a poor record of delivering on services for the money it spends and, in spite of record budget after record budget after record budget across the board and in all of the individual fields, service standards are falling. NAPLAN results are going backwards, ambulance ramping is up, hospital waiting lists are up. We see all across the board that government services are not being delivered efficiently.

When this side of the House questions the budget, it is not a suggestion that we would deliver less; on the contrary, we would deliver more because it is not just about the money, it is about what you get for the money. I know that I speak certainly for the people of Southern Downs who have to balance a budget, who have to try to make ends meet with what they have in this environment of rising costs. They cannot simply say to the boss, 'I demand this much more.' They cannot simply sell their farm products for 'this much more'. Their pensions will not simply go up. However, this government has a proclivity for simply taxing the productive private sector of the economy, which funds the public sector, and we have seen, throughout my time as a member of parliament, that there is a widening gap between the size of government and the size of the population in the private sector which funds it. That is unsustainable.

For a government that prides itself on striving for environmental sustainability, they should ask the question: how will our kids, our grandkids and their grandkids fund the things we need if we cannot do it now without borrowing more and more and making the government as it is a larger and larger share of the economy? I leave that question to the House.

We see a lot of waste. I will give a couple of examples here. I know that none of these on their own prove a point, but there is a pattern of unwise expenditure here which irritates me and my electorate. I often talk about the \$200 million spent on the Wellcamp facility. I can imagine the Wagners having a beer after their negotiations with the government over that and laughing themselves into a paroxysm: 'What chumps! The government paying \$200 million for that?' I suspect that they made a very tidy profit on that. That is money that could have been spent on dog fencing, on hospital beds or perhaps on the mental health services that my electorate needs—or perhaps, as a novel idea, they may not have had to tax as much because they would not have needed to waste so much of our money.

I refer to \$111 million to unprivatise two prisons. I often refer tongue-in-cheek to my honourable friend the member for Cairns and the \$100,000 for a weight loss app for dogs, the \$250,000 to rename a hospital and two local examples. I note that the Minister for Transport and Main Roads is in the chamber and I thank him for coming to my electorate. I had a brief discussion with him about the roads in my electorate and I am particularly concerned about the stretch of the New England Highway from Severnlea to Ballandean, and he knows that that has been a problem.

There is not much point in apportioning blame, but nevertheless \$20 million was expended on a project that the government waxed lyrical about to improve the safety of that stretch of the New England Highway. The road by any accounts—and certainly by the accounts that matter, which are my electors who were in uproar over what happened—was far worse than when they started. That is after \$20 million. I do not know how much that fix is costing. I understand the department is working on that now, and I thank them for that.

Also on transport, a few years ago there was an example where Queensland Rail laid 6,000 sleepers along the Wallangarra line, which runs through my electorate, between Stanthorpe and Wallangarra. They threw them onto the side of the track, which I believe is the normal practice so that the crews can go in and replace the sleepers. They stayed on the side of the track for months. They were growing legs and walking, as they do; hardwood sleepers are expensive. I kicked up quite a fuss about this. Eventually, in order to assuage the press, I suspect, a bus load of navvies from Brisbane on Anzac Day no less, obviously being paid very handsomely, turned up to shuffle a few sleepers around.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Pause the clock. Member for Southern Downs, I think you have used a couple of words that are unparliamentary. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr LISTER: I withdraw. I was told by the locals who saw it happen that they came to Stanthorpe or Ballandean to shuffle some sleepers around. In the end, all of those sleepers were collected and then taken somewhere else. This sort of bungling is terrible. When I asked a question on notice of the minister about the cost of that, the minister did not answer the question. He answered some elements of the question but would not quote the figure. These are the sorts of expenditure which hardworking Queenslanders look at and say ought to be stopped so they do not have to pay as much tax. However, there are some good elements to this budget and I will talk about them in the context of my electorate of Southern Downs and I will offer some construction feedback.

I want to thank the government. I have written to the Premier to thank her for, one, bringing her government to Stanthorpe earlier this month, which was a wonderful thing for my community. It shone a sidelight onto the many good people in my electorate who make an excellent contribution and whose works are deserving of special attention. When important people come to town it is an opportunity to do that, and I thank her.

I note the Minister for Small Business and Minister for Training is in the chamber. I thank her for meeting with the vice-chancellor of the University of Southern Queensland at the Queensland College of Wine Tourism. I acknowledge and thank the state government for its ongoing partnership to keep that facility open. I say thank you for that to the minister.

I want to thank the government for the \$300 million pipeline that they announced for town water supply from Toowoomba to Warwick. I do not have the details about how exactly this will work and I believe it is a bit early in the budget process to see when and how. I will be looking to see that that project will not involve an excessive impost on the people I represent. I know the Southern Downs Regional Council are mindful of that. I will allow them to comment on the matter. I want to say thank you for that and also for a number of investments that the state government has made. I know Minister Butcher has been a number of times to help with bores, treatment plants and so forth to help with the

water shortages in my communities. Of course, the government's funding of the cartage of water to Stanthorpe was very important. I think it is appropriate that I acknowledge and thank the government for those things.

In the case of the pipeline, water pumped from someone else's supply is never a substitute for new water. It does not take an intellectual giant to contemplate the scenario where Brisbane is running short of water, Toowoomba is running short of water and Warwick at the end of the pipeline misses out. We would have to say to ourselves that in that scenario, it would be an unfortunate thing to have to have spent \$300-odd million to put in that pipeline.

I want to make sure that the government does not forget to build the Emu Swamp Dam, which is an important, transformative project in my community. It will provide 700 new full-time jobs in my community. It will increase production by 20 per cent. That is \$60 million at the farm gate of leafy green vegetables, tomatoes and fruit. It will also provide an urban water supply for Stanthorpe and it is the place that had the most urgent shortage of water. That will provide a triple benefit: to the community, to the economy and to the local government that has to provide a water solution for Stanthorpe, which we have seen is desperately needed.

I would like to acknowledge the national parks spending. I mentioned to the minister that I appreciated that money has been spent to improve the day visitors area at Girraween National Park. I have always been critical of the government in the context of national parks because I contend—and I know that some of my honourable friends sitting before me would agree with me—that some of these national parks have become home to invasive pests, weeds, pigs, dogs, deer and so forth—

Mr Krause: Fuel for bushfires.

Mr LISTER:—and fuel for bushfires. I take that interjection from the member for Scenic Rim. We would like to see them managed better. The acquisition of additions to our national park stock are not an end unto themselves but are in fact complementary to the purpose of national parks, which used to be pristine representations of nature. It is no good for us when the government scores points with the conscience stricken latte sippers of the city to say that there are more national parks. However, if people have to live next door to a national park, if they have to operate a farm there that is full of weeds, pigs, dogs and deer, it makes life very hard. I continue to urge the government to focus on that.

On health, I acknowledge the plans to construct a new Toowoomba Hospital. That will be important to my communities because many of the people I represent go to Toowoomba for treatment. I also acknowledge the additional mental health funding, which is very important. I have to say—and I am sure that my colleagues from regional Queensland would agree with me—intentions are great and the money is great and we respect that, but recruiting mental health professionals to these positions, particularly in regional Queensland, can be very difficult. I know some time ago the education minister announced having nurses, doctors and psychologists in schools. That would be a great thing, but none of the positions are filled in my electorate, so more needs to be done there.

While I am on my feet I would like to say that Annette Scott and her predecessor, Dr Peter Gillies, as CEO of the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service, have been very good to me in my dealings with them. They are very constructive in investigating complaints that I bring to their attention on behalf of my constituents and I thank them for that.

I now turn to police. I thank the government for the announcement of a 24-hour police station for Goondiwindi. However, I am concerned that perhaps we will find quickly that the 24-hour status may not be able to be maintained for a variety of human resources reasons. I want to see that the laws are there to protect the community and keep offenders off the street until they can be seen by the judiciary. This is not a political point I make; it is a point of logic. If young offenders are allowed to remain on the street or in a supervision arrangement that is not particularly restrictive, they are available to go out and commit more crimes. One of the things my communities tell me—and I can assure the House with absolute certainty that this is happening—is that youngsters who are committing these crimes have no respect for the law, so they do not take being on bail as a privilege. It does not concern them. They go out and steal more cars. There was a lamentable act in Goondiwindi recently in which a youngster who was supposed to be on a supervision order was supervised so well that he and his mates were able to steal a car and hit the owner of the car over the head, the young lady who was trying to defend it. Those sorts of things are what animates and irritates the communities I represent.

I say to the government: please do not make this a balancing act between the rights of offenders on one side and the rights of the community. I say we need to protect the community first, restrain the individuals, keep them off the streets and then have that discussion about how to fix the social causes. Any other course of action simply says to the community: you must tolerate this crime until we fix the issues. It is not a simple issue, but it is a very simple priority that I think the government should observe.

Mrs Gerber interjected.


Mr LISTER: Thank you, member for Currumbin; I take the interjection.

I note that we are behind by \$6 billion on the state road maintenance plan. That shows up particularly in my electorate of Southern Downs where the roads have copped a difficult time with floods, rains and so forth. We need to be spending up-front to make sure they are looked after. I spoke to the minister about the Carnarvon Bridge, and I thank him for riding his bike across it one cold morning in Stanthorpe and for his appreciation that that bridge needs to be replaced.

Care Goondiwindi is an excellent organisation in my community which provides a lot of community services. I table for the benefit of the House a letter I wrote to support an application for them to continue to provide community legal services under the Department of Justice and Attorney-General.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 16 October 2020, from the member for Southern Downs, Mr James Lister MP, to Whom It May Concern, regarding Care Goondiwindi tender for community legal assistance [\[952\]](#).

I wanted them to have that contract renewed, because we need a local group to do that. Unfortunately, the contract went to an out-of-town firm from Toowoomba. I would like to see that contract returned to Goondiwindi.

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (2.49 pm): I rise to give my support to the 2022-23 Queensland budget. In so doing, I congratulate the Treasurer, the Assistant Treasurer and the entire leadership team on their work on behalf of Queenslanders. This is a budget that puts the health of Queenslanders first and commits itself to meeting the needs of Ipswich's growing population. Our fantastic quality of life in Ipswich is strengthened by having a Queensland Labor government that is not afraid to invest heavily in public services or to make multinational corporations pay their fair share to preserve our quality of life. You cannot trust the opposition to support making coal companies pay their fair share; nor can you trust them to make the top one per cent of big businesses help pay for our mental health services. Only a Labor government is bold enough to deliver these revenue measures.

This budget builds on our fantastic track record of jobs growth and economic recovery, after two years of the COVID-19 pandemic. Queensland has the strongest growing economy out of all states and territories. This budget builds on that fantastic performance by creating more jobs, delivering better services and building official and critical infrastructure.

I welcome this budget's record health funding for Ipswich. This investment will support our growing population and will see Ipswich people being able to access good quality health care when they need it. In this budget, the Palaszczuk government is prioritising the health of Queenslanders with a record \$23.6 billion to be spent on hospitals and health care. We are creating an additional 2,200 new overnight beds in 15 hospitals across the state, including Ipswich Hospital. Our local healthcare system faces a growing number of challenges such as rapid population growth, more patients with complex health needs, fewer people with private health cover and a shortfall in funding for primary care. With an ageing population comes an increased demand for emergency health services. These challenges are being felt not only in Ipswich but right across the nation.

The Palaszczuk government is responding to these challenges by supercharging investment in hospitals. In this budget, we will deliver \$710 million for stage 2 of the Ipswich Hospital expansion, which will deliver 200 additional hospital beds by 2027. We are also continuing the development of a new satellite hospital in Ripley, which will help to take pressure off the Ipswich Hospital. Along with the funding towards the construction of this satellite hospital, we are providing a further investment of \$85.4 million to expand the site and create an additional 90 extra beds at the facility.

Ambulance services in Ipswich will be given a boost with the development of the new Ripley ambulance station. In this budget we are delivering \$4.4 million out of a total spend of \$7.4 million to continue developing the station. West Moreton Hospital and Health Service will receive a record \$810 million to continue delivering quality healthcare services to Ipswich and its surrounding regions.

Mental health is another big focus in this budget, with more funding to complete the \$91 million Ipswich Hospital Acute Mental Health Unit. We are supporting better mental health services in Queensland by applying a mental health levy to big business. This will generate \$425 million a year to fund future mental health care. This is the No. 1 issue for most residents in my community, so I am really happy about this component of the budget. For Ipswich people, good health care means a better quality of life. By putting health care first in this budget, we will achieve better health outcomes for our community.

I know that many Ipswich people are concerned about housing. Over the past two years, Ipswich has been experiencing increasingly low rental vacancy rates, high house prices and rising rental prices. More people—even those on average incomes—are finding themselves in housing stress and are wondering whether they can afford to keep a roof over their heads. Housing is a basic right, and I am proud to be part of a Labor government that cares about this issue and is committed to supporting those in need. In 2017 we announced 383 new social homes to be built across Ipswich. As of December last year, 241 had already been completed. In the Ipswich electorate specifically, we have completed the construction of 86 new social homes since 2016-17 and are committed to building more. In this budget we are delivering \$34.3 million to expand and improve social housing right across the Ipswich region.

Across the state, we are investing an additional \$16 million in the immediate housing response package to help families in housing stress to secure and sustain a home. This response package will provide a \$7 million increase to the Rental Security Subsidy; an extra \$6 million for specialist homelessness services to broker temporary emergency accommodation; and \$3 million for extra support workers in specialist homelessness services to help families to stay in their current home or secure a new tenancy. Our government is also committed to opening up supply for new affordable housing. For those looking to buy a new home in Ipswich, \$45 million will be provided for the Ripley Valley Priority Development Area to develop infrastructure, including \$9.2 million towards catalytic infrastructure to support the delivery of land supply for housing.

The Deputy Speaker has reviewed and approved my speech on the budget for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

This is part of a \$150 million investment over the next three years to unlock development and increase the supply of housing in the growth areas of Ripley Valley and Greater Flagstone.

A further \$50 million will be for the new Growth Acceleration Fund to invest in the critical trunk infrastructure needed to develop residential lots and increase the supply of new houses.

Creating housing supply is important in a city like Ipswich which is anticipated to grow to up to 558,000 people by 2041.

Speaker, I know how important good transport infrastructure is for Ipswich people.

In 2017 I was proud to announce the accessibility upgrade of East Ipswich Station. This year, we opened the new station, and in this budget, we're delivering a further \$417,000 towards putting the final touches on the station.

Ipswich people rely on an effective transport network to connect them to work, school, retail precincts, health appointments, clients, family, and friends. A great deal of them travel on roads and public transport outside of the Ipswich area.

I'm pleased to see this budget will see continued solid investment in our roads and public transport not only in Ipswich, but also across the Greater Brisbane area.

This investment includes \$4.2 million out of a total \$10 million investment to design and develop an improved Fiveways intersection at East Ipswich that will be developed in accordance with the local community's needs.

This funding is part of a record \$27.5 billion road and transport spend by our government.

The Fiveways funding will go towards further community engagement to deliver a business case for a right turn lane from Brisbane Road into Chermide Road. This will facilitate the efficient flow of traffic into suburbs such as East Ipswich and Basin Pocket.

We will also be seeking to understand what local people want to see from a long-term upgrade of Montauban Street, Gibbon Street, and Lusitania Street intersections along Brisbane Road in Newtown. Through our investment, these intersections will be made safer.

We also know that cycling is taking off in Ipswich and that's why we're committing a total \$2.2 million spend to build a new cycling network and cycling facilities that stretch from the Ipswich CBD out to Deebling Heights.

Our major highways will also be supported in this budget with an investment of \$4.3 million to install safety barriers along the Cunningham Highway from Redbank Plains Road to Ripley Road.

\$2 million will be spent on planning for the Centenary Highway—a major road that many Ipswich people rely on.

This budget will also invest \$180,000 out of a total spend of \$1.16 million to plan for an upgrade of the section of Centenary Highway that runs from the Ipswich Motorway at Richlands through to the Cunningham Highway at Yamanto.

Community safety

Speaker, thousands of people over the last two years have moved to Ipswich to take advantage of our laidback lifestyle, affordable housing, and access to good public services. We also pride ourselves on being a safe place to live with a strong sense of community.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to improving policing services, domestic and family violence services, and protecting vulnerable members of our community such as young people and children.

In April, we launched a new mobile police van for the Ipswich district which can be swiftly deployed to various areas around Ipswich.

Since 2015, our government has recruited an additional 120 police officers to Ipswich to service the needs of our growing population.

A new \$25 million police station to be built at Ripley has already been announced, with funding of \$4.3 million in this year's budget to continue developing the facility.

This is part of a record \$2.9 billion investment in Queensland Police this year which includes funding for 2,025 extra police officers over five years, funding for major police infrastructure, and an investment in modern, high-tech equipment to support police such as body worn cameras, QLITE tablet devices, and ballistic vests to protect our frontline officers.

Speaker, I believe access to justice is for everyone, especially our most vulnerable, and that's why I'm extremely proud to have lobbied hard to get the Murri Court returned to Ipswich in 2018. Our government is continuing its support of the Murri Court in Ipswich with \$955,000 this year to keep providing equitable justice services for local Aboriginal and Torres of Strait Islander people.

Justice for women and girls is also a top priority in this budget. Our commitment to protecting women and girls from domestic and family violence continues with our response to the landmark Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce which will see an investment of \$363 million to increase our capacity to criminalise coercive control.

Domestic and family violence support services in Ipswich are in the frontline trenches everyday supporting victims to keep them safe. They also work hard every day helping victims navigate the court system so they can access justice and hold perpetrators accountable for their actions.

In this budget, we will continue supporting domestic and family violence support services in Ipswich by investing \$398,000 this year to improve victim safety and hold perpetrators to account. This funding is part of a total investment of \$1.8 million for domestic and family violence support services in Ipswich.

Vulnerable children are also a top priority in this budget. That's why we're committing \$2.2 billion in funding over five years to child protection services across Queensland to respond to a rising demand.

By 2023-24 we will be delivering additional support for young people leaving foster care with more investment in their transition to adulthood.

This will be done by extending the foster care allowance for carers of young people who remain living with them up to the age of 21, and providing financial support and mentoring for young people aged 18 to 21 who are leaving non-family-based care to live independently.

Schools

Giving children the best start in life will always be a number one priority for the Palaszczuk Government.

Every child deserves to live in a safe environment free from harm, and every child should have every opportunity to achieve their goals and live fulfilling lives.

Like every previous budget the Palaszczuk Government has handed down, this budget is strong on education investment.

Queensland schools and early childhood education will receive a record investment of \$16.5 billion to deliver new school buildings, upgrade infrastructure, renew playgrounds and tuckshops, and build five new schools across South East Queensland.

One of those schools will be a primary school built in the heart of Ripley that will commence classes in 2023. We will be allocating \$30.7 million in this year's budget to construct this \$60 million state-of-the-art primary school in the fastest growing area in Queensland.

The progress on this new school is very exciting, and I know many families in the Ripley area will be keen to send their kids to a school that's close to home.

We're delivering a strong investment in all schools across Ipswich with a total spend this year of \$43.7 million.

At Bremer State High School we're investing \$3.4 million to build additional specialist classrooms.

At Blair State School we're delivering \$350,000 to refurbish four learning spaces, and at Ipswich Special School we're providing \$200,000 to help with renewal planning.

There will be \$7.6 million set aside this year for Claremont Special School to build additional classrooms.

Ipswich West State School will be given \$350,000 to refurbish two learning spaces and an existing open learning space.

\$824,000 will be allocated across 12 state schools in the Ipswich electorate to continue delivering maintenance works throughout the 2022-2023 financial year, and \$289,000 will be invested in minor works for schools.

I know that all of this investment will help Ipswich children get the best start in life.

Jobs and opportunities

Speaker, this budget continues our government's strong performance in job creation and generating opportunities for businesses.

Since March 2020, we have created 206,000 new jobs in Queensland, and our strong performance continues with an astounding 46,600 new jobs created just in the month of May this year.

We are spending \$1 billion across the Ipswich region on vital infrastructure and capital works that will enhance productivity and support around 3,200 jobs.

The Palaszczuk Government is leading on jobs growth across the nation. One way we're doing this is by investing in community projects, such as the \$1.3 million we are spending this year to support Ipswich City Council deliver new infrastructure and community assets which will help create hundreds of jobs and stimulate our local economy.

This funding is supported through the South East Queensland Community Stimulus Program which is helping to create thousands of jobs across Queensland including Ipswich.

Our government will always continue investing in the fantastic Skilling Queenslanders for Work program because it's a great program that changes lives and helps disadvantaged people get the training and qualifications they need to secure well-paid jobs. Since reintroducing Skilling Queenslanders for Work in Queensland, we've provided training to 4,826 people in Ipswich, and helped 3,292 of them secure jobs.

We're also supporting businesses in Ipswich to take advantage of opportunities to grow their business and invest in our communities.

In this budget, we're providing payroll tax cuts to more than 12,000 small and medium businesses with payrolls under \$10.4 million.

We will also guarantee funding to the successful Mentoring for Growth program and invest \$6.75 million in the Small Business Wellness and Support package which will link Wellness Coaches with small businesses hit hard by the pandemic and recent floods.

Conclusion

Speaker, while I'm pleased to see this budget deliver a \$1.9 billion surplus, as the Treasurer said in his budget speech on Tuesday, we don't live in an economy; we live in a community.

A community is made stronger by the investment we put into healthcare, jobs, education, community safety, and transport infrastructure.

I thank the Treasurer and the Premier for delivering on this budget, and commend the budget to the House.



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (2.55 pm): I rise to debate the budget bills before the House. As I have spoken at length this week, I will keep this speech relatively short. We all know that this budget is about good jobs, better services and, of course, our great lifestyle. I do not think there is a person in this parliament who does not know that we are absolutely focused on health. We have said that health care for families is front and centre of this budget. We are very pleased that there is a record \$23.6 billion health budget. This will mean 2,509 more beds across our great state, with new hospitals in Coomera, Toowoomba and Bundaberg, and a brand new cancer centre. It is very much needed in Queensland and I am very proud, as the Premier of this state, to deliver it. There are expanded locations in Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Hervey Bay, Logan, Robina, Ipswich, QEII, PA, Prince Charles and Redcliffe as well as upgrades to more rural and remote parts of our state.

I am very proud of the mental health budget of \$1.6 billion over the next five years, recognising the toll that issues have taken on the people of Queensland.

Of course we are passionate about education, with an allocation of \$16.5 billion. More money will be spent on upgraded classrooms, tuckshops and kindergarten and there will be new schools in Caboolture, Caloundra, Flagstone, Ripley and Bahrs Scrub—the growing parts of our state.

We will always put jobs first. This is a budget that delivers for jobs as well, with \$51 billion over four years, with two-thirds being spent in regional Queensland. The cost of living is very important to Queenslanders. There is some \$6.8 billion in concessions. Of course, there is record money for women's safety, responding to the recommendations of *Hear her voice*.

I am very pleased to see the money to expand the protected area estate—\$262 million. This has been very well received by environment groups. We recognise that water is a big issue—building pipelines and ensuring communities have access to water, like we did when we helped out Stanthorpe and as we are doing with Mount Morgan. Once again, we are listening to communities, no matter where they are.

I am incredibly proud that it is almost one year since we were awarded the Olympics. I know that some people do not like me talking about the Olympics, but it is the biggest event in the world and Queensland has it. We are going to talk about it every day we possibly can, for 10 years leading up to the event and for 10 years after.

Mr Brown interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The member for Capalaba has it down pat. Honestly, the \$100 million will go a long way towards helping our schools and our children prepare for the future.


I am very pleased that the budget delivers for my electorate of Inala, with extra money being spent in Glenala State High School, Serviceton South State School—I know that the member for Mansfield is happy about that—and other schools including Inala State School and Western Suburbs State Special School. This is much needed money in schools that are providing very good education for my local community. I know that the Centenary Motorway upgrade is needed—

A government member: Hear, hear!

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, Darra to Toowong. In Forest Lake there is \$1.5 million for Forest Lake Boulevard and Rudyard Street. I am very pleased that we have funding for our community centres. They do great work. They are the heart and soul of our local areas. There is money for the HUB Neighbourhood Centre and the Wesley Mission at Elorac Place, which I plan to visit in the very near future.

Finally, our police academy is looking for a new home. Some of it has transitioned, but we will be looking at a business case for a \$2 million relocation from Oxley to Wacol. When the police academy finally transfers to Wacol, I would like to see that area become a housing area. It has great facilities that can be converted. I think that would be a great resolution for the local community.

This is a good, decent Labor budget. We are all elected to this place to make people's lives better. That is what we on this side of the House do each and every day. We know that sometimes those opposite do not want to talk about the budget, read the budget papers or understand how important delivering this health infrastructure is. We have listened to the people of Queensland. We put our trust in them and they put their trust in us. I am very pleased that this budget has been put together. The whole government stands by it 100 per cent. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (3.00 pm): I want to acknowledge a massive win for us in this budget. For over 18 months I have been fighting alongside the SMA community to see spinal muscular atrophy added to the newborn heel prick test in Queensland. Last week the government committed to the funding and this week it is in the budget. This is a massive win for the 1,500 people who signed my petition last year. It is a massive win for the families affected by SMA who have been fighting for this change for years. In particular I want to thank Kate, Grant, Arabella and Oakley Gough; I want to thank Lucy, Dan, Winter and Eden Hyett; I want to thank Katie, Clay, Tully and Reena McIntosh and their support worker Sarah; and I want to thank Brianna and Harper Willmer. These families joined me in parliament yesterday. Instead of having to march on parliament, we had a celebratory morning tea on the Speaker's Green. These incredible families fought for this change, even though it would not help their children. No other Queensland family will suffer the devastating effects of untreated SMA thanks to their courage and bravery. I want to put on the record my desire to see the implementation fast-tracked. I note the health minister has advised that SMA testing will not form part of the screening program until May next year. In that time there will be approximately nine Queensland babies born with SMA. If this commitment is not fast-tracked those children will be diagnosed too late. I implore the minister to get this testing up and running sooner rather than later. It cannot wait a whole year.

Sadly, the funding for SMA is where the good news ends for us in this budget. In fact, the Currumbin electorate has received no new services or projects—that is right: zero! All the funding we received is money promised many budgets ago for projects that have been talked about for years. The Gold Coast Regional Action Plan highlights three continuations of budgetary funding for our community, all of which were 2020 election commitments. We have the Tugun Satellite Hospital, the Currumbin Eco-Parkland and the upgrade of the M1 from Varsity Lakes to Tugun.

Firstly turning to the Tugun Satellite Hospital, in the last budget it looked like we were not going to get the promised satellite hospital at Tugun so our community started a petition to force the government to keep its promise. We succeeded, only to learn that the satellite hospital is not, in fact, a real hospital. There is no emergency department, no overnight beds and no operating theatre. Now our community will have to fight for the satellite hospital to deliver the services that they actually need. Many people in my community use the ED just over the border at Tweed Heads. One in four people who attend the ED at the Tweed are Southern Gold Coasters.

Mr Bailey interjected.

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

Mrs GERBER: That is 12,200 constituents of mine who will no longer have a hospital when the Tweed Hospital closes down and services move to the new Tweed Valley Hospital. Our Southern Gold Coast community will be left out in the cold. We will have to travel longer to get to an ED and either

overload Robina Hospital or the Gold Coast University Hospital, particularly for constituents who have paediatric needs. Two days ago Gold Coast Health took the extraordinary step of taking to social media, telling residents not to visit their stressed ED unless they have a serious medical condition. This comes only 24 hours after the Treasurer handed down a 'record spend on health' budget. For the Tugun Satellite Hospital to actually help our community it must be a real hospital: it must have an ED, it must have overnight beds and it must have an operating theatre.

Next there is the promise of the Currumbin Eco-Parkland. This promise has been underfunded from the start. The budget has about \$13 million allocated this year; however, the land has been valued at \$70 million. Even using 'Labornomics' those figures do not add up. Had the government properly planned for this project, like good government should, it could have acquired this land and saved the taxpayer the \$50 million that it is now going to cost. I will continue to fight for the state government to deliver the eco-parklands that the Currumbin community want and deserve.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Miller, order!

Mrs GERBER: The third item in the Gold Coast Regional Action Plan is the Varsity to Tugun M1 upgrade. This upgrade is in the slow lane under this government. Locals will be stuck in gridlock for even longer, with the budget showing that works on the Tugun to M1 upgrade are severely behind schedule.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mrs GERBER: We were promised at the 2020 election that this upgrade would be complete next year. Budget papers reveal that that is another broken promise. The upgrade is delayed by three years. There is no excuse for this delay. Labor has been in power for more than seven years.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Miller!

Mrs GERBER: This week we learned we have to wait another three years to deliver something they promised us would only take a year.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mrs GERBER: It is a very congested road and not good enough.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Miller, you are warned under the standing orders.

Mrs GERBER: It is simply not good enough and I will fight to have the M1 upgrade fast-tracked. Then there is the second M1, a vital congestion-busting project for our great city. The government has been talking about this since 2015. It was set to open in late 2024. The budget papers reveal this is not even close to the truth. Eighty per cent of the funding for stage 1 of the second M1 will not even be delivered until after July 2023 and it has already blown out by \$632 million. The promise of six lanes has been broken—another Labor broken promise. Labor continues to play fast and loose with the truth of their commitments and it is our community who suffers the consequences of their broken promises. Disappointingly, not even the non-line items deliver new road upgrades for our community.

Lastly, I want to touch on the dangerous Toolona Street intersection at Tugun which has turned out to be another broken promise. At the 2020 election the government made a commitment to upgrade this intersection. This intersection needs a complete safety reconfiguration. It is very dangerous. There are accidents there all the time. It does not just need pedestrian safety; the whole intersection needs reconfiguration. That is what my community expected when the government pledged to do it. What did we get? We only got pedestrian safety fences. The feedback from my community is that it actually feels more dangerous. Matt from Tugun wrote to me saying—

The government have spent \$1.5 million on this. An eye watering sum of money for what many locals call a 'downgrade'. It doesn't work properly and most people who attempt to cross the road here risk their lives.

I have provided TMR with this feedback. Unfortunately TMR has stated no further works are planned for this very dangerous intersection. We will have to wait for the light rail to come through for another upgrade. Our Tugun community has been duded on this Labor promise.

Despite a budget with no new money for roads in our community, this government wants us to believe that they are delivering a record road and transport plan. Locals on the Southern Gold Coast who continue to lose hours stuck in traffic every day because of a lack of road upgrades do not believe this government. This is not a record budget. This is a budget of broken promises from a slippery Treasurer who says one thing and does the opposite.

This budget also fails the Currumbin electorate on rail projects. Overwhelmingly, my community wanted heavy rail over the light rail. We wanted to see improvement to our public transport capacity by connecting our community to the heavy rail network, yet capacity building on the Gold Coast heavy rail has been neglected. The state government has been drip-feeding the corridor planning for years. The forwards show that after July 2024 the government has no plan to fund this project. Labor is failing budget after budget to deliver heavy rail for the Southern Gold Coast and it is not good enough.

Then there is the light rail which has blown out by half a billion dollars. We on the Southern Gold Coast are still not being listened to. The government tells themselves from their 'tower of power' that they are listening to stakeholders in our community, but that is not how Currumbin constituents feel. I have heard the concerns of locals. My community is concerned that the light rail destroyed the Northern Gold Coast and they do not want to see the same thing happen to our community. Catherine from Bilinga does not want to see the green buffer along the Gold Coast Highway removed, a concern many locals have, including me. The trees and flora along this strip are well established and they should be preserved.

Kylie from Currumbin Waters is concerned with the disregard for local businesses that will be affected by construction. Maryanne from Tugun says, 'I am concerned about the increased access for crime in my community, and the loss of natural habitat, beauty and tranquillity that brings people to the southern Gold Coast.' Alan from Tugun has told me, 'It will create a total separation of the Western side of Tugun from the Eastern side and will create a disincentive for patrons to support our vibrant business hub by restricting access from the Gold Coast Highway into the Tugun Village.' If the light rail is to benefit our community, locals who know and love the southern end of the Gold Coast must be listened to and their concerns must be addressed.

There are projects we desperately need but they are not being funded in this budget. They are projects like the Tallebudgera Connection Road, which has a stretch that is so dangerous that locals have taken to calling it 'devil's elbow', or Tallebudgera State School, which has suffered a parking shortage for years. That lack of parking is causing major problems for road users and local businesses. It is downright dangerous. The P&C and I have been fighting for a parking solution for the school. We have started a petition. Where there is a will there is a way. I will not stop fighting for adequate parking for Tallebudgera State School.

The Palm Beach Currumbin Sports Club desperately needs the state government to give it a lifeline. The club is unable to operate normally because it is surrounded by construction bollards and the car park is closed due to the M1 upgrade and construction around that. Without immediate assistance, that vital sports club will not make it.

I would also like the state government to come to the table and help the Currumbin Beach Vikings Surf Life Saving Club with the funding issues they are having in relation to delivering their new nipper club. At the last election I advocated for \$2 million to be invested in the Currumbin Beach Vikings so that they can build a new nipper club. I was pleased that the government agreed with me and agreed to that commitment. However, due to COVID, significant flooding in February and March, and increased project costs, that \$2 million commitment will not deliver what the surf club needs. When it comes to the state government's own infrastructure blowouts they are quick to blame increasing supply and project costs, so I would like to see the government support our local surf clubs that are also struggling to find the difference.

This budget delivers to Queenslanders a wallet with nothing in it. Yesterday the Leader of the Opposition spoke of the door closing on the great Australian dream. The sad reality is that tonight thousands of Queenslanders will be struggling to put a roof over their heads. That is as a result of a government that has not planned properly for the future. Last year the opposition stood in this House and warned the government of the working homeless. Now, 12 months later, once again we stand in this House with a government that has not acted. We are not here because of decisions made in this budget; we are here because of decisions that have not been made over the past seven years. This is not a problem that just develops overnight. This is a problem that has been allowed to grow over the past seven years.

Last month the Gold Coast hit a record low for rental vacancies with just 0.4 per cent citywide. On the Gold Coast we have almost 5,000 people waiting for social housing, yet since 2017 only 173 social housing bedrooms were built on the Gold Coast. This budget does not introduce one new cent or home in Queensland. No extra money will be spent to tackle the Gold Coast's worsening housing crisis.

Finally, as the shadow assistant minister for justice, I cannot ignore the state Labor government's clear disregard for my community's safety on the policing front. Crime is out of control on the Gold Coast. A Gold Coast family is lucky to be alive after a shooting this month in Coolangatta. What does this budget deliver for us? Across Queensland, how many police does this budget deliver? It is only five! But things get worse. The funding for our safe night precincts has been cut. On the Gold Coast we have two safe night precincts, one in Surfers Paradise and one in Broadbeach. As the shadow assistant minister for the night-time economy, I find the fact that that funding has been cut extremely concerning. It threatens the safety of people who are out enjoying our night-time economy. Should someone get injured or die as a result of these cuts, it will be on this state Labor government.

This is a budget full of disappointment and broken promises, which brings me to the biggest broken promise of all. We were promised, 26 times by the Treasurer, that there would be no new or increased taxes in this year's budget. The people of Queensland elected them on that promise. In this budget we have three new taxes: we have a tax on business, an increased tax on resources and an increased tax on gaming. Why should Queenslanders believe anything this government says if they break one of their most important election promises? Not only has this government broken their promise of no new or increased taxes; they are trying to deny the fact that they even broke the promise. I kid you not. This Treasurer has taken a 'Trumpian' approach to the truth, telling the people of Queensland that he has not broken his promise because it affects businesses and not people. The Treasurer knows full well that the cost of those taxes will be passed on to the people by business. That is happening while we are in the middle of a full-blown cost-of-living crisis. This slippery, dishonest Treasurer has deliberately misled Queenslanders by not being upfront about those taxes before the last election.

I am pleased that testing for Spinal Muscular Atrophy is included in the budget. That is the one saving grace. It is the one good thing in the budget. As for the rest, it fails the Currumbin electorate. They deserve better.



Ms BUSH (Cooper—ALP) (3.15 pm): I rise to speak in support of the budget and the Appropriation Bill. I start by congratulating the Treasurer and his team for their detailed work in this year's budget. This is a budget that invests in the health of all Queenslanders, growing our economy, improving services and protecting our lifestyle. It is a budget that reflects the key issues that our state is facing right now—issues such as housing affordability and availability. This budget will unlock development and increase the supply of housing, in addition to injecting the largest concentrated investment in social housing in Queensland's history.

People need mental health support services that are responsive to their needs. \$1.6 billion has been allocated with a focus on substance abuse, suicide prevention and child and adolescent mental health. This funding will completely transform our mental health system. To provide certainty for the sector, we will also introduce a mental health levy of between 0.25 and 0.5 per cent to the one percent of businesses with annual taxable Australian wages of over \$10 million. That levy will raise \$425 million annually and will guarantee that the funding uplift in mental health services is sustainable. It is disappointing that both the LNP and the Greens political party have opposed this proposal, as outlined in their statements of reservation to the report.

Our government remains committed to ensuring that every child has access to quality education. I am thrilled that in this budget a total of \$2.8 million has been allocated across a number of our schools in Cooper. I want to give a particular shout-out to the Red Hill Special School. I have had the chance to get to know many of the staff, parents and students at the school. The children are beautiful. They turn up to school eager to learn and wanting to fulfil their potential. And why shouldn't they expect that? Every child in this state deserves our unwavering support and backing. That is why, on behalf of the school community, I have been pushing so hard for funding to progress the redesign and redevelopment of the school. I am thrilled to see funding allocated in this budget for that detailed planning and consultation to occur. I look forward to working with the school community to keep the redevelopment moving ahead.

This is a budget that considers what Queensland will be and what resourcing Queensland will need over the next decade, particularly as we approach the Queensland Olympics. Of course, delivering the Queensland of the future has already begun. We want to live in a state where its biodiversity is protected and celebrated. The South-East Queensland Conservation Strategy has been in place now for two years. It was introduced by the Palaszczuk Labor government. It outlines the strongest koala protections we have ever seen in this state. The strategy continues to be supported by a budget allocation of \$24 million. That will take the total budget for protecting our threatened species up to almost \$40 million.

I am a member of Save Our Waterways Now and a proud supporter of The Gap Sustainability Initiative, which are both wonderful local environmental organisations. We have been collaborating, along with other passionate locals, and have set ourselves quite a bodacious local environmental goal to see platypus return to our local creeks by 2032. That is going to take a significant community effort, but it is my hope that I am standing here in 2032, when the Olympics are rolling out, and sharing with the House the news that we do have platypus in Enoggera Creek.

We want a future Queensland where there is gender equity and where there is pay equity. We want a Queensland where women feel safe and actually are safe in their homes and in the streets. We want a Queensland where the discrete needs of women are recognised in the workplace.

While we have so far to go in changing community sentiments about the role of women in society and in the workplace, I am proud that the Palaszczuk Labor government leads the nation on prioritising women's issues. Queenslanders should feel proud—and the advocates and workers particularly should feel proud—of what we have achieved here together. Whether it is the landmark *Not now, not ever* report or the substantial backing to deliver the response to the first report of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce, this government supports and backs Queensland's women.

Finally, Queenslanders dream of attending an Olympics event here in Queensland and watching Queensland athletes. Competing in an Olympics in your home state is potentially a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. We have an opportunity to invest in our local community and sporting groups, to invest in our athletes of the future. I am thrilled that there is funding in this budget to complete construction of the shared GPS and Valleys Cricket Clubhouse at Ashgrove Sportsground. These two clubs are some of Queensland's—not just Brisbane's—oldest and biggest sports clubs for their respective codes. Collectively, GPS and Valleys have a combined total membership of around 2,500 players and have delivered us some of Queensland's greatest sporting legends—from Allan Border and Matthew Hayden through to Wallabies such as Matt Cockbain and current GPS CEO Anthony Herbert, who is doing an absolutely stellar job out there with the club.

The Deputy Speaker has reviewed and approved my budget speech for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech is incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

This budget outlines a record health spend of \$23.6 billion, adding 2,200 beds across 15 facilities—including in Metro North over the next six years, and vastly reducing ambulance waiting times which is a concern people have raised with me. The dedicated cancer treatment centre at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital will be a game-changer for locals who have been diagnosed and are seeking treatment for cancer—and their families. This centre is an Australian-first concept, and will be a one-stop shop for the most sophisticated treatment that people need all under one roof. With one person in Australia diagnosed with cancer every four minutes this is an issue that touches us all.

Many people are attracted to our electorate for the wonderful schools we have here. I'm pleased to share that funding has been allocated for a number of our local schools, including:

\$900,000 for Petrie Terrace State School to upgrade shade sails and cover their walkways

\$450,000 for Ashgrove State School to upgrade their outdoor learning area which will completely transform how they're using that space!

\$200,000 for the Red Hill Special School to engage in the planning and design of future works on their Ithaca site. This is the first step in what we expect will be a complete overhaul for this school and its community and something I've personally advocated strongly on since elected.

\$194,000 for The Gap State High School to finalise their sports courts upgrades

This is of course in addition to the broader investment in education, teachers and teacher aides. And the recent announcement of \$40 million in new funding for two key programs—the School Transport Infrastructure Program which delivers improvements to the road infrastructure around Queensland schools, like new traffic signals, “stop, drop and go” zones, car park modifications, footpaths, buses and vehicle turnaround areas, pedestrian crossings and dedicated turning lanes—and the School Crossing Supervisor Expansion Scheme.

People have also raised with me the issue of community safety and the need for additional policing. I'm pleased to report a budget allocation of \$2.9 billion in policing—the biggest increase in police resourcing in 30 years—which will see an additional 2,025 police engaged by 2025. I've been working with the Minister on the need for a more agile police response in the Milton, Bardon and Paddington area—and am pleased to report that I will be doing an announcement on that shortly after budget week.

\$1.29 billion is allocated to the Cross River Rail project. Although this sits outside our electorate many of us use the train network to get around for work and socialising. This project will completely transform rail travel in Brisbane's inner city—with nearly 100,000 people using the trains each day and trains expected to be coming every six minutes between stations. Missing a train will be a thing of the past!


Funding is set aside for maintenance around the Enoggera reservoir and D'Aguilar forest. This year's budget also allocates nearly \$40 million towards protecting Queensland's threatened species including koalas. Brisbane is the only city in Australia with a koala population within 4kms from its CBD, it's something to be proud of and something I'm glad we're prioritising in this year's budget.

Social and affordable housing is something we're all turning our minds to. We do have a very limited amount of public housing in our electorate and I'm pleased to see funding set aside for some enhancements to those properties. Unarguably the announcement that will make a difference in the area of social housing is the commercial arrangement with Brisbane Housing Corporation and the Queensland Investment Corporation to build 1200 social and affordable homes.

Nearly \$50 million has been allocated to upgrades to courtrooms—including to the Brisbane courts—specifically in relation to enhancing service delivery to victims of domestic and family violence. This announcement will certainly come as a comfort to anyone experiencing intimate partner violence. The upgrades will be trauma-informed and will include safe rooms, reconfigured registry counters private interview rooms and additional security.

I have been advocating for additional funding for our local sporting and community clubs, and I'm thrilled that funding has been set aside to complete the Ashgrove Sports Ground upgrade. I know how excited people are for this upgrade, which will include dedicated women's facilities, new public toilets (which I know will benefit locals who use this ground to train, like the Park Run mob), and space for community events. Deputy Speaker, having worked closely with our inner city sporting facilities now for over a year I would like to see additional investment in our inner-city sporting facilities. The demand pressures on these clubs are growing, and we need to find solutions to accommodate the growing numbers of young families, and competitors moving into the area.

On this point I commend the bill to the house.

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (3.21 pm): I rise to make a contribution to this cognate debate, including the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2022. The budget bills before the House again support good, secure jobs for Queenslanders, better services for Queenslanders and improved infrastructure for Queensland. The Far North and my electorate of Mulgrave have benefitted from this budget across the spectrum of the state government.

An exciting development in the state budget is the \$107.5 million commitment to stage 1 of the Cairns Water Security project. This will secure Cairns' future water supply, ensuring that we have enough drinking water to cater for our growing population. Water will be obtained from the Mulgrave River, treated and supplied right across Cairns.

Securing our water supply will also ensure our tourism industry can continue to grow and attract visitors. I have been a strong advocate of the project, along with other local MPs in the Far North—the members for Cairns, Barron River and Cook—and have worked closely with the Cairns Regional Council to advocate for this project. We were able to secure a meeting with water minister Glenn Butcher. Obviously, I personally wrote to the Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Local Government seeking a commitment to this funding.

Cairns Regional Council ran a successful awareness campaign which cost ratepayers a lot of money to garnish support for a project we had already committed to advancing. The federal Labor government also pledged support for the project at the recent election. Federal funding will be forthcoming to complement the state's contribution during this term of government. Given the financial assistance council needs to fund this vital infrastructure, I am proud that the project will be fully delivered by Labor governments, working together to achieve sustainable outcomes for the Cairns community.

I now turn to the growing film industry in Far North Queensland. Last year I was excited to be appointed Far North Queensland Screen Champion. I have been working on attracting productions, to create jobs and maximise opportunities for the Far North screen sector. Beyond regional strengths in tourism and agriculture, the Far North is increasingly recognised as an attractive and safe destination for local and international film and television production. I was proud to launch with the Premier the Far North Queensland Screen Strategic Plan in 2019 to boost professional capability, support local creatives and foster a positive screen culture in the region. As Treasurer, I was proud to fund our Production Attraction Strategy in 2015 which has now seen over \$100 million of support provided.

The government's investments in the Far North screen industry have already delivered results. Since the start of 2020 we have seen extraordinary interest and investment in Queensland's screen industry, with 39 productions secured by Screen Queensland, injecting an estimated \$437 million into the local economy and creating more than 5,500 jobs.

The linchpin of the growth of the Far North Queensland screen industry will be the new Cairns Screen Queensland studio. The former Bunnings site on Spence Street is transforming into Screen Queensland's newest film studio. Since I announced this project with the Premier in 2020, we have been overwhelmed with the interest of national and international filmmakers wanting to bring their productions to Cairns.

The 2022 state budget has extended the funding for this game-changing project for the Far North. An additional \$13.4 million has been allocated, bringing the total funding for the project to \$20.6 million. This will ensure that we have a world-class facility in Cairns which will also have the following features: green screen; hair and makeup; sound stage; audio facilities and edit suites; screening room; and construction space for set building. The facility will pave the way for motion capture for gaming and virtual reality.

The implementation group that I chair provided significant feedback to Screen Queensland about the requirements of industry that need to be met. We will also partner with CQUniversity to deliver an education component to develop the next generation of film practitioners in Cairns. We have some of the most photographed rainforests, beaches, waterfalls and tropical islands in the world. This creates more demand for even more sophisticated screen facilities. The Cairns studio will become part of a broad network, complementing existing studios in Brisbane and the Gold Coast. Village Roadshow Studios on the Gold Coast is the largest facility in the southern hemisphere, so to be able to complement that is a real win for the region.

We know there have been rumours about celebrity sightings in Cairns, but we should be prepared for a whole lot more of those in the future. These celebrities, although not everyone's cup of tea, have enormous reach as social media influencers and will help promote our area as a holiday destination around the world. The downstream economic impact attracting more global attention through these influencers to the Far North will be enormous.

In terms of the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2022, the bill makes provision for \$113.5 million for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service for the 2022-23 financial year, a funding level boosted from 2021-22 funding levels. The 2022-23 funding includes a capital spend of \$43.6 million, the bulk of which will be towards the long-awaited refurbishment of the Parliamentary Annexe. Members this week, amongst their duties this budget week, have also been preparing for this refurbishment by cleaning out their offices and bedrooms. It is much nicer to have to clean out one's office and bedroom not having lost an election!

I thank members for their patience over the next 12 months where much needed works for the Annexe will take place. The Parliamentary Annexe is now over 40 years old. It is in need of significant repair and refurbishment both in the external façade and the internal offices and bedrooms. Some levels are in dire need of an upgrade, including the level which I have termed 'the land which time forgot'. I thank the government for its commitment towards ensuring that the facilities that parliamentarians use are fit for purpose. I also thank the opposition for its support of the refurbishment of the Annexe, ensuring that this project has bipartisan support. I believe that with this outcome we can deliver a value for money outcome that will extend the life of the Annexe at a fraction of the cost of replacing the building.

I also wish to note other smaller investments in the Parliamentary Service. The budget provides just over \$600,000 for the installation of CCTV systems in members electorate offices to improve security. It is a sad fact of life that security threats to legislators have increased across the western world in recent years. We should not think that Queensland is immune from this trend. This investment in electorate office security is money well spent.

I also note that the budget contains \$600,000 ongoing spend in 2022-23 for the electorate office accommodation improvement program. The budget also contains a \$780,000 investment for upgrades to information technology network infrastructure. I am excited about the infrastructure investment and the significant investment in the parliamentary precinct and the service at large in this year's budget. The refurbishment of the Annexe will be the most significant work done to the Annexe in its history and will result in a modern facility fit for a 21st century parliament.

I also wish to record my excitement in relation to the Premier's announcement today for the dates for the regional parliament to be held in Cairns from 9 to 11 May next year. The Far North will embrace the return of the regional parliament after 15 years. The sittings and the accompanying program of events will bring the heart of Queensland democracy to Queensland's most vibrant region. I will be immensely proud to be Speaker when the parliament comes to my home region. I believe it will be the first time a sitting Speaker will preside over a regional sitting in the region they actually call home.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the Deputy Speaker has reviewed and approved my budget speech for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech is incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

Transport

The 2022-23 State Budget again provides valuable transport funding for the Mulgrave electorate.

The budget provides continuing funding for the Bruce Highway upgrade for the Cairns Southern Access Corridor, with \$117 million from state and federal governments this year towards Stage 3 of this project between Edmonton to Gordonvale.

Works on this stage are now nearing completion. Motorists will now travel between Riverstone Road and Draper Road on the first new section of Stage 3.

This new 1.8 km section has been realigned to improve safety and get people home quicker.

This is the first of many significant upgrades and extensions that will open around Gordonvale in the coming months, to help reduce the amount of short local trips on the highway.

Stanley Street will be extended and upgraded between Draper Road and Grey Street at Meringa, which includes better drainage infrastructure.

Loftus Street will be improved with a new cul-de-sac and footpath, and Castlereagh Street will become a cul-de-sac.

Work is progressing really quickly now, and it is easy to see how great the whole project between Edmonton and Gordonvale will be when it is completed next year.

Local cyclists are eagerly anticipating the opening of the bikeway which is part of the project which is great development of bicyclist safety in the communities of the Cairns Southern Corridor.

The 2022-23 State Budget also provides funding to improve two significant intersections in the Mulgrave electorate.

The intersection of the Bruce Highway and Coombs Street in White Rock also includes a heavy rail crossing.

It will receive improvements though a \$448,000 spend in 22/23 of total \$1.15 million spend.

Windarra Street and Rigg Street in Woree, facilitates traffic to and from the Woree State Primary and High Schools and the Cairns Special School.

It will receive improvements with a \$250,000 spend in 22/23 of a total \$2.78 million spend.

As the Speaker of the Queensland Legislative Assembly I also wish to make to a few specific remarks about the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2022.

Health

The key focus of this budget was on Health.

Our health system was always critical to Queenslanders, however the Covid Pandemic has shown how reliant we as a community are on our health system.

The budget provided a huge focus on better health outcomes, especially across regional Queensland.

\$250 million will be spent on the Cairns Hospital Expansion.

This investment is part of the 11 hospitals across Queensland that will receive significant expansions.

In the Far North this will mean Cairns Hospital will receive more than 100 additional beds.

45 extra beds will be secured through a leasing arrangement to expand sub-acute services in Cairns next year.

The budget also delivers more health care workers.

\$6.78 million will be allocated to employing additional health care workers across Queensland.

In Far North Queensland, this means

- 838 extra nurses—38% increase from March 2015—March 2022
- 271 extra doctors—56% increase from March 2015—March 2022

We know that the pandemic has placed a great deal of pressure on the health system, the additional investment in health in this year's state budget will support the expected growth in demand on the health services in our state.

Schools Funding

Deputy Speaker, the 2022-23 State Budget also provides great infrastructure upgrades for schools in the Mulgrave electorate.

Woree State School will be getting a new \$1.7 million hall.

Gordonvale State High School will reap a bumper crop of upgrades;

- \$754,000 for Additional specialist classrooms
- \$342,000 for a new equitable access lift to Block B
- \$280,000 for renewal of manual arts facilities
- \$350,000 to refurbish a computer lab
- \$800,000 for the refurbishment of the C12 & C14 Science Labs
- \$350,000 to create student well being hub, and
- \$93,000 for stage 1 of a Wellbeing Centre

Gordonvale State School will also receive a \$600,000 investment to refurbish and reconfigure two learning spaces in Block P and \$72,000 investment towards equitable access to Block H.

Hambledon State School will have their court upgraded and their Sports Hall extended at a spend of \$350,000 and \$549,000 respectively.

In the Mulgrave electorate I am pleased the 2022-23 State Budget has provided further investment in our education facilities, especially the school halls at Woree and Hambledon state Schools which I have lobbied the Education Minister for.

Yarrabah

I turn to the budget's investment in the Yarrabah community.

In 2022-23 Yarrabah Council will receive \$1.3 million in Works for Queensland funding to undertake job-creating maintenance and minor infrastructure works in the Yarrabah community.

I also commend the provision of increased funding of \$242,000 over 2 years to continue a youth sexual violence and abuse place-based prevention trial in Yarrabah.


This forms part of the government's total funding package of \$11.3 million over 4 years to continue priority actions to respond to young people who have experienced sexual violence or child sexual abuse.

Conclusion

Deputy Speaker, this budget delivers new investment into Mulgrave and the Far North. It provides support for the region's economy now and into the future for recognised strengths such as tourism and for new opportunities such as the screen industry.

I also commend the Government increased significant investment in health.

The Budget also provides needed investment into this place, the Parliamentary precinct to ensure that our Parliament is a workplace fit for purpose.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (3.28 pm): I also rise to make a contribution to the Appropriation Bill 2022-23. Before I considered writing a speech on this budget, I decided to look at my previous speeches. Unfortunately it was a bit like groundhog day because a lot of the issues I have been fighting for over the years I have spoken about in this chamber many times, but they seem to be ignored by this government. It is something that certainly frustrates a lot of my residents on the northern Gold Coast in that they feel they are second-class citizens.

I want to give one accolade. My residents welcome the \$20 million in funding towards the Coomera Hospital early works. This equates to about 1.4 per cent of the overall cost of the hospital itself. Therefore, a lot of residents are concerned that the time line for this hospital will be dragged out longer than is promised—similar to what we have experienced with the Coomera Connector. We were promised that the Coomera Connector would have cars on it by the end of this term. That has blown out. We will be lucky to see that in 2026. I would not bet on that either.

On the northern Gold Coast—and the member for Coomera can certainly back these comments up—we have experienced massive population growth in recent years. The member for Coomera's area experiences more population growth as he has more land that can be developed. In my region we have seen a reasonable share of that development. One thing that concerns me is that the land we are developing now is mountainous and very close to forest lines. This certainly exacerbates concerns around the risk of bushfires. I have very good rural fire brigades in my electorate—Coomera Valley is one of them. They are in desperate need of new facilities as they have outgrown what they currently have. We will need their assistance more than ever as we encroach into bushland in the more mountainous parts of the Theodore electorate. I know that the brigade has gone to the department and pushed for this—and I have mentioned it in this chamber previously. We need to start allocating money to that brigade so they can get better facilities and continue to grow.

Housing is an issue on the northern Gold Coast. My office continually gets emails from people and people walking in the front door distraught about the increases in rents and the prices of homes in the area. This is forcing good families out of homes and onto the street. An email from a resident reads—

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen—and also a mother. My concerns are about the current housing crisis—affordability—and lack of rental accommodation. The current rental increases are out of control—and will be creating homelessness. It's bad enough we've just gone through a pandemic—now there will be a whole generation that can't afford to buy a home.

A resident from Upper Coomera who cares for her 29-year-old daughter wrote—

Hi, as you know the rental crisis is bad on the GC. My daughter and I have just 2 weeks to find a rental or we will be homeless. The past week I have been trying to find some emergency housing, disability housing on the GC, anything and I have hit a brick wall.

Unfortunately, this budget does little to help these individuals.

I now want to talk about my local roads. This is certainly something that I have spoken about in this chamber many times before. The government has allocated for a few years time an upgrade of Michigan Drive and Tamborine Oxenford Road. Residents are asking for Georgina Street to be included

in this upgrade because it is only a short distance away. It is precarious to turn left or right into Georgina Street from Tamborine Oxenford Road. As I said, it is only a short distance away. It would not be a big ask for the department to widen the road there a little and put line markings on the road.

When it comes to the Coomera Connector, one of my main concerns is Helensvale Road. Helensvale Road will be an important feeder road for the Coomera Connector. East of the Coomera Connector the road is a single lane bidirectional carriageway. We are expecting vast numbers of vehicles on that road, which, even at best of times, is congested. We are expecting the additional vehicles from the Coomera Connector to go onto that road.

At a recent Neighbourhood Watch meeting the local division 2 councillor claimed that the Gold Coast City Council does not have any money. Many times I have asked the minister to undertake a fifty-fifty partnership with the Gold Coast City Council as the Coomera Connector will have a council road as a feeder road. I hope the minister can come to some agreement with the Gold Coast City Council so that we can fix this road and it can take the amount of traffic it will be expected to take. Also, Helensvale State High School—one of the largest schools on the Gold Coast—is on Helensvale Road. During peak hour it is so congested that motorists can hardly move. I say again that we need to make sure that Helensvale Road is fixed. One of my residents said to me, 'Mark, how can the Coomera Connector go from six lanes to four lanes but cost an extra \$600 million?' He would love the minister to detail exactly why the cost has blown out.

Exit 57 is a major interchange on the M1 motorway at Oxenford. A couple of years ago the government spent about \$25 million on that exit. Many of my residents say that this was an experiment in line marking. Some \$25 million was spent to adjust the line markings on the road and all it has done is confuse drivers, especially drivers who are not familiar with the area. We are seeing cars go across the four lanes as they go across the interchange. There have been many near misses and we have seen accidents there regularly.

The right turn lane from the Old Pacific Highway has been removed so we have vehicles driving into the Oxenford Tavern and doing a U-turn in the car park and coming out the other side. The department put a U-turn facility on Tamborine Oxenford Road near the interchange. It is a short distance from a very large roundabout. The problem with that U-turn facility is that there are motorists who get a little impatient, decide to use the U-turn facility and turn in front of other vehicles. Not too long ago I saw a Nucrush Quarry truck driver swerve and slam his brakes on because an individual decided to pull out in front of him. This is not the brightest thing that Main Roads has done. The interchange still has congestion. On the Hope Island Road side motorists can be stuck in congestion for about 15 or 20 minutes. In the afternoons especially, there is congestion getting off the M1 motorway. The \$25 million spent on that interchange has failed to achieve anything.

Another issue that has certainly been bubbling along in my area is the new Hope Island station. The department has stated that it is going to build 179 car parks there. Where they are going to put the car parks is, at the moment, used by local businesses as a parking facility. The problem is that of the 179 car parks there will be very few for commuters. Local businesses and the Department of Education, which has a building in that area, use that current area. We are pleading with the minister to have a look at this and commit to at least 500 car spaces. This would encourage people to use the train from Hope Island and put a stop to the fear that residents have about commuters and people from local businesses parking in the streets in the local estates. These local estates have narrow roads and they simply do not have the ability to cater for additional cars.

A resident floated an idea with me a while back. This is about having visionary ideas for infrastructure for our region. There is a southern transport corridor, which is on the Gold Coast City planning maps, and it is also on the Main Roads planning maps. This corridor would link the northern Gold Coast to Yarrabilba and beyond. We talk about housing affordability on the Gold Coast. The problem is that the council wants to keep 50 per cent green space on the Gold Coast. Therefore, we are running out of land. Therefore, we need to look for alternatives to house extra people. If we built a road which would connect the northern Gold Coast and shorten travel times to the areas west of the northern Darlington Range and to Yarrabilba, that would create a massive area for housing and industrial estates, creating jobs. That is a visionary idea. I support the resident who came up with that idea.

We also need to look at what other states do. When we look at those corridors, we need to implement heavy rail to ensure that the life span of those roads is greatly increased. I ask the minister to seriously consider that we need interconnectors from the northern Gold Coast to those areas to the

west. That will ensure that people have affordable land and they can easily travel a short distance to work on the Gold Coast or people on the Gold Coast can easily travel a short distance to potentially work in those areas. I say to the minister and the parliament that this is something we need to look at.

I want to talk a little about education. I thank the Minister for Education. She sent out some information about funding for my local schools. Gaven State School is going to get a security fence. It says that it is shovel-ready. They have actually started, and they started quite some time ago.

Mr Brown interjected.

Mr BOOTHMAN: The shovels are well and truly ready. They are stuck in the ground! I think there is concrete in there too! There is funding for a security fence. However, I would like to see Coomera State School complete its security fence. At the moment it is half done. Unfortunately, at the moment students are jumping the back fence into the housing estates, so it would be good to get that sorted out. The department has also allocated \$100,000 to demolish three buildings at Helensvale State High School and \$555,000 to refurbish amenities in Foundation Square at Helensvale State High School.

I always welcome all the additional funds when it comes to school maintenance in my area because I do have some schools which are quite old. One school is reaching its 150th year next year, and that is Coomera State School. It will be a fantastic celebration. I am working with the school to put some money forward and help them out financially. This school has a very proud history when it comes to the Anzacs in the area. We are making up some plaques of former students who served in the First World War and the Second World War. The idea of this is to make sure that the kids see the plaques in the library to recognise the sacrifice of former students and residents of the great Coomera area.

Unfortunately, this budget has been groundhog day for the Theodore electorate. There are so many issues that we would love to see properly fixed. Again, we are missing out. There is Henry Roberts Drive and having a turn left lane at the new intersection of Maudsland Road and Beaudesert Nerang Road. They are simple things. A lot of things are not overly expensive to do. My residents feel short-changed.



Mr WHITING (Bancroft—ALP) (3.43 pm): I rise to speak in support of this very strong budget that delivers greater services and a better lifestyle to all Queenslanders. I start by saying I am wearing a Redcliffe Hockey Club tie today to mark the 90th anniversary of our hockey club.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr WHITING: I am not taking your interjections! I specifically want to deal with what the Leader of the Opposition said yesterday. Despite talking for nearly an hour, he offered no solutions to the supposed problems he identified—no solutions. He offered no solutions to the people whose tragic stories they farm for political effect. For them, they offer no solutions. They offer some hope to lure them in and share their stories, but they leave them with no solutions after they have finished with them—no solutions.

The Leader of the Opposition talks a big game on health, but what did they offer? He offered real-time data, but they have never explained how that would actually help a kid in the emergency department at Caboolture with a broken arm. 'Dad, my arm feels sore. Just wait, son. I will go online and see what the waiting times are at Caloundra or Prince Charles.' Explain how this helps.

They offered better resourcing for triage. What does that mean—faster decision-making or action to actually fix people's problems? We are actually implementing the solution to fix people's problems. We are putting on 9,450 staff in Queensland Health over the next four years. We are bringing on a massive expansion of beds—2,200 overnight beds, as we have heard. Caboolture Hospital is being doubled in size, and that is a \$400 million project. Redcliffe Hospital is being redeveloped to the tune of \$1.06 billion. From the LNP, there were no solutions. They have offered to 'resource' the hospitals, but that is a solution we are already implementing.


Do you know what word the Leader of the Opposition barely mentioned? He barely said the word 'COVID' yesterday. I think the only time he said it was to imply we were using it as an excuse. This is a pandemic which is the biggest disruptor to our health system. They can barely admit it exists. They can barely say the word 'COVID'. Not only do they not offer any solutions; they do not even recognise what the biggest problem is. As I said, they offered no solutions.

The LNP have no solution on the issue of youth offenders. The Leader of the Opposition said they wanted to 'get kids back on the right track'. The only solution they have offered is a 'breach of bail offence'. As we know, it has been tried by the LNP before and it does not work. I will tell you what a real solution is: programs like Skilling Queenslanders for Work. This budget has secured ongoing funding for this ground-breaking program.

I have seen how this program turns around the lives of young people in Deception Bay. We invest in training people; we do not marginalise them or talk them down. The solution we know is working in depth with whole families in a community, training them and giving them the skills to remain in the workforce. We have worked this way for over 25 years with families and young people in Deception Bay. The solution is lots of workers on the ground, working all hours, gaining the trust of kids before we start working on issues throughout their family such as schooling, training, counselling and financial skills. That is how you do that, and we are doing that. That is the solution—but the LNP have no solutions.

They have no solutions for the gender pay gap. Hang on: the Leader of the Opposition seriously talked about a gender pay gap—the LNP, the party with the biggest gender gap in Australian politics! Did the Leader of the Opposition not notice that he was surrounded by 24 men and six women? Did he not remember he had to turf out a woman to get his own job? No-one is talking about Verity's economic security now, are they? What is his solution for equal pay for women? Someone will get an extra job in cabinet. That is really going to fix the structural disadvantage inherent in our society! They have no solutions.

I am going to finish by saying that this budget comes from a team that delivers solutions. This budget delivers good jobs, better services and a great lifestyle. I commend the bills and the budget to the House.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (3.49 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the budget. To start with, this budget has let down regional Queensland. This has been a budget for Brisbane, not the bush. I will give you a classic example. Over the last couple of years the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service has been campaigning, working together, to try and bring a new hospital to Blackwater. We have already visited the Blackall Hospital and we have seen that that is the ideal type of hospital we need in Blackwater, yet there is no line item in the budget for the Blackwater Hospital.

What we need in Blackwater is a hospital fit for purpose. Blackwater has a population of 6,000 people, but realistically it has an increased population, through drive-in drive-out and fly-in fly-out, that doubles the population. The hospital in Blackwater does not have capability if an emergency happened at one of the mines, whether it be Curragh or South Blackwater. I call on the minister: if the money is there, show us the line item and show where it is in the budget, because we need a guarantee that this hospital is going to be started this coming financial year. All of the tender documents have already gone out, but where is the money in the budget? You can do the tender documents, but you need to have the money to put someone on. I call on the minister to show me where it is and show me where the money is coming from.

This budget is about spin, smoke and mirrors. It is how things look, not how they are. We have seen reannouncement after reannouncement. The only two new announcements for the outback in the seat of Gregory are \$747,000 for a 50-kilowatt solar system for the Alpha Hospital and Multipurpose Hospital Service; and Diamantina Shire gets a measly \$410,666 to support Diamantina Shire to undertake job-creating maintenance works. In the Central Highlands we get five new announcements: Lilyvale primary plant replacement, \$26.2 million—I thank the government for that; and \$4 million on new buildings and learning spaces for Emerald State High School, which is much needed with the growing population in the Emerald area.

This is the one they tried to sneak through: the Emerald Hospital gets \$8 million for the redevelopment of the emergency and day surgery. Do you know where that money came from? Ten million dollars was given to the Queensland Health department and the Queensland government in 2019 by Ken O'Dowd, who was the then member for Flynn. That \$10 million was given to Queensland Health well over three years ago, and now they are finally putting \$8 million—not \$10 million—into the budget. I think we are being taken for granted out there. Why wasn't that money put into the budget as soon as they got it? We needed that upgrade to the emergency department at the Emerald Hospital three years ago. Finally the government has put the money in. It is money that has come from the federal government.

The Emerald Comet substation received \$1.8 million for protection works and the Springsure State School got \$888,000 for specialist classrooms. This is much needed in the Springsure area. I do thank the government for those initiatives. Let's start spending the money.

If you look at the budget for outback Queensland—and it is a lovely, glossy brochure—there are a couple of things in there that were announced last budget; for example, funding for the Longreach State High School for upgrade to the skills, development and training facilities. It was announced in the last budget; now you are going to announce it in this budget as well? The Longreach Hospital received

\$500,000 out of \$4.8 million to spend on the rectification of structural issues, electrical and mechanical services. What I am looking for is the promise at the 2020 election by the Labor Party for renal dialysis in Longreach. We still do not have it.

Mr Lister: Where is it?

Mr MILLAR: We still do not have it. We have families who have to leave Longreach and spend time away in Townsville and Rockhampton, breaking up families, to get what is basic renal dialysis care in the town of Longreach. Longreach is a major area for outback Queensland. Surely, we can have renal dialysis in Longreach. We also have spending that was announced in the last budget for the Outback Rail Adventure, \$495,000 out of \$1.3 million. Thank you, but can we get the money out there and spend it?

What they want to do with the tourism market out there is give that real outback experience of having an old train coming in from Emerald to Longreach as part of the tourism adventure. In the last two weeks many of you would have seen, if you are following on Facebook, that Richard Kinnon is bringing the big paddle steamer *Pride of the Murray* from Victoria all the way up to the Thomson River. That will be a fantastic opportunity because we have a world-class, first-class tourism sector in outback Queensland, and I am looking forward to seeing that.

More money needs to be spent in the Central Highlands. It is a growing community that desperately needs more infrastructure and more spending. I cannot go past the \$6 billion in road maintenance upgrades we need for Queensland—\$6 billion—and I am still trying to find the funding that should be committed for the Tambo-Springsure Road. Where is that money? It has been promised over the last couple of years by the federal government. They are giving 80 per cent. The state government only needed to give 20 per cent. We need the funding for that road because it plays a critical role in getting our beef from the Channel Country in to the processors in Rockhampton. It is important that you invest in regional Queensland.

Talking about the royalties increase—it was promised 25 or 26 times that there would be no tax increase—we have a royalty increase to pay for health. Well, as I said to the Minister for Health, where is that money? The very place that provides royalties is Blackwater. It needs a new hospital. The hospital in Blackwater was built when Utah came to Blackwater in the late 1960s or early 1970s and it is not fit for purpose. The government has tried to say, 'We need to increase the royalties so we can pay for the health initiatives.' That is great, but the very place that gives you the royalties is Blackwater. I would like to see that hospital.

The other thing you have to realise about royalties is that, while you have increased royalties and the price is high, resources companies have high input costs. I was at Dawson mine only last week talking to the manager there, Clarence. One of the big issues they have is high fuel prices. New tyres for the dump trucks are going up 15 per cent in the new financial year. So while you may say the coal price is high, the input costs—the margins—are not there. The margins are very slim at the moment, so just be a little bit careful.

Mr Power: The margins are slim in coal?

Mr MILLAR: Have those members opposite been to a coalmine to ask a coalmine manager, 'How are your margins? How are your input costs?' Because their input costs, like our input costs, are all going up. It is hard to even get tyres. It is hard to get staff. The margins are not there that you would think. These mining companies are doing their best to provide the royalties, and they have no problem providing royalties to Queensland but—

Mr Power: How much have costs gone up?

Mr MILLAR: Fifteen per cent in tyres, fuel prices have gone up, steel has gone up significantly, being able to get parts—

Mr Power interjected.

Mr MILLAR: Their input costs have gone up. If the member for Logan would like to go out to a mine and talk to a mine manager, he might find something out.

I will move to agriculture as the agriculture minister is in the House. Obviously one of the biggest issues we have in regional Queensland at the moment is lumpy skin disease, Japanese encephalitis and the threat of foot and mouth. It is on our doorstep. It is already in Indonesia and there are obviously concerns with Papua New Guinea. It is a huge issue in regional Queensland. I have noticed over the last seven years that the Labor government has increased the Public Service by over 35,000 people.

Mr Lister: It's about 40,000 already and 8,000 to come.

Mr MILLAR: I take that interjection; 40,000 already. Looking at staff numbers for the department of agriculture, going into this financial year we are looking at 2,108. When the LNP left office in 2015, in the 2014-15 budget we had 2,168 staff. So you have had an increase of 40,000 staff over the last seven years, but we have had a decrease of 60 staff in the department of agriculture. Why can't we get some of those Public Service staff numbers back into agriculture when we have biosecurity issues on our doorstep that need addressing?

Once we get foot-and-mouth here in Queensland, the beef industry will be in crisis. Once it gets here, it is going to be incredibly hard to stop. I remember when we were dealing with bovine Johne's disease here in Queensland in 2013. Once it gets in, it is hard to stop. The department have moved to management of BJD. That is why there is a biosecurity sign out the front of every beef producer's place. That is more red tape for our beef industry.

I implore the minister for agriculture to look at staffing numbers and fight a bit harder at the cabinet table to get some of those public servants the government is employing back into the department of agriculture, such as agronomists, beef extension people, vets and scientists. We certainly need them up in the cape because we need to make sure we keep out foot-and-mouth disease and other diseases which are coming in.

Mr Lister: They couldn't manage the grasshopper plague, could they?

Mr MILLAR: I take that interjection from the member for Southern Downs. That plague we had in North-West Queensland over 12 months ago was devastating. It ripped through all of those pastures. All we needed was the go-ahead to be able to use a chemical and get it on the ground, but at the end of the day that came too late and the pastures were already taken out by those locusts. We definitely need to make sure we put more effort and input into the department of agriculture because it is desperately needed at the moment.

Finally, debt continues to grow in Queensland. It is growing relentlessly. It is now \$110 billion and will be \$129 billion by the end of the forwards. This is up from \$72 billion in 2015, an increase of 80 per cent. At the end of the day, you have got to pay back the piper. At the end of the day, the money that we have borrowed—just to keep the lights on and to pay for the pens, pencils and books and to pay for staff—has to be paid back, and interest rates are inevitably going up. We are in the worst cost-of-living crisis we have seen since the 1970s. Fuel prices are over \$2 a litre, electricity prices are about to go through the roof, and the ability to pay our way is getting harder and harder.

Who is going to pay off this debt? Who is going to fix this debt? How is the government going to fix this debt? Where is the plan to fix the debt? It will be my grandchildren who will be paying off this debt. It will not be those opposite paying off this debt. You have got to live within your means, and that includes government, and you have got to make sure you have a plan for debt.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr MILLAR: I have to take that interjection from the member opposite. Debt is going to come back and bite us. I can tell you that now. With interest rates going up, it is going to come back and bite us. The more interest payments we need to make means we have less money for doctors and nurses. The more interest payments we have to make means we have less money for our schools or to protect our valuable agricultural industry—an industry at the moment which is very concerned about diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease and lumpy skin disease. We need to protect our beef industry. Beef prices are good. They are high at the moment, but one thing that will put the beef industry on its knees will be the incursion of foot-and-mouth disease, lumpy skin disease or other diseases. I call on the minister for agriculture to put some more staff in there. We had more staff at the end of our term than the government does now, so please do that.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): I call the member for Capalaba.

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr Fumer interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Southern Downs, you are warned under the standing orders. Minister, you need to be in your seat to engage in the debate.



Mr BROWN (Capalaba—ALP) (4.03 pm): That is the first time there have been interjections which I did not cause, so that is surprising. This is a great Labor budget that delivers yet another surplus. There is also a record health spend in our budget, which means we can deliver more at Redland Hospital. There is an extra \$25 million in the budget for 28 new beds. This is on top of the stage 1 upgrade announced in last year's budget, with an ICU and 32 new beds. That is 60 new beds at Redland

Hospital. That is a 33 per cent increase in beds over the last two budgets. That is amazing. You cannot get a park at Redland Hospital because there are that many tradies down there. They are working at the moment on the new car park, which should be opening soon. I hope the Minister for Health can come and cut the ribbon.

Mrs D'Ath interjected.

Mr BROWN: Thank you, Minister. I have locked you in. I cannot wait to open that as well.

There are fantastic initiatives in this budget around mental health. I remember talking in my maiden speech about the son of a friend of mine who had committed suicide in the electorate. It is fantastic to see this massive investment that will go towards mental health, and it has been well received in my local community. Let me compare that to the LNP's track record in health when they were in government.

The Bligh government promised a youth mental health unit. What did the LNP do when they came in to government in 2012? They cut it straightaway. They cut the mental health budget by \$16 million. They also closed down Wynnum Hospital and a Moreton Bay aged-care unit. That had massive effects on healthcare services in our local community. Did they upgrade anything at the Redland Hospital in that time to cater for that? Not a single bit. Now, compare that to us. We have had a massive investment in beds, on top of the emergency ward we have already built and the increases in maternity health wards. That follows on from the massive investment we continue to make to transform Redland Hospital from an old country town hospital into the hospital our city deserves.


I have to mention education. Capalaba State College is receiving \$8 million for a hall, with \$3.7 million coming this year. Construction should start next month. I look forward to turning the sod to start the construction of that hall. That school community has been calling for that hall for a number of years, and I have been calling for that as well. It is fantastic I can fulfil the promise I made to the electorate before the election and get that hall underway and built. It will mean they will not have to hire a separate room at Chandler to hold their speech nights. It will mean they can have joint assemblies with the primary school and the high school.

We are delivering \$1.2 million for a big back fence at Alexandra Hills State High School. The principal has been calling for that for a number of years and it is fantastic we are delivering that. My old primary school, Birkdale State School, is getting maintenance upgrades. It is a 100-year-old school. After being a student there for their 75th anniversary, it was fantastic to go back for their 100th anniversary to celebrate that as their local member. When a school is over 100 years old, we need to keep up with its maintenance.

In regards to transport, we are continuing with the business case for the Birkdale train station, which should be released very soon. We have planning funding for the Cleveland rail line. This will look at plans for the duplication of the Cleveland train line. I cannot wait to see what those plans produce.

This is yet another budget that delivers for TAFE. Who can forget what those opposite did to Alexandra Hills TAFE? They ran it into the ground and were ready to sell it off. We campaigned against that. We restored the services and we have now upgraded it. There are more students there than ever before, with a greater range of courses as well. There will also be increases to air conditioning and ventilation in this budget.

This budget also supports community in my local area. We have a continued investment in social housing and a continued massive investment in the Redland Community Centre so they can do their job with all of the fantastic things they do for our local community. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (4.09 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the budget introduced by the Treasurer and commend him and his department on delivering not just another strong budget, but a record health budget. This Palaszczuk Labor government is delivering a record \$23.6 billion health budget. This budget represents our unwavering commitment to the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders. That is what people expect of a good government and that is what people expect of a Labor government. Queensland's health system has been and will continue to be challenged by unprecedented levels of demand right across the state. The record health budget addresses demand pressures in the short term while also delivering long-term improvements. This includes new infrastructure on more beds, a larger workforce, a focus on mental health and innovative reforms to our health system.

New hospitals and hospital expansion projects worth \$9.785 billion will deliver 2,509 extra beds across Queensland. This is in addition to the 869 beds being delivered through our current expansion projects and builds on the 1,350 additional beds that we have opened since 2015. This record

investment includes new hospitals in Coomera, Toowoomba and Bundaberg, a new nation-leading Queensland Cancer Centre and hospital expansions at 11 sites across Queensland, including Townsville, Cairns, Mackay and Hervey Bay in regional Queensland, as well as the Redcliffe, Ipswich, Logan, QEII, Princess Alexandra, Prince Charles and Robina hospitals in the south-east corner. These will not just deliver more beds, it will support businesses and communities across the state, creating more than 21,000 jobs during construction. Our new accelerated infrastructure delivery program will deliver 289 extra beds over the next two years in some of our busiest South-East Queensland hospitals. In addition, the new hospitals and major expansion projects will deliver around 2,220 extra beds from 2024 to 2028.

The Palaszczuk government is also continuing our proud record of investing in our rural and remote health infrastructure. The budget provides funding of \$943.5 million over seven years for the next phase of the Building Rural and Remote Health program, the first phase including Blackwater. This will ensure that all Queenslanders continue to receive world-class health care no matter where they live. It will also provide a jobs boost with around 2,606 construction jobs to be supported by phase 2 of the program. The first tranche of phase 2 will replace the existing hospitals and health facilities with new modern facilities at Moranbah Hospital, Bamaga Hospital, Normanton Hospital, Tara Hospital, Pormpuraaw Primary Health Care Centre and Cow Bay Primary Health Care Centre.

This budget forms the basis of our Queensland Health and Hospitals Plan. This plan outlines the pressures we are facing. It sets out the solutions we are enacting to continue delivering world-class care to Queenslanders, including thousands of new beds. The Queensland Health and Hospitals Plan does not just seek to address these unprecedented demand pressures with new beds. In addition, we are building upon the innovation we were able to harness during the COVID-19 pandemic and provide new solutions to assist our hospital staff. This includes: scaling up our virtual clinical hub to divert people away from ambulance and ED use; building up our virtual ward programs like Metro North's virtual ED; investing \$300 million to roll out our electronic medical record program to assist in the use of virtual care models; spending \$26 million to improve patient flow at our EDs to ease bed pressure; providing \$11.6 million to fund rapid access clinics across 10 HHSs streamlining care and preventing unnecessary ED presentations; investing an additional \$16 million over four years to continue the great work of Queensland Health's Long Stay Rapid Response Team, assisting long-stay patients get ready for discharge.

This is a budget that puts patients first, and what a contrast this budget provides to those opposite. The Leader of the Opposition has begun to compare the Newman government's record on health to the Palaszczuk government's record. That is a comparison I am very happy to make. Imagine the state the health system would be in today if Queensland continued on the trajectory charted by the Leader of the Opposition and his colleagues. Imagine how stressed the health system would have been with thousands of frontline workers sacked and the borders wide open throughout the pandemic. The contrast is clear. We have a fully funded, comprehensive Queensland Health and Hospitals Plan, a plan that acknowledges the worldwide trends and the local pressures; a plan that delivers the largest health capital infrastructure commitment in Queensland's history; a plan that charts a course for innovative service reform backed by real funding; a plan that backs our frontline health workers and commits to bringing even more into our health system.

In contrast, what do we see from those opposite? Four dot points on a page—four dot points that contain zero new beds, zero new staff, zero new dollars and zero new ideas. In the absence of any detail, all Queenslanders can do is judge the member for Broadwater on his record of sackings and cuts.

Deputy Speaker, the Speaker has reviewed and approved my speech on the budget for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

Mr Speaker, we recognise our frontline staff are at the heart of our healthcare system, and the reason why Queenslanders can be confident they will receive world-class healthcare.

I take this opportunity to wholeheartedly thank Queensland's healthcare workers for their dedication and commitment through the pandemic and beyond, during what have been very difficult times. When Queenslanders needed them most, Queensland's healthcare workers answered the call.

During our response to the COVID-19 pandemic tens of thousands of healthcare workers changed how they delivered care overnight.

As frontline staff they were empowered to work with their patients to deliver care in new ways. They upskilled, they innovated and in doing so they were able to continue to deliver healthcare to Queenslanders when and where they needed it most.

But we don't just want to thank our healthcare workers, we are committed to listening to them and supporting them.

In the coming weeks and months as I travel around the state, I want to hear from the people who walk the wards every day and work with them to make our world-class system even better.

In addition our record hospital infrastructure spend, this year's budget supports the lifeblood of our healthcare system by continuing to deliver on our commitment for 9,475 additional frontline workers by 2024.

This investment aims to provide much needed relief to our frontline staff, with new healthcare workers to be injected into every part of the state.

I also acknowledge that it has been a particular challenge for our rural and remote communities to retain staff.

That is why we are investing in recruitment drives to communicate far and wide that Queensland is the best state to be a healthcare worker.

Just last week I had the pleasure of visiting our hospitals and ambulance stations in Stanthorpe and Warwick. What struck me when I spoke to staff was how many had initially come for a short-term posting, only to fall in love with the community. Before long, six-months would turn into five, ten or fifteen years—that's the message we want to broadcast to tomorrow's Queenslanders.

Mr Speaker, in addition to thanking our hospital healthcare workers, I would also like to speak to the remarkable people of the Queensland Ambulance Service.

Our QAS staff provide life-saving care to so many Queenslanders, every single day of the year, often in extremely distressing circumstances.

That's why we are investing \$1.1 billion into the Queensland Ambulance Service, which represents an 11 per cent increase on our previous budget.

This investment is designed to recruit more frontline staff, build new stations, upgrade our existing stations and ensure our fleet of ambulances are cutting-edge.

These efforts will ensure Queensland Ambulance Service will continue to meet the emergency healthcare needs of Queenslanders now and into the future.

Mr Speaker, after enduring floods, fires and a worldwide pandemic the likes of which has never been experienced in our lifetimes, mental health and crisis support services have never been more vital.

In recognition of this, this budget injects a remarkable \$1.6 billion over five years to improve mental health and wellbeing, and to combat substance abuse.

Mr Speaker, specific mental health projects include:

- \$239.4 million to support the needs of children, adolescents, young people and their families with mental illness and problematic substance use;
- \$320 million to support adult and older person mental health treatment services and facilities;
- \$143 million to prioritise mental health crisis response and suicide prevention services;
- \$61 million to support mental health services for First Nations people;
- \$64 million to deliver community psychosocial support services; and
- \$54 million to support forensic and prison services.

This funding surge will change thousands of lives by expanding service availability, improving the quality of care for people of all stages of life and bolstering our workforce.

Recently, the Mental Health Parliamentary Inquiry provided key recommendations to expand and enhance mental health services across the state, and I thank the select committee for their excellent work on this report.

This year's budget will address many of these recommendations, including an increase of funding for mental health, alcohol and other drug services in Queensland and the expansion and enhancement of services to address specific needs of infants, children and young people, and their families.

This year's record health budget will strengthen the capacity of existing community-based services and bridge the gap in the delivery of inpatient services for children, adolescents and young adults.

We will dedicate resources and funding to support initiatives under a new five-year plan for mental health, alcohol, and other drug services.

Our plan will focus on additional mental health care capacity, including the mental health co-responder model to support timely and appropriate health responses to patients experiencing a mental health crisis.

The factors causing growth in demand across the health system are complex.

They are comprehensively articulated in our Queensland Health and Hospitals Plan. They include:

- A growing population—expected to increase by 20% by 2036 causing more presentations to our hospitals.
- An ageing population—people over the age of 65 are disproportionately likely to need access to emergency health services and more likely to suffer chronic conditions. That cohort is projected to increase by 50% by 2036, creating a pipeline of additional demand for years to come.

- Declining rates of private health insurance—there are now 3.1 million Queenslanders without private health cover, meaning they turn to our public health system in their time of need.
- Aged and disability care pressures—there are over 500 long stay patients in our hospitals who should be in community, aged care or disability care. Ambulance transfers from aged care facilities have grown by 55% between financial year 2018/19 and financial year 2020/21 to 41,000.
- An underfunded primary care sector has undermined the hard work of our GPs and led to a decline in medical graduate interest in the sector, with a 4% decline of GP supply projected by 2032, with demand set to increase by 38.5%—meaning those who can't get in to their GP will come to our hospitals.
- And the ongoing impact of COVID-19—we have 439 hospital inpatients who are COVID positive. This outstrips the new beds funded through last year's Care4Qld bed initiatives, demonstrating the ongoing bed pressures we will face as we live with the virus into the future.

These are pressures being felt not just here, but across Australia and the world.

This budget is our investment in the future health of our community and the wealth of our economy.

This budget is a hallmark of the Palaszczuk Government. It delivers good jobs, better service and a great lifestyle.

That includes:

- \$2.9 billion for our police
- \$2.2 billion for our child protection services
- \$363 million to fund our ongoing response to domestic and family violence
- Investing in the clean industries of the future like hydrogen and pumped hydro
- Supporting our tourism industry
- \$6.8 billion worth of concessions to ease the cost of living for Queenslanders
- \$200 million over three years to increase the supply of housing in priority areas

These investments will stimulate the economy, increase the economic security of Queenslanders, and importantly create and support decent and reliable Queensland jobs as we recover from the global pandemic.

I am also proud to announce this budget is also a major win for Redcliffe, with my electorate receiving funding for:

- a \$1.06 billion expansion of Redcliffe Hospital that will deliver around 204 additional beds for our busy hospital. Redcliffe Hospital has been facing growing demand pressures. This redevelopment will provide our amazing staff with greater capacity to meet that demand and people throughout of our region get the world class care they deserve
- \$200,000 committed for renewal planning at the Woody Point Special School to ensure it can deliver state of the art, purpose-built facilities for its students.
- The Palaszczuk Government is also committing \$500,000 to refurbish two learning spaces in the Clontarf Beach State High School Science Block.
- As well as:
 - \$340,000 for Humpybong State School to install a new security fence;
 - \$800,000 for walkway upgrades to Clontarf Beach State High School; and
 - \$897,000 for general maintenance and works for schools across Redcliffe
- Vital road infrastructure for Redcliffe will be delivered with a \$9.6 million commitment which will mean the life-saving Elizabeth Avenue pedestrian overpass will be built. The overpass will include disability access and improve safety for students, parents, cyclists, and the public.
- We have committed \$315,000 for safety improvements at the Anzac Avenue, Marine Parade and Redcliffe parade Intersection.
- The Palaszczuk Government is delivering \$1.2 million this year as part of a \$3 million commitment to the people doing it tough in Redcliffe to rebuild the Redcliffe Homelessness Hub at the Old Pensioners Hall. The hard working and dedicated Redcliffe community organisation, The Breakfast Club, will be one of two tenants in the new building with one other space being available for a homelessness service. This is an incredibly important piece of social infrastructure that will make a real difference for the most vulnerable in our community.
- As a proud supporter of the mighty Dolphins, I'm pleased to see funding for the high quality flood lights for the Redcliffe District Rugby League Club.

As I said before Mr Speaker, there is no comparison between the Palaszczuk Government's record on health delivery and that of those opposite.

I will fight for our workforce, not against them.

I will fight in Queensland's best interest nationally, not undermine it for cheap political points.

This Government will always invest in our people and our facilities. That is what good governments do, and it is what Labor governments do.

I again congratulate the Treasurer, and the Premier, on this year's budget.

Debate, on motion of Mrs D'Ath, adjourned.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**Portfolio Committees, Reporting Dates and Referral of Auditor-General's Reports**

Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (4.14 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 Education, Employment and Training Committee report on the Industrial Relations and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 12 August 2022 and the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee report on the Building Units and Group Titles and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 12 August 2022. The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 194B, that the Auditor-General's Report 18: 2021-22, Enhancing government procurement, be referred to the Transport and Resources Committee; and the Auditor-General's Report 19: 2021-22, Education 2021, be referred to the Education, Employment and Training Committee.

MOTIONS**Referral to Community Support and Services Committee**

Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (4.15 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the Community Support and Services Committee inquire into and report to the Legislative Assembly by 31 October 2022 on:

- (a) changes to legislation and operational policing responses to decriminalise the public intoxication and begging offences in the Summary Offences Act 2005;
- (b) the compatibility of proposed legislative amendments, and health and social welfare based service delivery responses to public intoxication and begging, with rights protected under the Human Rights Act 2019;
- (c) the costs and benefits of responses to public intoxication and begging in other Australian jurisdictions;
- (d) the health and social welfare-based responses to public intoxication and begging necessary to support legislative amendments, having regard to existing responses, such as diversion services;
- (e) the impacts of decriminalising public intoxication and begging in rural and remote communities;
- (f) the design of health and social welfare-based responses that are culturally safe and appropriate and informed by First Nations people, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and legal services and also representative bodies for seniors and people with a disability;
- (g) the appropriateness of other police powers and offences to ensure community safety and public order arising from public intoxication and begging, particularly in the context of events where there may be significant alcohol consumption;
- (h) how existing public messaging on the harm of alcohol and other drugs, including alcohol-related violence, can continue to be reinforced following the decriminalisation of public intoxication; and
- (i) the appropriateness of repealing the 'Urinating in a public place' offence under the Summary Offences Act 2005.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders

Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (4.17 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in the standing and sessional orders for this day's sitting, the House will not break for dinner at 6.30 pm but will continue to sit to conduct government business until the adjournment is moved.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL**APPROPRIATION BILL****REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL****Second Reading (Cognate Debate)**

Resumed from p. 1904, on motion of Mr Dick—

That the bills be now read a second time.



Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (4.18 pm), in reply: I thank all those members who have provided their support for the appropriation bills before the House and the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill. As I said on Tuesday, this is a budget for our times and a budget for all Queenslanders. It is a budget that delivers good jobs, provides even better services and supports Queensland's great lifestyle.

More than 206,000 Queenslanders have found jobs since COVID reached Australia. Queensland has added more jobs than any other state or territory, and as many jobs as New South Wales and Victoria combined. We are delivering record budgets in health and education, including the largest hospital building program and the largest mental health investment in Queensland's history.

Our infrastructure budget will connect more communities and businesses, preserving and protecting Queensland's great lifestyle and supporting 48,000 jobs directly through our infrastructure program in the forthcoming financial year alone.

I would like to thank all of those officials up-front who worked so tirelessly to bring this budget into existence, including officers of the Queensland Treasury and the Queensland Revenue Office. I also want to acknowledge the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel. The staff of the parliamentary counsel's office work very hard and diligently for all governments. They worked very hard particularly on the revenue measures before the House and I want to acknowledge them just as I want to acknowledge my staff. It is the unsung work of these selfless public servants which lays the foundation for the better services that this budget delivers.

The budget delivers for Queenslanders whether they live in Weipa or Woodridge. I was moved to hear from members about how the investments we are making through this budget would transform their communities. I would also like to address some of the issues raised by the members opposite during the debate.

The member for Broadwater began his remarks by telling Queenslanders how much he listened. Fifty-one minutes of talk later, he had finally finished telling Queenslanders how good he was at listening. The member for Broadwater spoke for longer than I did and he announced nothing except a committee. Never has a budget reply taken so long to say so little. To be fair, the Leader of the Opposition happily added his talking points about Queensland's 'great lifestyle'. All Queenslanders should know that when the LNP run out of slogans, they will come after yours.

There were plenty of own goals from the member for Broadwater like sledging the 'skyscraper office' that his mentor Campbell Newman conceived and the LNP planned to move into; cherry-picking data to avoid talking about the biggest 12-month expansion in housing approvals on record, which happened last year under our Labor government; and crying crocodile tears about job security when his government landed the biggest blow to job security in Queensland history: sacking 14,000 workers who were told they had 'nothing to fear'. From the alternative Premier there were no alternatives, no substance, no vision and certainly no plan for Queensland. There were no plans to fund any of the budget measures the LNP would hand down, just more cuts.

The leader of the shadow cabinet in Queensland used shadowy language to quote the cutting, sacking and selling his alternative government would administer. The member claimed he wanted to increase FTEs, but he did not want costs to go up. The member for Broadwater claimed he wanted to give more back to Queenslanders, but he also wanted the government to retain more revenue. The member for Broadwater claimed he wanted even more infrastructure delivered at the same time he wanted the fiscal deficit to fall. It was a classic exercise in LNP maths: something did not quite add up.

I know the LNP are still burnt by the costings calamity delivered by the member for Everton before the election. However, the member for Broadwater's budget reply was different to the member for Everton's costing debacle. It was not so much an exercise in stupidity; it was an agenda of savagery. The truth is the LNP's agenda will add up the same way it always does: by cutting, by sacking and by selling.

So committed is the member for Broadwater to sacking public servants he will even have to sack one of his own ministers. The member for Broadwater's proposed three-person economic team for Treasury, finance and women's economic security means that he will have to sack either the member for Kawana as the minister for finance in their government or the member for Toowoomba South, who would be the treasurer. If two out of three members of that three-person economic team must be women, then who will go? Will it be the member for Kawana or will it be the member for Toowoomba South? If two economic ministers have to be women, which one of the blokes will the Leader of the Opposition sack? I look forward to seeing the 'Hunger Games' begin, but maybe they will continue just to ease the member for Toowoomba South out of the road.

While the member for Broadwater spent his budget reply promising nothing and saying nothing, at least the member for Toowoomba South promised he would say nothing. Fresh from the onerous and exhausting task of what proved to be a single solitary question he asked of me about the budget during budget week, the shadow Treasurer said he would leave it to his colleagues to talk about the revenue side of the budget. The member for Toowoomba South said the uplift in royalties this year was being 'squandered' on the better frontline services that so many Queenslanders rely on. Our Labor government is supporting more doctors, more nurses, more ambulance officers, more teachers and more teacher aides, but the LNP considers our record health and education investments as 'squandering' the boom. There really is nothing they will not cut.

The member for Toowoomba South tried his best to trash Labor's nation-leading job creation record, alleging it was 'underpinned by part-time jobs'. That is what the member for Toowoomba South said. The member is incorrect. Admittedly, there is nothing new there, but to place the truth on the parliamentary record and to ensure the member stops misleading the House in the future, I point out that our government has created 206,000 jobs since COVID began—more than New South Wales and Victoria combined—95 per cent of which are full-time jobs. The member for Toowoomba South should stop misleading the parliament by saying jobs creation in this House is 'underpinned by part-time jobs'. Ninety-five per cent of the jobs our government has created since the start of COVID have been full-time jobs. I look forward to receiving an apology from the member for Toowoomba South as do the people of this state.

Desperate to find a downside in Queensland's economic performance, the strongest in the country, the member for Toowoomba South also tried to talk down private sector investment. Over the past year private investment in Queensland has grown almost twice as fast as the national average. Private business investment has grown more than three times faster in Queensland than in the rest of Australia.

The member for Toowoomba South also tried to criticise Labor's lower borrowings. Thanks to our government's health response and our targeted economic response, all of which were opposed by the LNP, Queensland's borrowings are much lower in every year of the forward estimates. We have cut debt in half from its highest forecasts in the 2020 budget. Even in the furthest year of the forward estimates, Queensland's debt is lower in absolute numbers—lower as a ratio to revenue, lower as a share of state output and lower per person than it is in New South Wales or Victoria. I will very happily put Labor's record up against the Liberal Party's record every single day.

On the very day we delivered our state budget, we had a demonstration of what the Liberal Party, the party of the shadow Treasurer and member for Toowoomba South, is doing to the fiscal position of New South Wales. Net debt in New South Wales is four times the size of Queensland this year at \$78 billion. Over the next four years net debt in New South Wales will blast through \$90 billion, blast through \$100 billion, blast through \$110 billion to reach, for the member for Chatsworth's benefit, \$114.8 billion by 2026, and that is net debt. After accounting for New South Wales' larger population, economy and tax take, their debt will still be twice as high as Queensland's by 2026. Even on News Corp's grossly inflated measures of debt, New South Wales will still be \$92 billion more indebted than Queensland. While Queensland will post a \$1.9 billion surplus in the 2021-22 financial year, New South Wales is racking up a staggering \$16.6 billion deficit because that is what you get from the Liberal Party and the LNP.

While our government is alive to the risks of higher global interest rates, the Queensland Treasury Corporation has worked diligently to ensure our debt servicing costs make up a smaller share of our government's revenue than they did under the LNP. I am reliably informed that the member for Kawana's contribution to the long title of the bill did not start until there were only three minutes left of his 15-minute contribution. The shadow finance minister has shown no interest in the most important economic and financial document in Queensland. So I will be muted in my reply to the member for Kawana, in the same way that my social media team has muted his replies to my Facebook and Twitter posts, particularly those relating to my dog Scout, with whom he seems to have a strange and unusual obsession.

When the LNP did talk about the budget, they talked about promises on tax. 'A tax is a tax and a promise is a promise,' said the member for Broadwater—unless, it seems, a tax is a levy and the promise is made by the LNP. The last time that the LNP promised no new taxes—the member for Chatsworth was a member of that government—they promptly increased the burden on Queenslanders, including hiking coal royalties by \$1.64 billion; increasing insurance duty, including on

the family home, by \$990 million; increasing stamp duty by \$361 million; increasing the emergency management levy by \$187.6 million; and increasing the health services levy by \$22 million. The list of broken LNP promises goes on.

The Leader of the Opposition has attempted to mount a scare campaign about payroll tax reform. It is comical to see the activity of the LNP as they attempt to address what we are doing with payroll tax. It would be comical if it was not so serious. We know that the LNP opposes the increase in payroll tax—we know that. What does that mean? It means a cut of \$1.6 billion to mental health services in Queensland. Let me make it clear: at the same time as we are implementing a levy on one per cent of Queensland businesses, our government is cutting payroll tax for small- and medium-sized family businesses in Queensland.

The LNP like to talk about small- and medium-sized family businesses, but when it comes to the Labor Party giving those businesses a tax cut the LNP said absolutely nothing. More than 12,000 Queensland businesses will be better off under our measures. By the LNP's own logic, our payroll tax reforms should drive more foot traffic, more sales and more jobs right across Queensland. At the same time, the mental health levy will apply to just the top one per cent of Queensland businesses. We thank them for their contribution to mental health funding, but will the mental health levy drive up prices like the opposition allege?

On the Labor side, we like to base our policies on facts and evidence. If the LNP's argument holds any water, we might see higher prices where a mental health levy is in effect, say in Victoria. I consulted the Woolworths catalogue for Brisbane and Melbourne—a far more reliable source of truth and information than the LNP. The mental health levy in Victoria did not seem to be hitting prices at all. In fact, where prices were different, I was shocked to find that they were cheaper in Victoria—where a higher mental health is actually in place, and at a higher rate than we are proposing. It is cheaper in Victoria, where the mental health levy is supposedly destroying business and destroying the economy of that state.

At Woolworths in Melbourne, a 600-millilitre bottle of Powerade is \$1.75—that is seven cents cheaper than in Brisbane. At Woolworths in Melbourne, a 24-pack of Coca-Cola is \$17.30—that is \$3.50 cheaper than in Brisbane. The real insult to every Queenslanders is that two cases of Queensland's staple XXXX Gold in Melbourne is \$88—\$8 cheaper than in Brisbane. We have had enough of the nonsense and the autobabble from the Leader of the Opposition, saying in this House and saying publicly that the mental health levy would drive up costs and prices for Queenslanders. What a load of arrant nonsense. It is complete nonsense and something the LNP must stop saying. There is a higher levy in Victoria, and it has not resulted in any price increases in that state.

I have said consistently this week that the promise we made before the election was the promise that we made to the people of Queensland. We have kept that promise. The people knew that promise and what did they do? They voted to return the Palaszczuk Labor government. The LNP has, of course, opposed the mental health levy and our mental health plan. The onus is on the LNP to explain, when they vote against the mental health levy, how savagely they will cut mental health services in Queensland. We now know that cuts to mental health, hospitals and to regional communities will come. How long will it be before they close Jacaranda Place, like they closed the Barrett Adolescent Centre? I look forward to the member for Burdekin explaining to the people of Moranbah why he does not support a new hospital in that community. I look forward to him going to that community and saying, 'I oppose the revenue measures in the budget and you will not receive a new hospital.' I look forward to him explaining that cut to the people of Moranbah, just as I look forward to the Leader of the Opposition travelling the length and breadth of Queensland and saying, 'The hospital and health plan of our government is null and void. There is no revenue, we oppose it and you will not get new or refurbished hospitals.'

Not only has the Leader of the Opposition refused to back our mental health plan; he has also opposed our government's proposal for progressive coal royalty tiers to help fund hospital and health services across Queensland. Regarding our progressive coal royalty changes, let me say this: we disagree very strongly that this proposal will cost jobs. 'There are many things that go into the cost and feasibility of mines—coal royalties are only one part'—

Mr Stevens: What about JP Morgan?

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach. We disagree very strongly that this will cost jobs. 'There are many things that go into the cost and feasibility of mines—coal royalties are only one part.' I took the interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach because they

are not my words; they are the words of the member for Clayfield. We should never forget that the member for Clayfield said those exact words on 11 September 2012, supported entirely by the member for Mermaid Beach, after handing down his horror budget that increased coal royalties by \$1.6 billion. That amount is more than 30 per cent higher than the \$1.2 billion forecast to come from our royalty change. What is worse, the LNP's royalty hike was imposed in the middle of an industry downturn—something the member for Mermaid Beach was very proud of at the time. In that time in 2012, Queensland had been rocked by a string of mine closures and the loss of more than 2,000 jobs, including BHP's Gregory open-cut mine and Norwich Park, with Anglo American and Rio Tinto also cutting back or closing operations.

In contrast, right now we are in a boom—mines are opening or being recommissioned. While coal companies were not expecting a run-up in prices to this point, they have captured all the benefits. The metallurgical coal price has increased by 110 per cent in the past year. Even under the proposed progressive scheme, the coal price, net of royalties, is still 70 per cent higher than it was when miners were making their plans a year ago. The time is right for a prudent royalty measure to deliver more hospitals to regional Queensland.

The coal industry and the resources industry will be a strong part of the Queensland economy for many years to come. The LNP's opposition to our royalty changes means that they do not support making coal companies pay their fair share. It also means that the LNP need to be up-front with the people of Queensland and explain how they will implement their cut of \$1.2 billion from hospitals. The Leader of the Opposition and the members for Coomera and Theodore will need to explain to the people of the northern Gold Coast why they will not build a new hospital at Coomera.

It was more important for the LNP to protect windfall coal profits than the health of Gold Coast residents. The Leader of the Opposition and the members for Toowoomba North, Toowoomba South, Condamine, Lockyer and the new member for Callide will need to explain to the people of their communities why they will not build the new Toowoomba Hospital.

Mr Watts: For \$20 million we are not going to get much done, Treasurer.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection. I look forward to the member for Toowoomba North explaining why he is opposing the increase in coal royalties. The members for Toowoomba North, Toowoomba South, Condamine and the new member for Callide would rather pay coalmining CEOs than pay doctors, nurses and midwives and delivering improved mental health services.

Mr Stewart: Shame!

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the member for resources. It is a shame and it is a terrible blight on those members opposite. Across the state they will have to go around stripping local communities of their hospital and health services—in the great LNP tradition. The question for the Leader of the Opposition is simple: why does he and the LNP not support the windfall profits of coal companies being returned to the people of Queensland for a very good and proper public purpose: improved health care?

We know the member for Broadwater once held the people of Kingaroy hostage by telling them they had to choose between selling the Tarong Power Station or getting a new hospital. They could not choose. He went into Kingaroy and said the only way you will get a new hospital is to sell the Tarong Power Station. Does anybody in this House think that the member for Broadwater has changed one iota? Of course he has not. This is a man who has said publicly, since he became the Leader of the Opposition, 'I support cuts, just not savage ones.' That is what he has said. He has never denied it. He has never said he misspoke. He never said it was not true. That is what he believes. He has to explain that. He held the people of Kingaroy hostage once. The question for the Leader of the Opposition is why is he holding the people of Queensland hostage again?

In my remaining time I would like to reflect on the contributions from other members. The member for Mermaid Beach called our budget 'the best recycling budget in the history of Queensland'. Our government is rightly proud of our budget's environmental initiatives, including \$964 million over five years to transform the resource recovery industry. When it comes to recycling, the member for Mermaid Beach takes the cake. The member gave the same speech that he has given year in, year out—garbage in, garbage out—for the last eight budgets. He crashed his own primary vote by 20 points and transformed his once-safe electorate into a marginal. That requires a very special set of skills. The member for Mermaid Beach has a complete disregard for the people of his electorate, the people of the Gold Coast, the people of Queensland and for the public servants of this state, including the State Actuary to whom he has still refused to apologise eight months after impugning the integrity of the State Actuary in Queensland.

The member for Nanango was so opposed to our government's mental health commitment I could not believe she said this: she cruelly suggested it was a pretext for the mental health levy. That is what the member for Nanango said. She was so opposed to the government's mental health commitment that she said it was a pretext to imposing a mental health levy. Can I put on the public record that I completely reject the member for Nanango's imputation absolutely out of hand. Our government, the Labor government, is committed to a sustainable investment in mental health. Our record investment in mental health services is a testament to our care for Queenslanders.

The member for Scenic Rim strangely boasted about the speed of his Facebook posting in relation to the Beaudesert Hospital maternity team winning an award. He took a day to post, while he said the team at the hospital took a month to acknowledge themselves. Maybe that is because they were busy birthing babies. If the member for Scenic Rim wants to ease the pressure on hospital staff so they can acknowledge their achievements on Facebook, I would suggest he join with the other members of the LNP who are benefiting from new hospitals—until they cut them—and vote for the mental health levy and new progressive royalty tiers.

I also look forward and await the thanks of the member for Scenic Rim for investing \$18 million into his electorate to rebuild the iconic Binna Burra Lodge. That investment is not being made in a Labor electorate; it is being made in the Scenic Rim. I look forward to receiving thanks from the member for Scenic Rim for rebuilding that iconic lodge in an iconic part of Queensland that will benefit his community for generations to come.

Of course, I cannot talk about the opposition to our mental health plan without honourable mentions of the members for Maiwar and South Brisbane. As I noted in the House this morning, the member for Maiwar and the member for South Brisbane will be voting to repeal the mental health levy and cut mental health services for Queenslanders. I could not believe it when I read the dissenting report of the member for South Brisbane opposing the implementation of a payroll tax levy to support mental health. This shows the Greens political party up for everything that everybody who has spent five minutes observing politics and observing the Greens knows: it is all just a show, it is all just virtue signalling. When it comes to hard decisions that have to be made to support the vulnerable—and don't the Greens political party go on endlessly about supporting the vulnerable, the weak and the disadvantaged—they run away. They run away from that levy. They put it in black and white in that report. I can assure members that every day I serve in this parliament I will be reminding the people of Queensland, including the people of the federal division of Ryan, the federal division of Brisbane and the federal division of Griffith, of the gross double standards.

Mr Powell: Stop taking their preferences then.

Mr DICK: I will take the interjection from the member opposite. The only political party that has worked hard to elect a Greens member in this House was the LNP when they preferred the Greens. That is what you did, member for Glass House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Through the chair, Treasurer.

Mr DICK: You elected the Greens member for South Brisbane. That is your responsibility.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! We are almost there, folks. Treasurer, your comments will come through the chair.

Mr DICK: In conclusion, this is a budget for our times, it is a budget for all Queenslanders and it is a budget that we are proud of. We are so proud to have made the tough decisions, not run away from them like the Greens, not avoid them and, in fact, cut them like the LNP. There is a reason this government was re-elected and that is because we are a government of consistency, of honesty, of virtue and of absolute commitment to the people of this state. We are proud of this budget. We are proud of the appropriation bills. We are proud of the Revenue Bill. I absolutely commend all of them to the House.

Question put—That the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill and the Appropriation Bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Bills read a second time.

Referral to Portfolio Committees

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): In accordance with standing order 177(2), the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill and the Appropriation Bill stand referred to the portfolio committees.

Second Reading

Question put—That the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill

Clauses 1 to 5, as read, agreed to.

Clause 6—



Mr MICKELBERG (4.49 pm): I rise to speak to clause 6 of the bill. This part of the bill deals with restructures and an exemption for transfer duty as it relates to small businesses. At the outset, I should say that I think this is an important initiative that will be of benefit to small and family businesses. However, the question that needs to be asked is: why is this buried in the bill? It looks a lot like a wedge, to be frank. It should have gone to the committee. It should have been considered in detail. Under his own portfolio responsibilities, the Treasurer has regulatory reform and the former Queensland Productivity Commission. Why it was not considered by them I do not know. This is an outcome of the Better Regulation Taskforce. It is the only tangible change I can find that has come out of the Better Regulation Taskforce since it was established in 2018. I cannot see anything else that has come out of it from a regulatory reform perspective. If I am being generous, potentially I might say that some of the artisan and liquor changes have come out of the Better Regulation Taskforce, but that is about the extent of it.

I have some questions for the Treasurer in relation to the provisions contained in clause 6. As I said, the bill as presented deals with restructures and exemptions for transfer duty for small businesses. The small businesses this applies to are individuals, trusts and partnerships. It does not deal with companies. In the event that an individual, a partnership or a trust wanted to restructure into a separate new company, they can do that and be exempted from transfer duty and couple of other things such as vehicle registration duty in this provision.

However, it does not deal with the reverse. It does not deal with the situation where a small business might seek to restructure and become a partnership, a sole trader or a discretionary trust. The question that needs to be asked is: why? I presume it is because a small number of those entities would seek to restructure in that way, and that would be a reasonable answer. However, there are some—and I am confident that there are some in Queensland—that may seek to move from a proprietary limited company structure back to either a trust, a partnership or a sole trader structure. I do not know why this particular section of the bill is framed so that it excludes those individuals.

I would like to raise questions with respect to the definition of 'small business' in section 413A, which basically restricts eligibility for any businesses that have a turnover of less than \$5 million per annum. In Queensland there are plenty of small and family businesses that are high-turnover, low-margin businesses. They are businesses like country pubs. In Queensland plenty of country pubs would turn over more than \$5 million and still be very much small and family businesses, but they will not be eligible under the provisions of this bill. Car dealerships, particularly in country towns, in places such as Atherton or Mundubbera in the great electorate of Callide—

Mr McDonald: Gatton.

Mr MICKELBERG: And Gatton; I take the interjection from the member for Lockyer. There are plenty of car dealerships that are high-turnover, low-margin businesses that have been family owned for many years. They will not be eligible to restructure under the provisions contained in this bill. Small timber and hardware stores that are trying to compete with the likes of Bunnings can easily turn over more than \$5 million a year with very low profit margins, but they will not be able to access the provisions under this bill.

No doubt this provision has been framed around a turnover of \$5 million to limit the impact on the budget. I have no doubt that is the rationale behind it. However, the question that has to be asked is: if this is a genuine attempt at trying to make life better for small and family business, why draw the line at \$5 million? There are plenty of examples of Queensland small and family businesses that turn over more than \$5 million and they should be able to access the provisions contained within this bill. I ask those questions of the Treasurer.

As I said at the outset, the former Queensland Productivity Commission now sits under the Treasurer's responsibilities. We have not seen anything more come out of that. I looked on the Treasurer's website, but the best I could find were some links to old consultation RISs. The only one that looks remotely recent relates to smoking and has nothing whatsoever to do with business. Anything in relation to proactive regulatory reform is under a link that says, 'Former Queensland Productivity Commission'. If the government is genuinely serious about making life better for small and family business—and that is an endeavour that I would absolutely support—then the government should look at broadening the scope of the definition of small and family business contained within section 413A and extend it so that small and family businesses that have a company structure and seek to restructure to an alternative structure such as a trust or a partnership are able to do so as well.

Mr DICK: I will say a couple of things in response to the comments of the member for Buderim. What an amazing contribution. The first thing the member for Buderim said was that we need more process. After criticising the government for not doing enough for regulation—

Mr Mickelberg: I said it should have gone to a committee.

Mr DICK: Member for Buderim, I listened in silence to you.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order!

Mr DICK: Isn't it lovely how they like to give it, but when you start making the smallest response they cannot bear it and have to yell out. The first thing we heard was: why isn't there more process about regulation? That is what we heard. Why didn't it go to committee? If the member for Buderim likes the cuts, my suggestion is that he votes for them.

Mr Mickelberg: You sat on them since 2021.


Mr DICK: Again, we hear from the member for Buderim a complete denial of what happened over the past two years. During COVID we had the most significant regulatory reform to streamline and take the burden off business that we have ever seen. That allowed businesses to sell takeaway alcohol. There was a whole range of regulatory reform that allowed businesses to survive, and survive they did because of our world-leading health response. We did not open the borders early to let in the virus, as the LNP demanded. Our world-leading response allowed business to survive and now we see the economic dividend coming back. Now, of course, we are providing a cut to small business.

Talking about regulatory reform, one of the many things I did—I did not have time to go through it in the hour and a half that I had—related to the Public Safety Business Agency. Do members remember that bureaucracy the LNP set up? I cut that bureaucracy. I abolished it and I was pleased to do so. Why? Because it was lining up that part of government to be privatised. I cut it to streamline government and I cut it to save public servants' jobs, which members like the member for Buderim would gleefully get rid just as they would get rid of jobs by not supporting the revenue measures in this bill. They are happy to put on more cuts. They want payroll tax cuts to be broadened so that they can undermine the revenue position, which is what they did in government, so that they can say, 'The revenue position of the state is broken and now we have to privatise. We have to cut, we have to sack and we have to sell.' We are not doing that. I can assure the member for Buderim of that.

Clause 6, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 7 to 34, as read, agreed to.

Clause 35—

 **Mr JANETZKI** (4.58 pm): I would like to seek the Treasurer's response to one question in particular. This is about the operative provisions in relation to the multiple jurisdiction land tax adjustments. This is where the rot really started to set in for the Treasurer. This is about the December MYFER when he broke his 'no new or increased taxes' promise for the very first time. That made it the 10th new tax on the property industry at the time. It was announced then and now introduced in the budget.

While there are a whole range of questions, some of the concerns are around whether there will be a disproportionate burden on those who would have smaller land holdings in Queensland as opposed to other jurisdictions around the country and also questions around the flow-through impacts in relation to renting and investors. I understand that there was no consultation undertaken before the

announcement in MYFER in December, but I acknowledge from reading the green that there was private consultation with industry stakeholders subsequently.

My question to the Treasurer in respect of these land tax adjustments in particular relates to whether the Treasurer can provide any guidance on how many landholders would be impacted by these changes? How much would Treasury expect to collect from these adjustments? On my reading of the budget papers, it was not clear. Can the Treasurer provide that information and perhaps also some advice as to the cost of collection for these land tax adjustments, because my expectation is that this would be quite a difficult tax to manage given varying regulatory and valuation obligations across the entire country. Here in Queensland, Treasury would be expected to have some liaison with other jurisdictions around Australia in the collection and activation of this land tax adjustment. Can the Treasurer provide us with some more information?

Mr DICK: We are proud of these reforms. Why? Because they drive more equity and fairness into the tax system and ensure that people do not use multiple jurisdictions to avoid their responsibility to pay land tax. The LNP has opposed this. Let us make it clear: the LNP will vote against this and does not support it. The LNP did not support it when I announced it in the mid-year review. The member for Toowoomba South has led that charge.

People are coming from southern states to purchase homes and to flip them in good, hardworking communities like Woodridge, Ipswich and in the hinterland of the Sunshine Coast—I see the member for Nicklin here—where prices are going through the roof. They are buying investment properties but below the \$600,000 threshold. They are coming from southern states. What is the material impact of that? An increase in housing prices. That is what they are doing. We think they should be paying their fair share. We are not asking them to pay any more, but we think this established system of multijurisdictional purchase of land to avoid land tax thresholds should come to an end, which is why we are doing it.

We are leading the nation. This is a Queensland reform, as the member for Toowoomba South knows. We are the first state to do this. I have spoken to my colleague treasurers in other states and have encouraged them to follow our lead. We do not anticipate a significant revenue increase in the short-term, but what we do anticipate is this—greater fairness in the tax system. As a government, we will always work to deliver that. That land tax reform is important, because it is targeting interstate visitors to get more property utilised. We want to raise the holding costs of vacant land and houses so that those cashed up interstate investors, amongst other things, are motivated to rent them out. That is another reform of the many we have implemented to support what is happening in housing in Queensland at the moment.

Ms SIMPSON: I want to follow on from the Treasurer's answer. He mentioned thresholds in answering a question about this clause. As I understand, the thresholds for land tax have not changed in Queensland since about 2007, which is a considerable time when property values have increased and the majority of investors are mum-and-dad investors—some will be institutional investors—who may hold an average house that now is over that threshold, meaning that there is a tax upon mum-and-dad investors investing into rental property as part of their way of securing their future. They are also putting dollars into property that provides a home, a roof, over someone's head. Given that the thresholds have not shifted since about 2007, has the Treasurer calculated the impacts with regard to increases in receipts? Are there any moves to reconsider the need to start to peg thresholds to increases in property values?

Mr DICK: That is a serious question from the member for Maroochydhore. I thank her for it. I want to put on the record some facts in relation to land tax thresholds—not that I was asked. I just want to ensure that everyone is aware. Everyone in this House is aware, but others across Queensland may not be. We do not charge land tax on the family home. The principal place of residence is excluded. Land tax only applies to investment properties, as the member for Maroochydhore has indicated, and only once the underlying land value exceeds \$600,000. For the member for Maroochydhore's benefit and others interested in that issue, that means we have one of the most generous land tax thresholds in the country. It is well above the current median Brisbane residential land value of \$460,000, which I think is the highest median residential land price in Queensland. The only state that has a higher threshold is New South Wales at \$822,000, but the difference, of course, is the value of land.

The value of land in New South Wales is much higher, which means their threshold is in fact much less generous than it appears. On current advice to me, that means that a Brisbane resident can own a median parcel of land as an investment property and will not be liable for land tax.

To the point that the member for Maroochydore suggested, it is not a penalty to mum-and-dad investors. By contrast, a Sydney resident owning a median parcel of land in Sydney will be liable for land tax in New South Wales. Even on a \$1 million plot of land, Queensland investors will pay around the same amount of land tax, about \$4,500, as their New South Wales neighbours. Of course, one million dollars of land in New South Wales is much less land than one can buy in Queensland. Companies, trustees and foreign investors face a land tax threshold of \$350,000 in Queensland—that is a separate form of property ownership—which is still more generous than the Australian Capital Territory, Victoria, Tasmania and Western Australia. At this stage, member for Maroochydore, we are not anticipating making any changes to that, but thank you for your question.

Clause 35, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 36 to 64, as read, agreed to.

Clause 65—



Mr JANETZKI (5.07 pm): This was where the Treasurer's broken promise began to veer into the absurd. We saw a range of issues concerning what the Treasurer has been saying. I shall concentrate my couple of minutes on this in relation to the consultation process and the complete failure thereof. Frankly, for the Treasurer to be waving around on the nightly news a media release from an industry organisation is unbecoming of the Treasurer of Queensland. Whether or not the Treasurer likes the industry, it deserves respect as a major employer and a significant contributor to the Queensland budget, to revenue. This year alone, that industry contributed an additional \$5 billion on top of what was received last year.

At the very least, the Treasurer should be treating the industry with the respect it deserves. We have seen a complete lack of consultation. We first saw it dropped in the media. Then the resources minister admitted publicly not finding out about the royalty changes until the day before. It is not like the Treasurer is talking to the resources minister. It is not like this government is acting in concert with respect to the industry, to the people it employs and to the communities it supports. My primary concern with this is that lack of consultation and what it means for our economic development and our economic future.

Companies that are investing need certainty. Notwithstanding what the Treasurer will reply with in terms of the 10-year freeze, this is a question of respect in terms of what the industry is doing and where it is going. In particular, I think about the allocation of capital that is necessary. Indiscriminate, unplanned and uncommunicated changes of this nature and magnitude make Queensland a less attractive place for companies to invest in. There is no denying that whatsoever.

It is vitally important that the Treasurer of the day takes industry groups along with them. What we have seen here is a derogation from the Treasurer's duty to make sure that industry groups are included and consulted and not just told. After this was dropped in the media and it is revealed the resources minister did not know, for the Treasurer to then go into a meeting and refuse to share the details of the royalty changes with the industry group and the companies that form that group which are in the same room in no way encourages a good relationship between government and business.

The repair that needs to be done by the Treasurer with industry and business generally cannot be understated. There will always be a battle for capital around the world. Where companies allocate their capital we need to be proving that we are a trustworthy, predictable and consultative government. On this point, the Treasurer has proven himself to be an abysmal failure.

Mr DICK: I am very pleased to respond to the member for Toowoomba South. I said in the second reading debate that he has misled the House, and he has misled the House again. I have broken no promise, member for Toowoomba South. I make that very clear. We have been absolutely consistent with what we have said to the people of Queensland.

If the member for Toowoomba South wants to talk about consultation, if he wants to talk about integrity, if he wants to talk about talking with business, if he wants to talk about engaging positively with business then just ask the member for Clayfield.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the member for Nanango. That is whom he needs to ask. Ask the member for Nanango about that. Ask the member for Clayfield what he did about consultation when he jacked up coal royalties. The member for Nanango voted for that budget. The member for Nanango was very proud of that budget. In fact, the member for Nanango was so proud that she boasted about sitting around the CBRC table implementing the cuts of the horror budget of 2012. We look forward to the 10-year anniversary of that budget in September.

It is a very slippery slope, member for Toowoomba South. It is a very slippery slope when a politician comes in here and talks about being virtuous about consultation and how we need to engage with industry when the member for Toowoomba South's own party did absolutely none of that when they jacked up royalties 30 per cent higher than the revenue measures before the House today. I note the entirely unnecessary attack on the integrity of the member for Townsville, who is a man of enormous integrity. He had a very distinguished career as an educator before coming to this parliament. He has distinguished himself as a resources minister. He is extremely engaged and consultative. He has delivered the best Resources Industry Development Plan this state has seen and which we have funded in this budget.

We are increasing the tier rates. We are not dealing with any of the tiers below \$150 a tonne. Unlike the member for Clayfield, I met with coal companies. I sat on the other side of a table and I talked to them directly. I talked to Glencore. I talked to BHP. I talked to QRC. Not only that, I asked industry participants to provide information about their—

Mrs Frecklington: I thought you were going to show us the text.

Mr DICK: I am just going to tell you the truth, member for Nanango. That is what I am going to do.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Direct your comments through the chair, Treasurer.

Mr DICK: I am going to tell you the truth. I asked them to provide information about their cost structures, revenue and investment. Some of them provided that information. That confirmed to Treasury that there would be none of the negative implications that those members opposite have argued—that it would stop investment; that it would stop jobs.

We are in a mining boom. As I put before the House yesterday, Glencore's share price has quadrupled since COVID hit. Their post-tax income increased by more than \$8 billion over the past year. Peabody's share price has increase sevenfold since COVID hit and revenue increased by half a billion US dollars last year. Bowen Coking Coal's increased tenfold before they even sold an ounce of coal. Their coal price went up 1,000 per cent. Anglo American recorded net coal revenues of \$2.9 billion last year even though two of their mines were closed for safety failures for more than half the year. In one year alone—the year to March 2022—Queensland coal companies saw the value of their exports increase by \$24 billion. In one year the value of the coal they exported went up \$24 billion and royalties barely increased a tenth.

We are not interfering with anything below \$150 per tonne. When the price comes back to \$150 a tonne or below then they will continue to pay the same royalties they have paid for 10 years. That is what fair and reasonable is all about. I spoke to them directly, unlike the member for Clayfield who just dropped the royalties increase on them during a coal downturn when thousands of miners were losing their jobs and the industry was in stress. It is only fair.

We know the LNP opposes the royalty measures. This means they have a lot of explaining to do about why they are going to cut funding to regional hospitals like the new Moranbah Hospital in the Burdekin electorate and the new improved health clinic in Tara. Places like that will be funded by our revenue increase. Coalmining towns and support towns like Mackay, Townsville, Cairns and even the big metropolitan hospitals in Brisbane that we are rebuilding will be funded by this revenue. FIFO miners who travel from the south-east know that our health system deserves a fair share of that windfall profit. We are not asking them to do anything more than deliver according to their capacity. We were very clear about that with the coal companies—far clearer than the LNP ever was. That was very significant.

After the LNP's first budget, the Commonwealth Bank accurately predicted that the substantial tightening in fiscal policy would weigh on the Queensland economy over coming financial years and beyond. The analysis said that the Queensland government's fiscal strategy 'will be a drag on Queensland growth'. That is what they said about the 2012 budget and the revenue measures that the LNP introduced.

Deloitte Access Economics described the LNP's cuts in their horror budget—my words, not those of Deloitte Access Economics—and cutbacks in the coal industry as 'a major negative for the state's growth'. Economic growth slowed from four per cent to 0.8 per cent by 2014-15. It was a massive anvil of austerity that dropped on the economy of Queensland and our people suffered as a consequence. Business confidence under the LNP was most subdued. That was according to the October 2012 business confidence survey.

We back these measures. We think they are fair and reasonable. I said that directly on Wednesday. I made that very clear. We value the coal industry. We value the resources industry. I put that on the public record. I said that when the coal executives were there. I said that we value them. They are entitled to continue their business. We believe that their industry has a strong and viable future, but what we are taking is part of that windfall profit to support hospitals like the Gold Coast University Hospital and the Robina Hospital that service people who live in the electorate of the member Currumbin and other Gold Coast LNP MPs. That is a fair thing to do for Queensland—for the coal companies and for the people of our state, particularly those who live in regional parts of our state.

Dr MacMAHON: For years the Greens have been saying we need to raise mining royalties, and it is high time that we use the immense wealth generated by multinational mining companies to help fund the things that Queenslanders desperately need. The Treasurer has finally listened and has recognised the responsibility that he and this government have to Queenslanders to generate the wealth that we need to tackle the housing crisis, the cost-of-living crisis and the climate crisis. Earlier this month, the member for Maiwar and I wrote to the Treasurer and said—

Mining profits are surging due to a global commodities price spike.

...

The Queensland Greens have consistently called for higher royalties, to make sure big mining companies pay their fair share, but the unprecedented coal price spike demands an emergency response. As the world moves away from both thermal and metallurgical coal, Queensland must invest in a fair transition for fossil fuel communities.

The Treasurer must have this letter up on his vision board for the budget.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member, you will not use that as a prop.

Dr MacMAHON: I will table it.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 9 June 2022, from the member for Maiwar, Mr Berkman MP, and the member for South Brisbane, Dr Amy MacMahon MP, to the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment, Hon. Cameron Dick, titled 'Statewide Budget 2022-23: The Greens' vision for a fairer Queensland' [\[953\]](#).

He must have this letter up on his vision board, because we have seen the government finally have the guts to take on the immense power and wealth of the coal lobby—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, I ask you to withdraw that unparliamentary language.

Dr MacMAHON: I withdraw. This budget shows Queenslanders what we could do if we properly taxed mining billionaires and use this immense wealth to improve all of our lives. As we have just heard, the mining companies are not doing it tough. We have heard about Glencore, Peabody and Anglo American with record share prices.

As the Treasurer has admitted, once the coal price drops back below \$175 a tonne, these changes will have no impact on coal companies and will generate no additional benefit for Queenslanders. Once we head into the 2023-24 financial year and the coal price drops back, these royalties will have next to no impact and no benefit for Queenslanders. We will fail to properly capture the coal boom, to properly tax these big companies, and we will squander the last decade of coal.

We are urging the Treasurer to muster up the courage that they have already shown and take the next step to increase the base rate for coal and gas royalties to 35 per cent, similar to what Norway has levied on their petroleum. We have a responsibility to the 50,000 people on the social housing waiting list. We have a responsibility to the frontline workers who are waiting for a pay increase that at least keeps up with inflation. We have a responsibility to fully fund our state schools that still go without. We have a responsibility to properly fund our mental health sector—no half measures.

If this government implemented now what we have been suggesting, we would have an additional \$53 billion over the next four years—\$53 billion could build tens of thousands of public homes; \$53 billion could build and staff bulk-billing GP clinics right across the state; \$53 billion could deliver permanently cheaper electricity to Queenslanders with publicly owned renewable energy. If we want the money we need for a transition to support workers and fund housing, health care and education, this government has a responsibility to be ratcheting up royalties in the final decade of coal.

Mr DICK: Imagine the double standard of demanding that revenue be raised from one sector of the economy like the coal industry but saying big business should not pay a levy for mental health. Imagine the double standard that only one sector of the economy should pay but other big businesses should not. Why? It is all performative by the Greens political party. I have rarely seen a Greens political party outfit so bereft of credibility and principle than the members for Maiwar and South Brisbane.

Mr Berkman interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): The member will stop using that as a prop.

Mr DICK: I thought we hit a national and international low of shame when the Greens political party blocked the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme of the Rudd Labor government. I thought they could not go any lower for their base political virtue signalling benefit, but they have done it in this budget. They did it when they signed the statement of reservation to that important report.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Treasurer, you will not use it as a prop.

Mr DICK: I will not be giving a tax break, as the Greens political party suggest, to Coles, to Woolworths, to Wesfarmers and to all of those companies that have made billion dollar profits during COVID because the Greens political party wants to virtue signal to one sector of the community about one sector of the Queensland economy. We think there should be a fair payment for a good and proper public benefit—the health care of Queenslanders—from those who have the capacity to pay.

We do not think it is any more onerous than that. For their own political benefit they want to target one sector of the economy and not others. The point I make to the member for Maiwar and the member for South Brisbane is: why won't you listen to the cry of people living with the burden and the challenge of mental illness? Why won't you support them?

Dr MacMahon: That you are half funding!

Mr DICK: Why won't you support them? The member for South Brisbane and the member for Maiwar are very happy to provide a lecture to other members of the House, but when you call on them to listen to the cry of people living with the challenge of mental illness—

Dr MacMahon: We listened. You are giving them half the funding they asked for.

Mr DICK:—they talk. That is the absolute shame of this. As a member of that committee, they knew what that committee was considering and they ruled it out of hand. They said we would rather give a tax break to the biggest companies in the country and not support the most vulnerable living with the challenge of mental illness.

Again, it proves the point that, if you want to have a progressive community, if you want to have a progressive Queensland, if you want to have a society where all are cared for, regardless of who they are and where they live—whether you live in the inner city, whether you live in the outer suburbs like me, whether you live in regional parts of the state, whether you live in the cape or the Torres Strait—

Mr Brown: We are the only party for the whole of Queensland.

Mr DICK: I take that interjection from the member for Capalaba. We are the only party that will serve and deliver all parts of this state. That is a proud tradition of our party. We have always represented communities like Cairns and Townsville. Some seats like Cairns have been held by the Labor Party for up to a century. The reason is that we care for them, we understand the particular needs and demands of those communities, and we invest in them to support their opportunity, their economic development and their growth. Every young person, regardless of their background, their history, their particular personality, has an opportunity to live a life of ambition, hope and prosperity, and that is what Labor will deliver to them. That is why these revenue measures are so important. I urge all members of the House to support them.

Ms SIMPSON: There is a need for proper funding for mental health services and other health services. I do not think anyone disagrees with the need for proper funding for mental health services and other health services. The issue here is this government's deceit about the new taxes that it is putting in place. We also have to examine the fact that, in addition to money being assigned to much needed services, there has to be better management of it. We also need to see a government that treats the business community and Queenslanders with the respect they deserve by telling them the truth.

This Treasurer misled Queenslanders by saying that he would not increase or introduce any new taxes. Well, he has—he has! We had the unedifying display this week where, instead of just saying, 'Sorry, we needed to do it for X, Y and Z,' he denied that he had misled Queenslanders because suddenly businesses were in some sort of exempt category from needing to be told the truth.

The problem we have here is that, if the Treasurer has policies that are so worthy, he should stand up for them and not tell mistruths about those policies. What the Treasurer does by failing to tell people the truth and failing to be sorry for misleading people is undermine business confidence and the

confidence of Queenslanders that they can trust the government. Business confidence needs to have a government that they can trust, not one that tells them one thing and then does another thing the next day.

The Treasurer told Queenslanders 26 times before the last state election that there would not be any new or increased taxes, and this week he tried to make excuses and say he had not misled them. We have seen that he has. It is very important that, with regard to taxation regimes, going forward all industry in Queensland trusts government, because otherwise there is sovereign risk to investment.

To grow jobs and investment in Queensland we need private equity to invest. Be honest with people. Say 'Sorry, that promise was broken,' and stand up and be honest with people. Otherwise, when people do not have the trust to put their involvement dollars here it is a deficit to this state. We need to know there is no sovereign risk by a government that deliberately misleads people and does not have the courage to tell the truth.

Mr DICK: As I said in the House yesterday—in fact, I said it in the House when the member for Maroochydore was here—this is what the coal industry says every time royalties have changed in 2001, 2008 and again in 2012. As I think I set out very clearly, for the benefit of the member for Maroochydore and others, the coal industry is operating at capacity. There is not a risk to jobs. There is not a risk to investment. That is continuing in Queensland. What we need to do is make sure there is a share of that windfall profit and that that is returned to the people of Queensland. If you want to talk about my plan, that is my plan: the Queensland Health and Hospitals Plan. That is the plan that we stand for. That is the plan we are paying for. That is the plan we are budgeting. That is the budget, in simple format.

I reject entirely the assertions, imputations and slur on my character that the member for Maroochydore has just put before the House. I reject them entirely. The reason we know the assertion of the member for Maroochydore is wrong is because of the conduct of business itself during the election. She said it was an embarrassment to hold out a media release. The media release proves the point. I made a promise early in the election to the people of Queensland that there would be no new increased or increased taxes for them. For the benefit of the member for Maroochydore, who is the longest serving member of this House, elections are about the people because the people vote.

The reason the Resources Council, on behalf of companies, campaigned against the government was because they knew the promise did not apply to them, member for Maroochydore, through you, Mr Deputy Speaker. They knew that, which is why they campaigned all the way through until the Thursday before the election demanding that the government extend the coal royalties freeze. If they had accepted that the promise applied to them they would have said nothing. They would have just accepted there would have been no change to the taxation regime for companies. That is the proof. That is the media release issued by the Queensland Resources Council, and I table that for the benefit of the member for Maroochydore.

Tabled paper: Media release, dated 29 October 2020, by the Queensland Resources Council titled 'Labor fails to give certainty to Queensland's resources sector' [\[954\]](#).

The assertions of the member for Maroochydore are wrong. The conduct of business and companies themselves proves the point. They campaigned long and in a very loud fashion, demanding that we extend the freeze. We said we would not. We said the freeze would continue to 30 June 2022. That is what we did. We now have important revenue measures which the LNP want to oppose, putting vulnerable Queenslanders and regional Queenslanders at risk of not receiving the health care they deserve because of the cuts the LNP now have to impose.

Mr HART: It is really disappointing that the Treasurer—or so-called Treasurer—of Queensland does not understand how business works. At the end of the day, the businesses took what the Treasurer of this state—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. I would ask you to use correct parliamentary titles and I would ask you to withdraw that statement.

Mr HART: Sorry, the Treasurer. I withdraw. It is disappointing that the Treasurer of this state told businesses in this state one thing and then came out and did something completely different.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, member for Logan.

Mr HART: During the debate on this bill I pointed out that the resource companies in this state, the ASX listed resources, took a massive hit because it was seen that the government had changed the rules on them. That is what sovereign risk is.

Mr Power: No, it is not. Sovereign risk is not—

Mr HART: Mr Deputy Chair, this is exactly the problem. The members opposite do not understand what sovereign risk is. Sovereign risk—

Mr Power interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, member for Logan. That is disorderly.

Mr HART: Sovereign risk is when—

Mr Ryan interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, police minister.

Mr HART: Sovereign risk is when companies make a decision based on what a government has told them and then the government changes the rules. This is what has happened in this case. Coalmines, for instance, have made a decision to invest in a coalmine, to dig that dirty black stuff out of the ground and to sell it to somebody, and at the end of the day the government comes in here and changes the rules on them. The government should understand—

Mr Power interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, member for Logan.

Mr HART: Mr Deputy Speaker, I would appreciate your protection in this case.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, member for Burleigh. I will manage the House.

Mr HART: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. At the end of the day, this is why as a businessperson you sometimes wonder whether you want to invest in this state or not. If a government can change their rules at the last minute to make your business completely unviable—

Government members interjected.

Mr HART: I note that members on the other side are laughing about this, but that is what—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members! You will have the opportunity to speak if you want.

Mr HART: This is why members opposite do not understand what is going on here. They have never run a business in their lives. If they took a risk—

Mr SAUNDERS: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order of misleading the House. I ran hundreds of businesses.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Maryborough, you have raised a point of order and you have not waited for my ruling on that point of order. I consider that to be disorderly.

Mr SAUNDERS: Sorry, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I appreciate the apology. There is a process for dealing with misleading the House. That is not it. You can write to the Speaker if you think that has occurred. I would consider that further points of order of that nature would be frivolous.

Mr HART: My point is that, if government changed the rules after people made an investment decision, we are taking a big sovereign risk here and people may no longer invest in this state. That is what I have to add to the debate.

Mr POWER: This is completely incoherent from the LNP. Sovereign risk is generally defined by economists as the risk that a national government, a sovereign—

An opposition member interjected.

Mr POWER: Because he hasn't got it right, so I checked.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Through the chair, member for Logan.

Mr POWER: Sovereign government defaults—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order, members. I want to hear this definition.

Mr POWER: A chance that a national government's Treasury or central bank will default on their sovereign debt, the nation. Now, I know—

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

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

Mr POWER: I know that the member for Burleigh is no doubt worried that the LNP took our debt and doubled it before the pandemic and has now taken it to \$1 trillion. I am confident that our nation will honour its debts. He should not talk up the disastrous previous administration, the Morrison LNP government, and their debt. He should not talk down our nation. He has no idea what the term 'sovereign debt' means. What he is trying to do is change it around to say in some bizarre, extreme right-wing version of economics that governments can never change anything—that governments can never act to make our waterways cleaner, that they can never act to make our roads safer, that they can never act to make any regulation that affects anyone or else it would fit in this bizarre definition which no-one except the extreme right wing of the LNP actually subscribes to.

This is dangerous. This is dangerous talk. We will make our state stronger. We will improve the mental health of the citizens of Queensland, and we will do that through fair regulation and reasonable taxation and levies that make our state stronger.

Mr DICK: The only embarrassment I saw in the House this week was when the member for Burleigh asked a question of the Minister for Energy about why we are maintaining electricity generators in winter. Presumably, he wants to maintain them in summer when the power generation is at its peak in Queensland. Wasn't that one of the most outstanding question times we have seen?

Back to the issue. Even if the member for Burleigh does not believe me, he should believe the analysts, because that is what the member for Burleigh has been talking about. Barrenjoey analyst Glyn Lawcock has acknowledged that, while the coal royalty change would impact coal company profits, he expected the impact on near-term investment decisions to be 'minimal'. That is his word, not mine. Royal Bank of Canada capital markets analyst Kaan Peker concurred with that assessment. In the *Australian Financial Review* this week, he is quoted as saying that he doubted the royalty change would see mines curtailed in the state. In the *Courier-Mail* this week, Shaw and Partners analyst Peter O'Connor said that 'the medium- to long-term impact is minimal'.


The share prices of all of those companies were quoted in the *Courier-Mail*. I put that before the House the other day, but it has been deliberately ignored by the member for Burleigh. They have all gone up. In fact, some of them have gone up since I made the announcement on Tuesday. If these businesses were unviable, why are people still buying their shares? If sovereign risk is damaging their investment, why are they still bidding prices up to double their long-term average?

Yancoal's share price is higher today than it was on Monday before the change was announced. There you go. Stanmore coal—which is purely a Queensland coalminer and has no assets in any other state—you could buy their shares on Monday before the royalties were announced at \$1.85; today they closed at \$1.94. That is the end of the story on sovereign risk.

Clause 65, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 66 to 84, as read agreed to.

Clause 85—

 **Mr BERKMAN** (5.42 pm): I need to take a few moments to correct the record, particularly in relation to the observations that have been persistently made by the Treasurer and the flagrant misrepresentation of the Greens' position on this. It began this morning in question time, and I have the *Hansard* from this morning. He said—

The member for Maiwar and the member for South Brisbane will be voting to repeal the mental health levy because in the dissenting report ... they explicitly opposed a mental health levy on big business.

I will go to that dissenting report in a moment; I have a few more observations before then. He said—

The Greens political party—

I love it when they use that term; it is great—the 'Greens political party'. It is like somehow being a political party is not what we all are in here. He said—

The Greens political party will be voting to cut mental health services to Queenslanders.

He repeated that over and over in his closing remarks on the second reading debate. He repeated it again in response to the member for South Brisbane's observations, saying that we will vote against this. What is he? A mind-reader? Is he the Treasurer or does he have a crystal ball somewhere?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Comments will come through the chair.

Mr BERKMAN: The member for Cooper made similar observations. Mr Deputy Speaker, in your capacity as the member for Greenslopes, I think you said, if I recall your contribution correctly, that we were playing 'strange semantic games'. I will go directly to the dissenting report that has been so gravely misrepresented and I will quote from it. In the section under 'Revenue', the member for South Brisbane's dissenting report said—

A payroll tax levy isn't the Queensland Greens' preferred option for raising revenue, given our long-standing concerns with payroll tax in general: We want to be encouraging jobs and higher wages, not taxing them.

That is about as close to directly criticising that proposed revenue stream as she went. She went on in that report to propose alternatives, including increasing mining royalties. We have addressed that in a lot of detail in plenty of contributions. We also proposed a big bank levy. Everyone will recall that the government voted against even allowing a bill for that kind of revenue raising to be taken to a committee and debated. We have proposed on a number of occasions that developers pay a tax on land value gains from upzoning. These are the alternative proposals that were included in the report. If the government chooses not to go ahead with them, that is all well and good—but for the Treasurer to try to claim that this dissenting report equates to our opposition to these measures, to this revenue in the bill, is just plain wrong. He is misleading the parliament; he is attempting to mislead all of Queensland. We will be supporting these measures. We have never said we will not.

A government member: There's the backflip.

Mr BERKMAN: Where is the backflip? We have never said we will not support these measures. We have said nothing of the sort. I welcome a retraction of the suggestion from anyone on that side that we have said we will at whatever point they choose to offer it. We absolutely welcome the funding proposed in this bill and we acknowledge that it is record funding and that it is well overdue.

Ultimately, the government has pledged about half to a third of what the sector has been calling for with this levy, and we will still lag behind other states. The lowest annual funding figure that was put forward by any submitter about what new funding was required to fix the mental health system is around \$700 million, and the proposed levy will raise about half of that. The government has proposed half of what was proposed. While we are getting these accusations about how we do not care to fix up the mental health system, let us think about what the government has committed and compare it to what the sector has said is necessary.

All of these detailed and expansive recommendations in the Mental Health Select Committee report risk going unrealised unless funding for mental health is boosted to at least the levels that the sector is calling for. We welcome measures to make big corporations like Woolies and Coles and big building construction companies pay their fair share. The Greens have been calling for this for years. They have managed to magic out of nowhere the suggestion that we do not support higher taxes and levies on big business; the mind boggles. I repeat: we are going to vote in support of this levy. We have never said otherwise. We will support the revenue measures in the bill. I implore the Treasurer to just stop with the misinformation. If he wants to keep peddling misinformation and try and—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Comments through the chair, please.

Mr BERKMAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, if he wants to keep peddling misinformation, if he wants to try and spread this nonsense—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Comments through the chair.

Mr BERKMAN: I am commenting through the chair. If he wants to try to spread this out through the divisions of Ryan, Brisbane and Griffith, he can knock himself out because people do not buy it. They see right through the nonsense. Mr Deputy Speaker, I suspect you are in a better position than any of us to let us all know how it went for Terri Butler when she tried to spread misinformation around—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Resume your seat. I will take some advice. Member, I think attempting to engage me in the debate in my capacity as the member for Greenslopes, when I am clearly fulfilling the role of Deputy Speaker and have no capacity to participate in the debate, while not against the standing orders, is not very parliamentary. I ask you to continue your contribution without engaging me in the debate.

Mr BERKMAN: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I apologise for the unparliamentary conduct, as it has been seen. I will leave it at that. Peddling nonsense like this is the prerogative of any member in this House. If they want to try to send it into the electorate, then by all means they can, but to so completely misrepresent what is written in black and white in a statement from the member for South Brisbane in this report is up to the Treasurer.

Mr DICK: What a craven political outfit the Greens political party is. What does the submission say in their dissenting report? It says, 'It's Queensland Greens' policy to phase payroll tax out.' This political crew do not support payroll tax. They do not support a levy. They do not support the application of payroll tax. The policy position of their party is to phase out payroll tax, yet the member for Maiwar has the absolute front to come into this House and criticise me as the Treasurer for somehow misrepresenting them, when in about 10 words in black and white—and he asked me to read it; it is black and white—it says, 'It is our policy to phase payroll tax out.'

I say to the member for Maiwar that payroll tax makes up 27 per cent of taxation revenue of the state, so how are you going to pay for the loss of \$5.2 billion in payroll tax revenue? Welcome to the main game, Greens political party. Welcome to being a serious political organisation and explaining to the people of Queensland when you phase out payroll tax how you are going to find the \$5.2 billion. Perhaps the Greens political party can abolish the Department of Child Safety; that would save them around \$2 billion and they would only be about \$3.2 billion short. They come in here and they are happy to misrepresent me and their own position for their own craven political purpose. It is exactly what they do in the streets in the suburbs, when they are out there promising free—free money, free unicorns and rainbows.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): The member will cease gesticulating.

Mr DICK: They promise it to everyone, but they are never held to account for their promises. They are not a party of government, they are a party of protest. They never have to accept the responsibility of preparing a state budget and accounting for the revenue to deliver. They want to phase out payroll tax, but they want to support a levy. What an embarrassment! They can abolish the Department of Justice as well. That is another billion. They are still about \$2 billion short.

It is craven and opportunistic of the Greens political party when in black and white they say they want the abolition of payroll tax and now they need to explain to the people of Queensland how they are going to raise \$5 billion without virtue signalling about coal and gas, which is the only thing they ever do, which they will never have to implement. How about a well-rounded, detailed explanation of economic plans for this state? Do not virtue signal on one particular part of the economy over and over again.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I call the next speaker, the Speaker gave rulings earlier this morning about gesticulating in the House. I would ask all members of the House to cease gesticulation.

Mr MICKELBERG: I rise to speak to clause 85 which, as we have heard, deals with the payroll tax increase to fund the mental health levy. At the outset, let me say that I think the government's investment in mental health services in this budget is a good thing. I spoke of my own mental health challenges in my maiden speech to this parliament. I acknowledge that it is a difficult and complex issue and that it will take money to solve. We do not dispute that at all.

I rise to address this clause to speak to the Treasurer's reply to the second reading debate. He suggested that for the opposition to contend that these increases in taxes on businesses that employ over 50 per cent of the private sector workforce will not be passed on was false. It is simply an absolutely ridiculous contention that business will absorb these costs.

The Treasurer used a Woolworths catalogue as the evidence to support his argument—something not unlike a year 6 debate. Nonetheless, I did go and check the Woolworths catalogue. I looked up Melbourne and I looked up Woodridge and compared the cost of a XXXX carton. I think the Treasurer used the example of two XXXX cartons and said that they are more expensive in Victoria than in Queensland. He is right: it is \$96 for two cartons of XXXX Gold in Queensland and in Victoria it is \$88. But what do you think might be the reason for that price difference? There are 60 cans in two cartons of XXXX Gold, but in Queensland they have a levy on them from the container deposit scheme. That is a levy imposed by the state government that results in a \$7 tax impost on those two cartons of XXXX Gold. That is the reason for the price difference and that is the reason it is passed on in Queensland. The Treasurer, through his own contribution, has illustrated our point.

The Treasurer also spoke about Powerade. That is an interesting choice; it is probably not a mainstream product. A bottle of Powerade costs \$1.82 in Queensland—in Woodridge, in fact; I typed in 'Woodridge' just to keep things local—while in Victoria it is \$1.75. It is seven cents cheaper in Victoria. What do you reckon the reason might be for the cost in Queensland? Could it be the container deposit scheme for the bottle that the Powerade comes in? Could it be the 10-cent levy imposed by the state government?

Mrs Gerber: Passed on to the consumer.

Mr MICKELBERG: I take the interjection from the member for Currumbin. It is passed on to the consumer. The Treasurer, through his own arrogance and trickery, has come undone. In his own speech in reply to the debate the Treasurer cited these particular goods—I am not cherrypicking; I am using the examples the Treasurer used in his contribution—as being cheaper in Victoria than in Queensland. The reason they are more expensive here is a tax which is passed on to consumers. This payroll tax increase will be passed on as well.

There are multiple components of pricing—we accept that; this is but one factor—but to suggest that business will not pass on this tax increase, in a full-blown cost-of-living crisis, is ridiculous. It does not pass muster. The Treasurer needs to apologise for misleading the House when he cherrypicked a basket of goods to illustrate his argument, and he has been undone—just like he was in relation to the 26 times he said there would be no new or increased taxes but he came in here and brought in three new and increased taxes.

I ask the Treasurer to explain how he can hold to his argument that the payroll tax increase will not be passed on in the cost of goods to Queensland consumers when, through his own examples, they are passed on through the container deposit scheme.

Mr DICK: Sherlock Holmes has got me! He has got me bang to rights. I appreciate the member for Buderim taking me seriously, but hopefully it would not surprise him to learn that sometimes people are a little bit sarcastic in the parliament. If he looks back to what I said, he will see that I said I would rather take what is in a Woolworths catalogue as a source of truth than anything the LNP said—any day of the week. That is what I said. Let's not get too serious about it.

The point is that inflation is lower in Victoria than it is in Queensland. So this massive, crushing levy, which is higher in Victoria than in Queensland, is not putting an onerous burden on the retailers, the wholesalers or anyone else involved in the retail scheme in Victoria than it is up here. It is not crushing their economy, it is not crushing retailers, and people are not only happily getting on with their lives but also getting funding for mental health in that state, as we are seeking to deliver in our state, too.

Clause 85, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 86 to 94, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading



Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (5.59 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. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (5.59 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.

ADJOURNMENT



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (6.00 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 6.00 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, Hart, Head, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Katter, Kelly, King A, King S, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, MacMahon, Madden, Mander, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, O'Connor, O'Rourke, Palaszcuk, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Skelton, Smith, Stevens, Stewart, Sullivan, Watts, Weir, Whiting