



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

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TUESDAY, 16 AUGUST 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.

ASSENT TO BILLS



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

The Honourable C.W. Pitt MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Speaker

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

Date of Assent: 30 June 2022

A bill for an Act to amend the Electoral Act 1992, the Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Act 2020, the Legal Profession Act 2007, the Motor Accident Insurance Act 1994, the Personal Injuries Proceedings Act 2002 and the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003 for particular purposes

A bill for an Act to amend the Duties Act 2001, the Duties Regulation 2013, the First Home Owner Grant and Other Home Owner Grants Act 2000, the Gaming Machine Regulation 2002, the Land Tax Act 2010, the Mineral Resources Regulation 2013 and the Payroll Tax Act 1971 for particular purposes

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

Yours sincerely
Governor

30 June 2022

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 30 June 2022, from Her Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to certain bills on 30 June 2022 [\[1119\]](#).

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Acting Integrity Commissioners, Appointment



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I advise that on 1 July 2022 I administered the oath of office to Mark Glen as Acting Integrity Commissioner. I also advise that on 14 July 2022 I administered the oath of office to Antony David Keyes as Acting Integrity Commissioner. I table a copy of both oaths.

Tabled paper: Oath for appointment as Acting Integrity Commissioner of Queensland of Mr Mark Glen, dated 1 July 2022 [\[1120\]](#).

Tabled paper: Oath of appointment as Acting Integrity Commissioner of Queensland of Mr Antony David Keyes, dated 14 July 2022 [\[1121\]](#).

Path to Treaty



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I am advised that today the government will deliver its response to the Treaty Advancement Committee's report and begin the next phase in the process. This conversation began in 2019 with statewide consultation. I look forward to sharing this historic moment with all members today at 1 pm on the Speaker's Green.

School Group Tours



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Acacia Ridge State School in the electorate of Algester; Algester State School in the electorate of Algester; student leaders from the electorate of Algester; Childers State School in the electorate of Burnett; and Clifford Park Special School in the electorate of Toowoomba South.

PETITIONS

The Clerk presented the following paper petition, sponsored by the Clerk—

Animals, Sentience

107 petitioners, requesting the House to take steps to amend section 3 of the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001 to formally recognise the sentience of animals [\[1123\]](#).

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

Gympie Connection Road

Mr Perrett, from 531 petitioners, requesting the House to reconsider the proposed closure of Gympie Connection Road, a major arterial thoroughfare in Gympie [\[1124, 1125\]](#).

Bauple-Tiaro, Bypass

Mr Perrett from 459 petitioners, requesting the House to review the decision for the current design proposals for the Bauple to Tiaro bypass and undertake further consultation with the residents of Bauple and surrounding areas [\[1126, 1127\]](#).

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

Fisheries Queensland

4,501 petitioners, requesting the House to call for a full commission of inquiry into the management of Fisheries Queensland [\[1128, 1129, 1130\]](#).

Youth Crime

54,199 petitioners, requesting the House to request the Attorney General lodge an appeal against the inadequate sentence imposed on the juvenile responsible for the devastating loss of Kate Leadbetter, Matthew Field and their unborn child, and enact legislative changes to curb juvenile crime [\[1131, 1132\]](#).

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

Redland City Council, Mayor Williams

Mr Brown, from 6,419 petitioners, requesting the House to call upon the Minister for Local Government to dismiss Redland City Council Mayor Karen Williams [\[1133\]](#).

Deer

Mr Dametto, from 3,109 petitioners, requesting the House to amend the Biosecurity Act allowing local councils to put provisions into their biosecurity plans for the sustainable management of deer [\[1134\]](#).

Toolakea and Halifax Bay, Contaminated Material

Mr Andrew, from 430 petitioners, requesting the House to investigate the demolition and disposal of the contaminated material found in illegal pits on Toolakea beaches and adjacent Halifax Bay mudflats [\[1135\]](#).

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

Road Safety

300 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake additional community led consultation to reduce dangerous driving and improve any Queensland roads that have fallen behind road safety standards [\[1136\]](#).

Sunshine Coast, Public Transport Strategy

398 petitioners, requesting the House to amend and expand the current Draft Southern Sunshine Coast Public Transport Strategy to the whole of the Sunshine Coast region [\[1137\]](#).

Bodies Corporate, Funds Management

504 petitioners, requesting the House to provide clarification on section 151(3) of the Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997 in relation to set up, access and operation of bank accounts for the proper management of Body Corporate funds [\[1138\]](#).

Dogs, Confinement and Tethering

880 petitioners, requesting the House to amend the provisions of the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001 that permit prolonged unsupervised confinement/tethering of a dog [\[1139\]](#).

Animals, Shelter

922 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure legislation includes mandatory codes for provision of species-specific shelter and consider each species' capacity to tolerate extremes in weather [\[1140\]](#).

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPERS

PAPERS TABLED DURING THE RECESS (SO 31)

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

27 June 2022—

- [955](#) Oath of Allegiance and of Office: Member for Callide (Mr Head)
- [956](#) Medicines and Poisons Act 2019: Extended Practice Authority 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners' (Version 2)
- [957](#) Optometry Board of Australia—Guidelines for use of scheduled medicines, 10 December 2021
- [958](#) Response from the Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (Hon. Linard), to an ePetition (3703-22) sponsored by the member for Burdekin, Mr Last, and a paper petition (3759-22) presented by the member for Burdekin, Mr Last, from 5,661 and 490 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to address the level of crime in Far North Queensland by undertaking a number of measures to reform the youth justice system and child safety

28 June 2022—

- [959](#) Health and Environment Committee: Report No. 20, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 16 March 2022 and 10 May 2022
- [960](#) Queensland Local Government Grants Commission—Annual Report 2021

1 July 2022—

- [961](#) Health and Environment Committee: Report No. 21, 57th Parliament—Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022
- [962](#) Department of Agriculture and Fisheries: Report titled 'Review of Farm Business Debt Mediation Act 2017', June 2022
- [963](#) State Development and Regional Industries Committee: Report No. 23, 57th Parliament—Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022

4 July 2022—

- [964](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 27, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 16 March 2022 and 10 May 2022
- [965](#) Crime and Corruption Commission: Investigation Workshop—An investigation into allegations of disclosure of confidential information at the Office of the Integrity Commissioner, July 2022
- [966](#) Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce report titled 'Hear her voice—Report 2: Women and girls' experiences across the criminal justice system', Volume 1
- [967](#) Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce report titled 'Hear her voice—Report 2: Women and girls' experiences across the criminal justice system', Volume 2

5 July 2022—

- [968](#) Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts Pty Ltd—Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2021
- [969](#) Letter, dated 17 June 2022, from the chairperson, Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts, Ms Cassandra Diamond, to the Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts, Hon. Leeanne Enoch, presenting the financial statements for Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts (ACPA) and audit closing report

8 July 2022—

- [970](#) Education, Employment and Training Committee: Report No. 18, 57th Parliament—Racing Integrity Amendment Bill 2022, government response
- [971](#) State Development and Regional Industries Committee: Report No. 19, 57th Parliament—Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, government response

12 July 2022—

- [972](#) Auditor-General Report 1: 2022-23—Delivering social housing services

15 July 2022—

- [973](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on Trade and Investment Mission to Japan by the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic Infrastructure (Hon. Dr Miles), 11 June to 17 June 2022

18 July 2022—

- [974](#) Letter, dated 14 July 2022, from the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing, Hon. Grace Grace, and Gazette Notice for the Queensland Government Gazette, dated 1 July 2022, advising that Her Excellency the Governor, acting by and with the advice of the Executive Council and pursuant to section 481A of the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003, has approved a payment of \$130,521,981.76 (GST inclusive) from WorkCover Queensland to the Office of Industrial Relations, Department of Education, in 2022—23 for the prevention of injury to workers and related education, compliance and regulatory functions delivered by the Office of Industrial Relations under the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 and Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003

19 July 2022—

- [975](#) Auditor-General Report 2: 2022-23—Improving grants management
- [976](#) Auditor-General Report 3: 2022-23—Managing Queensland's COVID-19 economic response and recovery

21 July 2022—

- [977](#) Response from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities (Hon. Furner), to an ePetition (3751-22) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 2,907 petitioners, requesting the House to block the imminent logging of Beerwah State Forest Lot 1 AP 22457
- [978](#) Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (Hon. Fentiman), to an ePetition (3690-22) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 680 petitioners, requesting the House to take notice of the serious adverse finding against Mr MacSporran and other Crime and Corruption Commission officers
- [979](#) Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (Hon. Fentiman), to an ePetition (3664-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 13,028 petitioners, requesting the House to cease the use of coercion and segregation as methods of gaining compliance to policies that are incompatible with human rights, informed consent, and individual freedoms
- [980](#) Response from the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement (Hon. de Brenni), to an ePetition (3700-22) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 1,071 petitioners, requesting the House to take notice of the serious failure by the government to effectively investigate the Queensland Building and Construction Commission
- [981](#) Response from the Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (Hon. Linard), to an ePetition (3731-22) sponsored by the member for Mundingburra, Mr Walker, from 1,417 petitioners, requesting the House ensure that residential housing at 39 Casuarina Drive, Annandale, Townsville is not used as a rehabilitation centre for juvenile offenders and/or juvenile mental health consumers with a history of violence
- [982](#) Response from the Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (Hon. Linard) to an ePetition (3680-22) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 1,412 petitioners, requesting the House to review the current failing youth justice legislation and implement changes to better address behavioural issues
- [983](#) Response from the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing (Hon. Grace), to an ePetition (3752-22) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 555 petitioners, requesting the House to establish a Black Lung and Silicosis Fund to fully fund workers compensation claims for workers suffering from permanent disabling and/or fatal industrial respiratory disease due to workplace exposure
- [984](#) Response from the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs (Hon. Scanlon), to an ePetition (3733-22) sponsored by the member for Mirani, Mr Andrew, from 1,026 petitioners, requesting the House to take action and protect the local government residents of Ipswich from toxic air pollution and environmental harm
- [985](#) Response from the Acting Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. Miles), to an ePetition (3742-22) sponsored by the member for Toowoomba North, Mr Watts, and a paper petition (3760-22) presented by the member for Toowoomba North, Mr Watts, from 1,709 and 66 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to facilitate redevelopment of the Toowoomba Hospital at the Baillie Henderson site
- [986](#) Response from the Acting Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. Miles), to an ePetition (3712-22) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 184 petitioners, requesting the House to remove the illegally dumped rubbish from the Queensland Health precinct at Coopers Plains

22 July 2022—

- [987](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3682-22) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 187 petitioners, requesting the House to provide point to point speed cameras to Yeppoon Road
- [988](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3738-22) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 375 petitioners, requesting the House to replace the Moggill ferry with a bridge that is above the level of the highest flood event
- [989](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3740-22) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 345 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure Translink approves the Brisbane City Council business case utilising interim temporary bus stops in Ritchie Road, Pallara
- [990](#) Transport and Resources Committee: Report No. 19, 57th Parliament—Transport Legislation (Road Safety and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2022
- [991](#) Response from the Acting Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. Miles), to a paper petition (3761-22) presented by the member for Scenic Rim, Mr Krause, and an ePetition (3739-22) sponsored by the member for Scenic Rim, Mr Krause, from 90 and 668 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to implement peritoneal dialysis services and qualified nurse at the Beaudesert Hospital

- [992](#) Education, Employment and Training Committee: Report No. 21, 57th Parliament—Trading (Allowable Hours) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022
- [993](#) State Development and Regional Industries Committee: Report No. 23, 57th Parliament—Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022: Erratum
- [994](#) Response from the Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (Hon. Linard), to a paper petition (3762-22) presented by the member for Toowoomba North, Mr Watts, and an ePetition (3753-22) sponsored by the member for Toowoomba North, Mr Watts, from 76 and 4,395 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to restore breach of bail as an offence in the Youth Justice Act 1992 and to request adequate personnel and resourcing to Toowoomba region's police services
- [995](#) Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: Report No. 28, 57th Parliament—Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022
- 25 July 2022—
- [996](#) Response from the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement (Hon. de Brenni), to an ePetition (3730-22) sponsored by the member for Glass House, Mr Powell, from 1,041 petitioners, requesting the House to replace all streetlights within Sunshine Coast Council Division 5 with streetlights that comply with the Australian Government National Light Pollution Guidelines and the Australasian Dark Sky Alliance approved criteria
- [997](#) Education, Employment and Training Committee: Report No. 20, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 30 March 2022 and 21 June 2022
- 28 July 2022—
- [998](#) Department of Transport and Main Roads: Maritime Safety Queensland—Marine incidents in Queensland, 2021
- [999](#) Mt Gravatt Showgrounds Trust—Annual Report year ended 30 April 2022
- 01 August 2022—
- [1000](#) Health and Environment Committee: Report No. 21, 57th Parliament—Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022: Erratum
- 02 August 2022—
- [1001](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 26, 57th Parliament—Inquiry into the report on the strategic review of the functions of the Integrity Commissioner, government response
- 04 August 2022—
- [1002](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 28, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 11 May 2022 and 24 May 2022
- 05 August 2022—
- [1003](#) Auditor-General Report 17: 2021-22—Appointing and renewing government boards: Erratum
- [1004](#) Transport and Resources Committee: Report No. 16, 57th Parliament—Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, government response
- 09 August 2022—
- [1005](#) Murray-Darling Basin Authority—Annual Report 2020-21
- 11 August 2022—
- [1006](#) Report on the five year review of the effectiveness of the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990 (in accordance with section 46B(2))
- 12 August 2022—
- [1007](#) Transport and Resources Committee: Report No. 20, 57th Parliament—2022-23 Budget Estimates
- [1008](#) Transport and Resources Committee: Report No. 20, 57th Parliament—2022-23 Budget Estimates—Volume of Additional Information
- [1009](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 29, 57th Parliament—2022-23 Budget Estimates
- [1010](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 30, 57th Parliament—2022-23 Budget Estimates
- [1011](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report Nos 29 and 30, 57th Parliament—2022-23 Budget Estimates—Volume of Additional Information
- [1012](#) Education, Employment and Training Committee: Report No. 23, 57th Parliament—2022-23 Budget Estimates
- [1013](#) Education, Employment and Training Committee: Report No. 23, 57th Parliament—2022-23 Budget Estimates—Volume of Additional Information
- [1014](#) State Development and Regional Industries Committee: Report No. 24, 57th Parliament—2022-23 Budget Estimates
- [1015](#) State Development and Regional Industries Committee: Report No. 24, 57th Parliament—2022-23 Budget Estimates—Volume of Additional Information
- [1016](#) Community Support and Services Committee: Report No. 18, 57th Parliament—2022-23 Budget Estimates
- [1017](#) Community Support and Services Committee: Report No. 18, 57th Parliament—2022-23 Budget Estimates—Volume of Additional Information

- [1018](#) Health and Environment Committee: Report No. 22, 57th Parliament—2022-23 Budget Estimates
- [1019](#) Health and Environment Committee: Report No. 22, 57th Parliament—2022-23 Budget Estimates—Volume of Additional Information
- [1020](#) Education, Employment and Training Committee: Report No. 22, 57th Parliament—Industrial Relations and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022
- [1021](#) Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: Report No. 29, 57th Parliament—2022-23 Budget Estimates
- [1022](#) Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: Report No. 29, 57th Parliament—2022-23 Budget Estimates—Volume of Additional Information
- [1023](#) Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: Report No. 30, 57th Parliament—Building Units and Group Titles and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022

15 August 2022—

- [1024](#) State Development and Regional Industries Committee: Report No. 25, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 30 March and 24 May 2022

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Planning Act 2016, Regional Planning Interests Act 2014:

- [1025](#) Planning Legislation (Fee Unit Conversion and Other Amounts) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 75
- [1026](#) Planning Legislation (Fee Unit Conversion and Other Amounts) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 75, explanatory notes
- [1027](#) Planning Legislation (Fee Unit Conversion and Other Amounts) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 75, human rights certificate

Medicines and Poisons Act 2019:

- [1028](#) Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 77
- [1029](#) Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 77, explanatory notes
- [1030](#) Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 77, human rights certificate

Architects Act 2022, Building Act 1975, Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Act 2017, Electricity Act 1994, Gas Supply Act 2003, Plumbing and Drainage Act 2018, Professional Engineers Act 2002, Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991:

- [1031](#) Energy and Public Works Legislation (Fee Unit Conversion) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 78
- [1032](#) Energy and Public Works Legislation (Fee Unit Conversion) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 78, explanatory notes
- [1033](#) Energy and Public Works Legislation (Fee Unit Conversion) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 78, human rights certificate

Agents Financial Administration Act 2014, Appeal Costs Fund Act 1973, Associations Incorporation Act 1981, Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2003, Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997, Building Units and Group Titles Act 1980, Casino Control Act 1982, Charitable and Non-Profit Gaming Act 1999, Civil Partnerships Act 2011, Collections Act 1966, Co-operatives National Law Act 2020, Coroners Act 2003, Criminal Code Act 1899, Debt Collectors (Field Agents and Collection Agents) Act 2014, Dispute Resolution Centres Act 1990, Electoral Act 1992, Evidence Act 1977, Funeral Benefit Business Act 1982, Gaming Machine Act 1991, Information Privacy Act 2009, Interactive Gambling (Player Protection) Act 1998, Introduction Agents Act 2001, Jury Act 1995, Justices Act 1886, Justices of the Peace and Commissioners for Declarations Act 1991, Keno Act 1996, Land Court Act 2000, Legal Profession Act 2007, Liquor Act 1992, Lotteries Act 1997, Motor Dealers and Chattel Auctioneers Act 2014, Partnership Act 1891, Penalties and Sentences Act 1992, Property Occupations Act 2014, Prostitution Act 1999, Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2009, Recording of Evidence Act 1962, Right to Information Act 2009, Second-hand Dealers and Pawnbrokers Act 2003, Security Providers Act 1993, Status of Children Act 1978, Supreme Court of Queensland Act 1991, Tattoo Industry Act 2013, Tourism Services Act 2003, Wagering Act 1998, Wine Industry Act 1994:

- [1034](#) Justice Legislation (Fee Unit Conversion and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 79
- [1035](#) Justice Legislation (Fee Unit Conversion and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 79, explanatory notes
- [1036](#) Justice Legislation (Fee Unit Conversion and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 79, human rights certificate

Civil Liability Act 2003, Motor Accident Insurance Act 1994, Personal Injuries Proceedings Act 2002:

- [1037](#) Civil Liability and Other Legislation (Prescribed Amounts) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 80
- [1038](#) Civil Liability and Other Legislation (Prescribed Amounts) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 80, explanatory notes
- [1039](#) Civil Liability and Other Legislation (Prescribed Amounts) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 80, human rights certificate

Building Act 1975, Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990:

- [1040](#) Building Fire Safety (Fee Unit Conversion) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 81
- [1041](#) Building Fire Safety (Fee Unit Conversion) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 81, explanatory notes
- [1042](#) Building Fire Safety (Fee Unit Conversion) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 81, human rights certificate

Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990:

- [1043](#) Fire and Emergency Services (Annual Contributions) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 82
- [1044](#) Fire and Emergency Services (Annual Contributions) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 82, explanatory notes
- [1045](#) Fire and Emergency Services (Annual Contributions) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 82, human rights certificate

Disability Services Act 2006, Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000:

- [1046](#) Disability Services and Other Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 83
- [1047](#) Disability Services and Other Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 83, explanatory notes
- [1048](#) Disability Services and Other Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 83, human rights certificate

Land Act 1994, Petroleum Act 1923, Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004:

- [1049](#) Resources Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 84
- [1050](#) Resources Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 84, explanatory notes
- [1051](#) Resources Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 84, human rights certificate

Environmental Protection Act 1994, Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011:

- [1052](#) Waste Reduction and Recycling and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 85
- [1053](#) Waste Reduction and Recycling and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 85, explanatory notes
- [1054](#) Waste Reduction and Recycling and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 85, human rights certificate

Health and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2022:

- [1055](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 86
- [1056](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 86, explanatory notes
- [1057](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 86, human rights certificate

Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011, Mental Health Act 2016, Public Health Act 2005, Radiation Safety Act 1999:

- [1058](#) Health Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 87
- [1059](#) Health Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 87, explanatory notes
- [1060](#) Health Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 87, human rights certificate

Magistrates Courts Act 1921, Supreme Court of Queensland Act 1991:

- [1061](#) Uniform Civil Procedure and Other Rules Amendment Rule 2022, No. 88
- [1062](#) Uniform Civil Procedure and Other Rules Amendment Rule 2022, No. 88, explanatory notes
- [1063](#) Uniform Civil Procedure and Other Rules Amendment Rule 2022, No. 88, human rights certificate

Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994:

- [1064](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Zero Emission Vehicle Rebate Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 89
- [1065](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Zero Emission Vehicle Rebate Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 89, explanatory notes
- [1066](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Zero Emission Vehicle Rebate Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 89, human rights certificate

Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994:

- [1067](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 90
- [1068](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 90, explanatory notes
- [1069](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 90, human rights certificate

Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994:

- [1070](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 91
- [1071](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 91, explanatory notes
- [1072](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 91, human rights certificate

Forestry Act 1959, Nature Conservation Act 1992:

- [1073](#) Forestry (State Forests) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 92
- [1074](#) Forestry (State Forests) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 92, explanatory notes
- [1075](#) Forestry (State Forests) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 92, human rights certificate

Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003:

- [1076](#) Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation (QOTE) Notice 2022, No. 93
- [1077](#) Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation (QOTE) Notice 2022, No. 93, explanatory notes
- [1078](#) Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation (QOTE) Notice 2022, No. 93, human rights certificate

Residential Services (Accreditation) Act 2002:

- [1079](#) Residential Services (Accreditation) (Exclusion of Retirement Villages) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 94
- [1080](#) Residential Services (Accreditation) (Exclusion of Retirement Villages) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 94, explanatory notes
- [1081](#) Residential Services (Accreditation) (Exclusion of Retirement Villages) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 94, human rights certificate

Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008:

- [1082](#) Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 95
- [1083](#) Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 95, explanatory notes
- [1084](#) Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 95, human rights certificate

Work Health and Safety Act 2011:

- [1085](#) Work Health and Safety (Codes of Practice) Notice 2022, No. 96
- [1086](#) Work Health and Safety (Codes of Practice) Notice 2022, No. 96, explanatory notes
- [1087](#) Work Health and Safety (Codes of Practice) Notice 2022, No. 96, human rights certificate

Safety in Recreational Water Activities Act 2011:

- [1088](#) Safety in Recreational Water Activities (Code of Practice) Notice 2022, No. 97
- [1089](#) Safety in Recreational Water Activities (Code of Practice) Notice 2022, No. 97, explanatory notes
- [1090](#) Safety in Recreational Water Activities (Code of Practice) Notice 2022, No. 97, human rights certificate

Education and Care Services National Law (Queensland) Act 2011:

- [1091](#) Education and Care Services National Law (Queensland) Regulation 2022, No. 98
- [1092](#) Education and Care Services National Law (Queensland) Regulation 2022, No. 98, explanatory notes
- [1093](#) Education and Care Services National Law (Queensland) Regulation 2022, No. 98, human rights certificate

Associations Incorporation Act 1981, Collections Act 1966:

- [1094](#) Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 99
- [1095](#) Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 99, explanatory notes
- [1096](#) Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 99, human rights certificate

Industrial Relations Act 2016, Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982, Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003:

- [1097](#) Industrial Relations and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 100
- [1098](#) Industrial Relations and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 100, explanatory notes
- [1099](#) Industrial Relations and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 100, human rights certificate

State Buildings Protective Security Act 1983:

- [1100](#) State Buildings Protective Security Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 101
- [1101](#) State Buildings Protective Security Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 101, explanatory notes
- [1102](#) State Buildings Protective Security Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 101, human rights certificate

Forensic Disability Act 2011:

- [1103](#) Forensic Disability Regulation 2022, No. 102
- [1104](#) Forensic Disability Regulation 2022, No. 102, explanatory notes
- [1105](#) Forensic Disability Regulation 2022, No. 102, human rights certificate

Nature Conservation Act 1992:

- [1106](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) (Cangen-Yangan Indigenous Joint Management Area) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 103
- [1107](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) (Cangen-Yangan Indigenous Joint Management Area) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 103, explanatory notes
- [1108](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) (Cangen-Yangan Indigenous Joint Management Area) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 103, human rights certificate

Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland Act 1971:

- [1109](#) Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland Regulation 2022, No. 104
- [1110](#) Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland Regulation 2022, No. 104, explanatory notes
- [1111](#) Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland Regulation 2022, No. 104, human rights certificate

Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994:

- [1112](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Resilient Homes Assistance Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 105
- [1113](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Resilient Homes Assistance Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 105, explanatory notes
- [1114](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Resilient Homes Assistance Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 105, human rights certificate

Nature Conservation Act 1992:

- [1115](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) (Toohey Forest Conservation Park) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 106
- [1116](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) (Toohey Forest Conservation Park) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 106, explanatory notes
- [1117](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) (Toohey Forest Conservation Park) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 106, human rights certificate


MEMBER'S PAPER

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

Member for Gympie (Mr Perrett)—


- [1118](#) Nonconforming petition requesting the House to reconsider the proposed closure of Gympie Connection Road, a major arterial thoroughfare in Gympie

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, as a special favour to the Deputy Speaker I wish to acknowledge Youth Member for Greenslopes, Tori Clough, in the gallery today. Do not expect that everyone will get the same arrangement.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Path to Treaty

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.36 am): Today is an historic day. Today we take a giant step on our path towards treaty with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We do this not as the act of a government but as a community to confront the past, acknowledge its pain and work together on a brighter future. In many ways it is to address unfinished business that has been ignored for centuries, but the time has come and that time is now.

Later today I will release my government's response to the Treaty Advancement Committee's report. We have accepted in full or in principle all 22 of its recommendations. Over the next 12 to 18 months an independent interim body will build the legislation and structures for our next steps. This body includes members of the Treaty Advancement Committee, including: former Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander social justice commissioner Mick Gooda; former federal attorney-general Professor Michael Lavarch AO; former lord mayor of Brisbane and Queensland great, Dr Sallyanne Atkinson AO; along with seven others who are distinguished and accomplished in their respective fields. It will draft legislation that will establish a First Nations Treaty Institute and truth-telling and healing inquiry.

This is the latest step in a long journey that our government has embarked upon towards reconciliation and achieving real outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It includes more than \$525 million in targeted funding for Indigenous councils with a focus on employment. This has seen our Works for Queensland initiative creating meaningful work, jobs and infrastructure in local communities. Community-based Indigenous health services have improved outcomes for mothers and babies. We have improved the participation of Indigenous children in kindy and preschool as well as years 11 and 12 and returned more than five million hectares of land to traditional owners.

Close to 400 people have accepted the invitation to be here today. For many of them simply being in Parliament House will require courage, such is the depth of feeling over government actions like the stolen generation. I will join with First Nations leaders to sign a Statement of Commitment and I invite all members in this House to take part. Fittingly, the ceremony will begin with the voice of schoolgirl Kaia Skeen, a proud Gubbi Gubbi woman. It symbolises that what we do here today is about the future. We will follow today's historic measures by having our next community cabinet on Thursday Island on 6 September. This is our second community cabinet on the island. I want to hear directly from the community their issues and concerns. During the week my ministers and I will also travel to neighbouring islands and cape communities. We govern for all of Queensland.

I would like to thank all those involved in bringing us to this historic moment, including: the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships; the Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts; and the members for Cook and Bundamba. As this House knows, the member for Cook is the first member of parliament from the Torres Strait and I am proud to have someone of First Nations heritage on this side of the House. Every generation is presented with an opportunity to make its mark, and I believe this treaty is ours. As the Uluru Statement from the Heart says, 'as a fuller expression of Australia's nationhood', to put wrongs right, to stand as one and at long last write this new chapter of our story together.

Crime and Corruption Commission, Fitzgerald Report



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.40 am): Last Tuesday I was honoured, along with the Attorney-General, to receive the report of the commission of inquiry into aspects of the CCC from the Hon. Tony Fitzgerald AC QC and the Hon. Alan Wilson QC. The report contains 32 recommendations to improve how the CCC discharges its important corruption functions. I table the report.

Tabled paper: Report, dated 9 August 2022, titled 'Commission of Inquiry relating to the Crime and Corruption Commission' [1122].

These recommendations include improvements around its use of seconded police and its criminal charging practices. It is a very thoughtful and carefully considered report, which of course is what you expect from such eminent commissioners. It is designed to ensure that events such as those that occurred around the Logan City Council do not happen again. It charts the pathway to ensure that the CCC improves, regains public trust and continues to play its vital role in our system of government.

Yesterday cabinet considered this report. Cabinet accepted in principle all of the recommendations. We will ensure that this work is considered alongside other important reform work such as the Coaldrake review. The final commission of inquiry report is available on the commission of inquiry website, along with copies of many of the submissions received. Queensland will always owe a debt to Tony Fitzgerald. His 1989 commission of inquiry was a beacon of truth and integrity in the darkest of days. It remains a touchstone for us still. Today we thank him and his colleagues for their most recent work and service to our state.

Energy Policy



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.41 am): We are focused on delivering good jobs, better services and a great Queensland lifestyle. Two major recent announcements have ticked all the boxes—delivering energy, employment, economic activity and regional growth, while addressing the cost of living and reinforcing our position as Australia's energy generation superpower.

Firstly, a \$160 million deal with the federal government will connect our Southern Downs Renewable Energy Zone to the National Electricity Market. Powerlink will build 65 kilometres of transmission lines and two new switching stations. That is to fast-track the connection to one of the country's largest wind farm precincts. It is the first partnership between one of our publicly owned power companies and the Clean Energy Finance Corporation. That speaks volumes for the new way of working with a federal Albanese Labor government. The other announcement was from Senex. They plan to invest more than \$1 billion on more gas production for the domestic market. The expansion is planned at their Atlas and Roma North developments in the Surat Basin. That ties in with our policy to unlock gas for domestic supply.

What do these two announcements mean? Together they mean: more power supply for hundreds of thousands of homes in Queensland and interstate; more power for business and industry; more downward pressure on prices; more renewable energy as we approach our 50 per cent target by 2030; more regional jobs in construction and operation; and more regional economic activity. Queenslanders can be proud when announcements like these achieve so many priorities.

Ekka




Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.43 am): Not even Matt Damon could resist the biggest show in town when the Ekka returned after two years of COVID. Everyone was happy that the Ekka was back in its rightful place in our calendar. In almost 150 years, until COVID the show had never missed two years in a row—not even during the war years. That was necessary in 2020 and 2021. It was a tough call but the right one. To see the happy crowds back there

again this year was wonderful—with 340,000 people attending. I know cabinet enjoyed being back there too, and I would like to thank the RNA for hosting us. We even announced that we passed the peak of our third COVID wave.

The Ekka is when the country meets the city and both learn to appreciate each other. It is also an opportunity to focus on particular issues for agriculture. This time, we announced new measures to deal with a new threat to our primary industries—foot-and-mouth disease. We will recruit a squad of biosecurity officers against foot-and-mouth and other disease risks. Our \$22 million package includes 15 new staff, with 10 of those being regional biosecurity officers who will be skilled in disease protection and response. At least \$7 million will be to recruit and train those 10. Plus, there will be an annual investment of \$2.5 million to protect our cattle, sheep, goat and pork industries.

Having frontline officers strategically placed throughout rural and regional Queensland is a top priority. Livestock industries are essential to our economy, with thousands of good jobs in every region. Primary producers want to protect every one of those jobs. We are behind them in that and in everything to do with our primary industries sector. We do that all year round, but Ekka is when the spotlight shines, and we are already looking forward to next year. I am sure Matt Damon is as well.

Path to Treaty

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumbidgee—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (9.44 am): The Premier's announcement today of a First Nations Treaty Institute and a truth-telling and healing inquiry is momentous. These are important steps on the Path to Treaty. There is a momentum right now across Australia towards reconciliation with our First Nations people. The Albanese government is progressing its commitment to a Voice to Parliament, and treaty processes similar to ours are underway in other states. We are determined for this process to be more than a symbolic gesture, with concrete actions that respond to Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders' wishes.

In my department we have developed the Yhurri Gurri Framework, a process recognising the significant benefits First Nations businesses, communities and peoples can bring to Queensland's economy. It emphasises the importance of understanding, acknowledging and respecting First Nations peoples, culture and knowledge. The Path to Treaty has informed the framework and the related strategically focused Yhurri Gurri participation plan. These initiatives support my department in getting treaty ready.

We also have a commitment to First Nations businesses. All procurement policies and procedures have been reviewed and updated to incorporate First Nations business engagement throughout the entire procurement process. In December 2021 it was mandated that, where a capable First Nations business exists, they must be invited to tender. This has resulted in 35 per cent of procurements inviting a First Nations business to tender in the period January to March 2022 and 30 per cent in the period April to June 2022.

We also support Indigenous councils through a range of grants and programs such as: the Indigenous Councils Critical Infrastructure Program, a \$120 million funding program that delivers critical water and wastewater infrastructure to Queensland's Indigenous councils; the State Government Financial Aid program, which provided more than \$37.2 million last financial year to Indigenous councils to help deliver core services; and the Indigenous Economic Development Grant, which is designed to help maintain and create jobs in local government.

We are also committed to a strong and deep partnership with First Nations Queenslanders to deliver the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Brisbane 2032 is an opportunity to honour, embrace and showcase the rich and ancient history of two of the world's oldest living cultures. Through all of these initiatives we can continue to recognise, support and celebrate Queensland's First Nations communities. Today is a proud day for our parliament. I am very much looking forward to the formal announcement on the Speaker's Green later today.

I would like to take a moment to honour Tanya Battel. She was a strong campaigner for the voluntary assisted dying legislation we passed last year. Many members would have met Tanya then. She came here to parliament to present me with a petition of more than 111,000 signatures supporting those laws. Tanya had battled cancer since 1997. Tragically, our laws could not be fully implemented in time for her and she passed away in Switzerland recently, but she changed the world for others like her in Queensland. We owe her a debt of gratitude for her work on this important reform, and my thoughts are with her friends and family.

Path to Treaty



Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.48 am): Queensland's journey to a new future involving First Nations and non-Indigenous Queenslanders is a path we tread with care and conviction. We must acknowledge past injustices and we must address their legacy.

The actions that will commence with today's Path to Treaty ceremony are historic steps on that path, and we must ensure that those steps can be taken with as much confidence as possible. That is why last year's budget delivered our historic \$300 million Path to Treaty Fund. The returns of that fund, in the order of \$20 million each and every year, will support those actions. No other jurisdiction in the Commonwealth has created such a sustainable funding model as Queensland, providing much needed financial certainty through the treaty process.

The treaty fund and its returns are a direct investment in creating a better future for all First Nations people and for all Queenslanders. The treaty fund will enable the establishment of a First Nations Treaty Institute which will develop a treaty-making framework. The fund will enable a Path to Treaty office, building the government's capacity to be treaty ready and building awareness of the process across our state.

The fund will enable the establishment of a truth-telling and healing inquiry, chronicling the history of colonisation and the, at times, appalling impacts that caused for First Nations people. This process will be long. At times it will be necessarily painful, but a stronger, more compassionate Queensland will emerge as a result—a Queensland that treats our First Nations people with respect and allows a better, more truthful understanding of culture and history. Most importantly, it will allow the development of a platform of opportunity that provides tangible benefits and enables full social and economic participation in the life of our state and our nation for our First Nations people.

Path to Treaty, Education Programs



Hon. G GRACE (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.50 am): It is wonderful to be standing here today after the Premier has announced the historic next stage of the Path to Treaty and truth-telling inquiry. As the Premier said, Path to Treaty in Queensland is a critical step in setting the foundation for a new and just relationship, one that acknowledges the injustices experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and provides a platform for truth-telling, equality and opportunity.

I am keen to see education in schools play its role in this process and continue the cause of First Nations students and people more broadly. In the recent budget, I announced a \$43.2 million renewal program for schools in all 18 discrete Indigenous communities. All projects will be co-designed with local communities, and schools in Aurukun, Cherbourg, Coen, Kowanyama, Napranum, Woorabinda and Yarrabah, to name a few, will benefit. I know that projects like playgrounds, outdoor learning spaces and classroom upgrades will be at the top of the list for many of these schools and I cannot wait to visit later this year, as the Premier announced, in the Cape and Torres Strait to see firsthand the difference this investment will make.


I am proud of the programs we fund that help close the gap in educational outcomes, including Stars Foundation, Clontarf Academy, Netball Queensland's Diamond Spirit, the Brisbane Broncos and ARTIE, and I know the Treasurer's recent budget announced further funding for ARTIE. It is also wonderful to see that Indigenous studies and languages are being incorporated into the curriculum. For example, at Eidsvold State School in the electorate of Callide—and can I welcome the new member for Callide—has introduced a unique language program that has everyone in the school engaged with their community and learning the local Wakka Wakka language. After several years of planning and consultation with traditional owner groups, the Wakka Wakka Corporation and the community, the program is now delivered as a full Australian curriculum aligned languages subject. Teacher Lachlan McKenzie said—

Seeing Indigenous and non-Indigenous students all speaking, singing, dancing and laughing together while learning Wakka Wakka language and culture has been amazing!

I also acknowledge the work that Marsden State High School is doing with Indigenous students. I acknowledge them for winning the Secondary School and Principal of the Year awards at last week's Australian Education Awards. More Queensland schools were on those lists as finalists and award winners than any other state. It is a credit to all involved—current principal Alison Fahlbusch, previous principal Andrew Peach, staff, students and the whole community. I know the local member, the Attorney-General, is very proud of that school.

I am particularly proud to be part of this Palaszczuk government on this historic day and I look forward to attending not only the launch this afternoon but also seeing this being transferred into our schools following this announcement.

Path to Treaty


 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (9.53 am): Today we make history. Today in a few hours time on the Speaker's Green the Premier will launch the Queensland government response to the Treaty Advancement Committee report. This moment has been more than 200 years of post-colonial contact and a millennia before that in the making. This moment is also a testament to the courage and compassion of our Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk. She had the strength and conviction to take such a perplexing and polarising aspect of our history out of the too-hard basket and put it at the top of her priority list. As the Premier says, every generation is given an opportunity to make its mark. This is ours. I am honoured and humbled to proclaim that we are committed to treaty-making with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and non-Indigenous Queenslanders. Queensland will be forever transformed by the significant reforms that lead to a treaty or treaties with First Nations peoples because this is the right thing to do.

The Treaty Advancement Committee in its report has made recommendations that will lay a strong foundation for truth-telling and treaty-making, and we have already started. It is a unique process to Queensland and we are very proud of it. One of the messages heard loud and clear was that for treaty to succeed non-Indigenous Queenslanders need to come on the journey. I believe any Queenslanders who believes in the sense of a fair go will accept that we have unfinished business with First Nations people in this state. Central to achieving this is understanding there can be no treaty without the truth. It is vital that we continue to ensure First Nations peoples as well as the broader Queensland community are centrally engaged in these next steps.

Treaty is a journey. The path ahead will not be easy. We cannot let the uncomfortable truths of our past prevent us from building a better future. This is a journey that will benefit all Queenslanders. By taking this giant leap forward today on this journey we look forward to a future where we can understand and acknowledge the past and embrace and celebrate together the rich and vibrant cultures of our First Nations peoples. As we take this next step on our journey, I note that by no means do we take it alone. The momentum at a national level for voice, treaty and truth grows with every passing day.

Today it is with great interest that we look to our counterparts in the Victorian parliament as they debate the treaty authority bill that will establish an independent umpire to oversee treaty negotiations. Their legislation has been shaped and driven by the First People's Assembly of Victoria, the democratically elected voice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander in that state. I met with Victoria's First People's Assembly just a few weeks ago. It is exciting to see the first piece of permanent treaty-making architecture in that state which will soon be followed by a self-determination fund and the Treaty Negotiation Framework that will enable traditional owners to negotiate with that state. This is an important day for both of our states today—Victoria and Queensland—as we walk our collective paths to treaty together.


Path to Treaty, Health Reform

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.57 am): As Queensland takes another significant step forward today and progresses along its Path to Treaty, our health workers will play an important role in healing the past and creating a better future for all Queenslanders. First Nations people are a vital part of Queensland's world-class public health network and I acknowledge the outstanding work that they do in health facilities throughout our state.

As a government, we have committed to a First Nations health equity reform agenda, one which places First Nations peoples and voices at the centre of Queensland's healthcare service, design and delivery. A cornerstone of the reform agenda is the legislative amendments passed in 2020 and 2021 to the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 and the Hospital and Health Boards Regulation 2012. These amendments require hospital and health services to appoint at least one Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person to their governing board and to co-design, co-develop and co-implement a First Nations health equity strategy. The health equity strategies are being co-designed and co-implemented in partnership with legislative First Nations prescribed stakeholders. The strategies will redesign and reshape local health systems based on what First Nations people need and want to reach their full health potential. This is crucial because we know that First Nations Queenslanders are disproportionately represented in our health system due to preventable diseases and chronic illness.

My vision is to have First Nations people represented across every professional stream and in leadership roles across the health system. We need more First Nations peoples working across our health system as policymakers, clinicians, system leaders, administrators and tradespeople. I will continue to work towards creating a stronger First Nations health workforce on Queensland's Path to Treaty to deliver better health outcomes for all Queenslanders.

Path to Treaty, Legal Services; Ministerial Indemnity

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (9.59 am): Creating equal access to justice services for all Queenslanders is the highest priority of our government. Too often First Nations women experience or are at risk of domestic and family violence and face additional barriers to seeking appropriate help. That is why I am proud to announce that an extra \$1.2 million over 2022 to 2025 will be provided to two legal services working with vulnerable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, especially in regional and remote areas. The funding will be shared between the Aboriginal Family Legal Service Southern Queensland and the Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Legal Service. This targeted support will also allow these services to educate and empower First Nations women to understand their legal rights and address legal problems.

This government is committed to addressing the over-representation of First Nations people in our criminal justice system. In fact, this was the first recommendation of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce report 1, which the government has accepted. Queensland's target is to reduce the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults held in incarceration by at least 15 per cent by 2031. It is a bold and ambitious target. That is why as a government we have committed almost \$10 million to establish the Office of the Chief First Nations Justice Officer. This office will work in partnership with Indigenous communities to design programs to directly address overrepresentation. We have also committed additional funding for perpetrator interventions for First Nations communities to help break the cycle well before someone ends up in court.


While I am on my feet I would also like to briefly address the matter of ministerial indemnity. Ministerial indemnity plays an important role and has long been used by both sides of this House. Both Labor and LNP ministers and former ministers have been the beneficiary of indemnity over recent years. As one former attorney-general said in this House, 'Indemnification of the ministers of the Crown is nothing new.' That same attorney-general then said releasing facts and costs around indemnified matters 'jeopardises the ability of present and future ministers from carrying out their role'. These wise words were spoken by none other than the member for Kawana.

The guidelines make it very clear that advice must be sought from the Crown solicitor to determine whether any indemnity should be granted. Those guidelines have been followed. Despite what those opposite say, indemnity guidelines have been adhered to at every step of the process. This is also a matter, of course, that remains before the court and I will not be commenting further.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for McConnel will direct her comments through the chair.

Path to Treaty, State Records

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (10.02 am): It is an incredibly proud moment to be here on this historic day, to be an Aboriginal person in this House but also a member of this government as we reconfirm our commitment to reframing the government's relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, communities and organisations. As the custodian of nearly 200 years of Queensland government records, the Queensland State Archives has an important role to play in supporting the government's Path to Treaty commitments.

Queensland State Archives holds around 3.5 million items created by successive governments over the past 200 years in its collections, thousands of which relate to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. In June 2021 after releasing its statement of intent in response to the International Council on Archives Tandanya Adelaide declaration, QSA developed the First Nations First program. This has started the journey to welcome, include and involve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the gathering, managing and keeping of Queensland's state records.

Last year Ms Rose Barrowcliffe, a Butchulla woman from K'gari, or Fraser Island, an academic from the University of the Sunshine Coast, was appointed as the Queensland government's inaugural First Nations archives adviser. Ms Barrowcliffe has helped improve QSA's understanding of cultural

capability, cultural safety and sensitivities while also providing guidance on the First Nations First program. Queensland State Archives is also prioritising the digitisation of records relating to First Nations peoples to ensure these vital records of our shared history are available for generations to come.

We know that the records at QSA contribute to telling the story of the colonisation of Queensland, the impacts of which affect First Nations people today. With the help of Queensland historian Dr Jonathan Richards, thousands of records relating to Queensland's frontier wars have been identified, digitised and assessed for content. A team of QSA staff and seven research assistants have worked on this frontier wars project, and nearly 4,000 records have been identified, digitised and described to increase accessibility. They document and hold the evidence of our shared past—a past that is sometimes ugly and uncomfortable yet it is the truth of what has occurred in this state, a past that has been documented by the very people and institutions that were responsible for the sometimes brutal acts associated with invasion and colonisation. These are important records and they are critical to Queensland's path to treaty. They include records kept by Aboriginal protectors, instances of violence and names and locations relevant to first wars.

QSA aims to play its part in truth telling and the Path to Treaty by respecting First Nations knowledge and unlocking the documents from our shared past.

Path to Treaty, Indigenous Land Use Agreements



Hon. GJ BUTCHER (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (10.05 am): Through my portfolio the Palaszczuk Labor government is embedding First Nations water rights in our decision-making in Queensland. It is something I am incredibly proud of and something we will continue to work on so that the steps can be taken now to continue to deliver for our First Nations groups well into the future.

We recently settled Indigenous land use agreements with traditional owners associated with Rookwood Weir in Rockhampton. Both ILUAs have now been registered with the Native Title Tribunal. The agreements include commitments to best practice environmental management and co-naming rights for some of the infrastructure. The Darumbal agreement includes a permanent water allocation for those people. The Rookwood Weir construction is Queensland's largest water infrastructure project underway at present, and these agreements are further evidence of how this project is delivering for communities in Central Queensland. We know land and water are so important to local people, and to see the way that my department, Sunwater and the traditional custodians worked together on these agreements is something that further embedded the success of this Rookwood Weir project.

As I said, under the Darumbal agreement, the traditional custodians will be provided with a permanent water allocation from Rookwood Weir once the weir is complete next year. This means that traditional owners can use this resource as an ongoing revenue stream into the future to support local programs like the Darumbal language education programs, which will ensure the traditional language continues to be passed down from generation to generation. The agreement will also deliver employment and environmental management opportunities for traditional owners during the construction and also once the weir has been completed. These agreements build on the work of my department in supporting First Nations people when it comes to water rights.

Last year during National Water Week I announced that for the first time two licences had been granted to traditional owners in the Cape York Peninsula heritage area under the region's water plan. Under the Cape York water plan, 485 gigalitres of water is reserved for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders on the Cape York to achieve their social, economic and cultural aspirations. This is critical to ensuring traditional owners have a greater say in water resource management here in Queensland. These are just a few examples that demonstrate the ways that this government is progressing meaningful change towards collaborative resource management with our traditional owners. I look forward to building on this strong record.

Path to Treaty, Native Title



Hon. SJ STEWART (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (10.08 am): Our government is committed to reconciliation and healing, to building, strengthening and reframing our relationships with First Nations people. Recognising native title is vital to Queensland's pathway towards reconciliation as it may assist in preserving Indigenous culture, values and of course traditions. As a government, we are committed to working on the Path to Treaty and working with Indigenous people to recognise native title.

In the 2021-22 financial year my department resolved 12 native title determinations and there have been a further five title claims resolved since then, the most recent determination being for the Gulf Country's Kurtijar people.

Last month, Kurtijar traditional owner Fred Pascoe said that the Federal Court's decision to recognise native title was important for the past, present and future of his people. Mr Pascoe said—

It also gives us a chance to teach our young ones coming up that this is their country as well, and they've got the right to enjoy that country, but they've also got the responsibility of looking after it. To me, that is the most important aspect of the determination.


These powerful words show the importance of recognising native title. I can inform the House that native title is now recognised in more than 535,000 square kilometres of land in Queensland or, in other words, more than 30 per cent of this state.

Native title is vital for Queensland's pathway to reconciliation and treaty and helps to preserve Indigenous culture, values and traditions. I am proud that my department works alongside Indigenous Queenslanders such as the Kurtijar people to formally recognise and celebrate their deep connection to country. Successive Queensland governments have returned more than 6.25 million hectares of land to their traditional owners under the state's own Indigenous land legislation introduced under a Labor government in 1991. That legislation gives traditional owners inalienable freehold title to their land—land that cannot be sold and that is held forever for future generations.

I can also advise the House that consultation is well underway on the proposal to rename the iconic Fraser Island to its Indigenous name, K'gari. We have actively worked with the Butchulla people to recognise the cultural significance of K'gari. On the Path to Treaty, recognising Indigenous language through proposed changes to place names like K'gari demonstrates our government's commitment to truth-telling and reconciliation.

The Palaszczuk government will continue to work with First Nations people to formally rename insensitive sites. Currently, consultation is open on proposals to rename Black Gin Creek near Longreach to Watyakan Creek, as well as renaming Blackfellows Creek, south of Cairns, to its traditional Yidiny name of Bana Gindarja. All of this work is important and as a government we will continue to work in collaboration with First Nations people on the Path to Treaty and reconciliation.

Path to Treaty

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (10.11 am): Today we mark a significant step on the journey towards reconciliation, towards working to right some of the wrongs of the past and to supporting the aspirations and ambitions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. As environment minister I have had the privilege of learning from and working with many First Nations communities and leaders—from the historic land handback of the Daintree to the Eastern Kuku Yalanji people to creating new Koombumerri ranger positions in the community I am proud to represent.

Last week, through our Reef Joint Field Management Program, 16 Indigenous rangers from 10 traditional owner groups took part in diver training to help them look after sea country. The open water and advanced diver training means they will conduct reef health and impact surveys, reef rehabilitation, crown-of-thorns starfish surveillance and visitor infrastructure maintenance. For 36-year-old Girramay ranger Simon Muriata, it is a necessary step to continue the work of his ancestors in protecting the Great Barrier Reef. He said—

Looking after the reef is really important. It is not just about looking after our lands but our culture as well. The reef holds our storylines, our cultural sites.

First Nations connection to country, histories, laws and spiritualities has continued for more than 65,000 years. By listening and forging a partnership founded on respect, we have been able to make significant strides including: returning land to traditional owners on Cape York; joint management of a number of national parks such as Boodjamulla and Lawn Hill; acknowledging the traditional names of significant places like K'gari; doubling our commitment to Indigenous land and sea rangers; supporting more than 130 First Nations jobs through our Reef Assist program; and helping the next generation of First Nations leaders share their experience, make connections and receive valuable mentorship.

We have an uncomfortable shared history in this state—one that we need to tell the truth about. These actions will not change everything, but they help on our path towards reconciliation and our government's commitment towards treaty.

MOTION

Suspension of Sessional Orders



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.14 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That so much of the sessional orders be suspended to enable the member for Callide at 5.10 pm today to make a statement not exceeding 20 minutes noting his election.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will conclude today at 11.14 am.

Trad, Ms J, Ministerial Indemnity



Mr CRISAFULLI (10.14 am): My question is to the Premier. Does the Premier support the actions of Jackie Trad using taxpayer's money to keep a CCC report a secret?

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe that the way the question has been put by the Leader of the Opposition is seeking an opinion from the Premier.

Mr SPEAKER: I disagree. It is a question asking about support. Support is not considered an opinion.

Ms PALASZCZUK: As these matters are before the court, I am not commenting any further.

Trad, Ms J, Ministerial Indemnity

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question is to the Attorney-General. What were the circumstances under clause 12 of the guidelines which satisfied the Attorney to provide special approval for taxpayers funding Jackie Trad's bid to keep the CCC report secret?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. As is clear in the guidelines, any advice to me is provided by the independent Crown Solicitor. The recommendation of the Crown Solicitor was that the matter fell within the guidelines and should be approved. I therefore approved it on the basis of the Crown Solicitor's advice.

Torres Strait

Ms LUI: My question is of the Premier and Minister for the Olympics. Will the Premier update the House on the Palaszczuk government's commitment to First Nations communities like those in the Torres Strait?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Cook for her question. This will be the first time our cabinet has met in the Torres Strait. While there was a meeting there during the time of the previous Labor government in 2011, this will be the first time our cabinet goes to the Torres Strait. The cabinet will have the opportunity to hear firsthand from people in the Torres Strait. We will be advertising deputations so that members and organisations can come and meet with ministers. We look forward to going up to the Torres Strait. We had planned to go there a couple of years ago but, of course, COVID hit and we thought it best to wait until it was much safer for everyone involved.

It will not be my first time visiting the Torres Strait; I love going there to see the work of the member for Cook. We on this side of the House are extremely pleased that, for the first time ever, a Torres Strait Islander woman is represented in this House. She is representing her people and doing a remarkable job. We all know that we have to continue to invest in some of the most remote communities in our state. On Mer Island we are committing \$7 million to upgrade facilities. The local school is a testament to our education department and our health department. We provide services to some of the most remote communities not just in Queensland but on the planet. I am proud of the work that the local member is doing.

We have also put in place a \$40 million joint program to protect five islands to make them more resilient to rising sea levels. There was \$15 million for the seawall at Boigu Island which was finished earlier this year. There will be a \$50 million redevelopment of the Thursday Island Hospital. I look forward to opening that with the health minister and the local member when we are there in September.

As I said, there is \$7 million to Mer Island. There will be a \$15 million upgrade to five primary healthcare centres—on York Island, Coconut Island, Stephen Island and St Pauls Community. There is \$13 million to the Saibai Island community safety and security facility. Drinking water is very important, and there is \$12 million to upgrade drinking water. I remember that we went with the mayor to look at the need for that money. We are making sure that people have good access to clean drinking water across our state no matter where they live. I am looking forward to going up there and visiting. The cabinet is also very enthusiastic about attending there with the member for Cook.

Trad, Ms J, Ministerial Indemnity

Mr NICHOLLS: My question is to the Attorney-General. The Attorney referred to the indemnity guidelines 40 times in estimates. Queenslanders have not seen an indemnity approval of the type given to former deputy premier Trad in living memory. Is it correct that the only guideline the Attorney followed was clause 12, saying that the Attorney does not have to follow the guidelines when approving Queenslanders pay for Jackie Trad to keep a CCC report secret?

Ms Fentiman: What was the question?

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I believe the words used were 'is it true'. It is a factual question. I call the Attorney-General.

Ms FENTIMAN: I am very sorry, but can I get you to repeat it? That was a very longwinded question and I actually do not know what the question was.

Mr SPEAKER: That is absolutely fine. Member for Clayfield, would you mind repeating—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! Just because it is the second time around does not mean that it will not be heard in silence.

Mr NICHOLLS: It may even be better, Mr Speaker. My question is to the Attorney-General. The Attorney referred to the indemnity guidelines 40 times in estimates. Queenslanders have not seen an indemnity approval of the type given to former deputy premier Trad in recent history. Is it correct—sorry, is it true that the only guideline the Attorney followed was clause 12, saying that the Attorney does not have to follow the guidelines when approving that Queenslanders pay for Jackie Trad to keep a CCC report secret?

Ms FENTIMAN: It is true that I made an approval under the guidelines based on the recommendation of the Crown Solicitor.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left!

Job Creation

Ms PEASE: My question is of the Premier and Minister for the Olympics. Will the Premier please update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is leading the nation in job creation?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Lytton. Last week the member for Lytton and I had the great honour of opening the Boathouse at Manly, and that facility will also be used as part of the Olympics. We put in \$1 million and it was able to raise \$6 million through the member's strong advocacy. That is a testament to a really good local community infrastructure facility that will be used right up to the Olympics and post the Olympics.

We know that the federal Labor government and the state Labor government are absolutely committed to growing the skills that are needed for employment across our state and our nation. When I was speaking to people at the Manly Boathouse and while also attending the Restaurant & Catering Awards—the member for Kawana was there as well—the issues that people raised were the skills in the hospitality industry. This is a critical industry to our state, but it is also a critical issue right across our state and our nation. We have been speaking to many small business owners of cafes and restaurants and they are saying that it is very hard to attract cooks and chefs, front-of-house management staff and hospitality staff. Staffing is a big issue.

As our economy is growing we need to make sure that we have the skilled labour force to support these businesses. They have been very resilient during COVID and they have come through and now they are at the next stage of growing and they need this. I will be representing Queensland at the skills summit that has been called in September. I understand that other premiers and first ministers will be attending as well. Queensland has already done a lot of the hard work in preparing our own Queensland

workforce strategy that the Minister for Skills Development, myself and the cabinet have been working on. We look forward to launching that closer to the skills summit. I applaud the Prime Minister for his initiative in bringing business, industry, community and government together and unions to talk about—

Ms Bates interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Correct.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is like an accord where you actually include everybody and you consult and you put Australians and Queenslanders first.

Trad, Ms J, Ministerial Indemnity

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for McConnel, it is not helpful.

Mr BLEIJIE: My question is to the Attorney-General. In estimates the Attorney wrongly claimed on six occasions that the Premier had approved legal indemnity for Jackie Trad. Why did the Attorney give incorrect answers in 20 minutes of estimates hearings and then take 48 hours to correct the record?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for the question. I am not the first minister to, after reviewing the transcript, clarify answers given in estimates. In fact, the former attorney-general did just that in 2014. It is pretty commonplace for ministers to correct the record. I am required under the standing orders to correct the record within 48 hours. I did just that. There is nothing to see here, to use the words of the former attorney-general.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms FENTIMAN: As the former attorney-general said in this House, 'There is nothing new here.' They were his words talking about legal indemnity. Let me just say—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members, I am having difficulty hearing the Attorney-General and that means Hansard is also having difficulty hearing the Attorney-General.

Ms FENTIMAN: Thank you, Mr Speaker. There is absolutely nothing unusual about a former minister seeking legal indemnity. There is absolutely nothing new about a minister correcting the record. I will tell members what is pretty new: a former prime minister swearing himself in secretly to a bunch of portfolios. That is pretty extraordinary. That is pretty new. Since 2006 there have been 69 indemnities granted to both sides of parliament, a huge number of them on that side of the House.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Members, the Attorney may have strayed briefly, but she is certainly answering the question now and I would like to hear the answer to that question.

Ms FENTIMAN: Of course, it is widely reported that the former attorney-general and the former premier Campbell Newman refused to apologise in a defamation case, costing taxpayers half a million dollars, because the former attorney-general—widely regarded as the worst attorney-general we have ever seen—would not apologise for making outrageous statements. For those opposite to come in here and try to claim that it is somehow extraordinary for a former minister to get an indemnity—

Mr Lister: It's Jackie Trad!

Ms FENTIMAN:—and for a minister to clarify the record is absolutely outrageous. They have form on this issue. Half of their front bench have had an indemnity. This matter is still before the courts and it is not appropriate to comment further.

Mr Lister interjected.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! Member for Southern Downs, there is no need for those kinds of interjections. You are warned under the standing orders.

Flood Recovery

Mr MADDEN: My question is of the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure. Can the Deputy Premier outline to the House how the Palaszczuk government is supporting Queenslanders to build back better from this year's disaster season and is the Deputy Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Ipswich West for his question and for all of the work and support that he has given to residents in his community who were affected by the rain events and flooding of this last summer. Queensland is very fortunate to be served by our Queensland Reconstruction Authority, one of the first standing and world-best reconstruction authorities. Few places are as disaster prone as Queensland is and that is why the QRA works with government and local government to make sure that after each disaster we build back better so that the next disaster event has less impact than the one before it.

It is fitting that after historic floods this year we delivered a massive package of disaster funding in conjunction with the Commonwealth government. In fact \$224 million of that funding has now been paid out. The component of the fund that I am most proud of though is the Resilient Housing Fund where we are working with residents to raise their homes to protect them from flooding, to retrofit them so that they can bounce back faster from flooding events or to buy them back where there are not alternatives. I can advise the House that 90 properties have now been approved for buybacks and the process now is to work with those homeowners to agree a possible value. Again I say it is only possible thanks to the hard work of our QRA—the QRA that the LNP sought to abolish while they were in government.

I would also like to take a moment to correct the parliamentary record. On multiple occasions over the last couple of years I accused Scott Morrison of failing at his one job, which was to build a quarantine facility. I have since learned that he was secretly failing at four different jobs and I apologise for inadvertently misleading the House. It does start to explain a bit of what was going on back then though. Remember when he came a week after the floods to announce it was a disaster? Well, he was very, very busy pretending to have all of those other jobs. Remember when one day he rejected our flood assistance and then the next day approved it? The first day he was pretending to be the finance minister, overnight he consulted with himself as the health minister and the resources minister and then the next day he overruled himself as the Prime Minister. While the LNP grapple with all their different personalities, the Palaszczuk government will continue to support Queenslanders as they recover from these floods and make sure that their homes are even more resilient next time.

Trad, Ms J, Ministerial Indemnity

Mr JANETZKI: My question is to the Attorney-General. It has been 13 days since the Attorney refused to say how much has been spent on the former deputy premier's second indemnity. Why won't the Attorney reveal how much Queenslanders have paid so far for Jackie Trad to keep a CCC report secret?

Ms FENTIMAN: As I have said on multiple occasions, the matter is still before the court, costs have not been finalised, a costs order has not been made so it is impossible at this point to give an accurate reflection of costs in the matter.

Water Infrastructure

Mr HEALY: My question is to the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment. Will the Treasurer update the House on the Palaszczuk government's commitment to producing the water infrastructure needed to support the great Queensland lifestyle and is the Treasurer aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Cairns for his question. He knows how important water security is in the Far North of our state, which is why he advocated so strongly to deliver on water security for Cairns and his community. I was delighted to be up there last month with the member for Cairns, the member for Barron River and also the water minister to confirm our budget commitment of \$107.5 million to provide water supply, security and certainty for the Far North and for the people of Cairns and I want to thank the member for Cairns for advocating for that. We are also delivering water security for the Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct near Townsville, again a project strongly advocated for by the member for Mundingburra. I want to thank him for that.

We are undertaking important technical studies on the water infrastructure needed to build more pumped hydro as well in Queensland. That is what our government is doing: Cairns, Townsville, residential, community funding for water, industrial funding and, of course, pumped hydro, the big key to unlocking renewable energy storage in Queensland.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the member for Nanango. She has asked me about dams. The question was from this side, not that side, but I will take them from anywhere. I was stunned on the weekend to read the Leader of the Opposition suddenly becoming an advocate for detailing 'a costed plan for water security'. That is what he wanted—a costed plan for water security. This from the party that gave us the fake Bradfield scheme. Somewhere along the road from Mundingburra to Broadwater back to Brisbane where the Leader of the Opposition now lives—in Brisbane, in our capital—he took a diversion on the way to Damascus and had a conversion. He has seen the light. He wants to fully cost water projects, after he ran around with the shadow cabinet in the lead-up to the last election talking about the fake Bradfield scheme. It was all revealed in the costings: a \$15 billion project to which they allocated \$20 million—only \$14.98 billion short. Missed it by that much. If you are following the transparency and accountability of the LNP, you know they say anything to the people of Queensland and deliver nothing.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DICK: And there is the Leader of the Opposition shamelessly saying that the government needs to fully cost water projects when they missed it by \$14.98 billion after sprinkling their snake oil all around Queensland for two years in the lead-up to the election.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr DICK: You can sing out as much as you like, Leader of the Opposition, because Queenslanders are working you out. They are working you out.

Mr SPEAKER: Through the chair.

Mr DICK: This shadow Leader of the Opposition, a shadow of a leader, talks a big game but never delivers.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: A reminder to all members that comments will be directed through the chair or warnings will be issued.

Trad, Ms J, Ministerial Indemnity

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My question is to the Premier. During estimates the Attorney wrongly claimed the Premier had signed off on Jackie Trad's legal indemnity and could not initially remember if she had approved a second indemnity for Ms Trad to keep a CCC report secret. Was the Premier advised before the Attorney signed off on a second round of taxpayers indemnity for her factional mate?

Mr SPEAKER: Can I ask that the tail of that question be re-worded because I believe there is unnecessary language in that question.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will start again.

Mr SPEAKER: No, I do not need you to start again.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members. I do not need any assistance from the House. I ask that the question component be re-worded.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: To the Premier: was the Premier advised before the Attorney signed off on a second round of taxpayers indemnity for Jackie Trad?

Ms PALASZCZUK: As the member is a former lawyer, the member may wish to look at the legal indemnity guidelines which the Attorney-General followed in full.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members. Member for Nanango, I had given you some guidance earlier. You are warned under the standing orders. The Leader of the Opposition will cease his interjections.

Advancing Clean Energy Schools

Mr SULLIVAN: My question is to the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. Can the minister please update the House on the rollout of the Advancing Clean Energy Schools program and the Palaszczuk government's commitment to 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030 and advise if there are any alternative approaches?

Ms GRACE: It is a good question. I know that the member for Stafford is delighted with the more than 1,400 solar panels that have been installed in seven schools in his electorate, including 802 panels at Wavell State High School which we visited recently. It was great to be there when we announced that every school classroom, library and staff room were fully air conditioned right throughout the state.

On Friday in Canberra I was at the education minister's committee meeting and it was extraordinary how many of them could not get over the fact that in Queensland not only have we air-conditioned every school but also we have solar panelled more schools than what we went to the election with. It is an extraordinary outcome. We have provided a \$168 million injection in clean energy for Queensland schools: 200,000 panels in 912 schools installed on budget, on target—in fact, it is a little under budget which is even better when one considers that at the moment building costs have been going through the roof.

We went with our original target of 180,000 panels in 872 schools and we surpassed it. We know that this is contributing to the Palaszczuk government's target to use 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030. This will save schools about \$26 million in electricity costs per year. Imagine this: the solar panels that we have put on school roofs could power over 25,000 homes, which is about the size of the Gladstone local government area. That is extraordinary. It is great to see those panels installed throughout Queensland: in Everton, 2,000 panels; in Nanango, 3,100 panels at 22 schools; in Coomera, more than 3,000 panels at 13 schools; in Toowoomba South, 1,900 panels at nine schools. It really is extraordinary.

The member also asked about alternative policies. It would be nice if we saw any passion for alternative policies in this area from those opposite because there was nothing when it came to clean energy or solar panels on school roofs. In terms of their alternative policy when it came to air conditioning, if they had been elected they would not have finished the job until 2028 while we finished it two months ahead of schedule in 2022, which is an extraordinary effort. We know that those opposite come in here with grand ideas but all they support is fake Bradfield schemes, fake unions and even fake federal ministers.

Crime and Corruption Commission, Legislative Reform

Ms SIMPSON: My question is to the Premier. Following Peter Carne's win to keep a CCC report secret, will the Premier introduce legislation to ensure that the CCC can continue to report transparently to the people of Queensland?

Ms PALASZCZUK: The premise of the member's question is false. A Court of Appeal decision was handed down and there is a period in which there may be an appeal. I am not commenting to jeopardise those proceedings.

Health Infrastructure

Mr SKELTON: My question is of the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Can the minister inform the House how the government is investing in improved health infrastructure and on any challenges to service delivery as a result of federal policy settings?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for Nicklin for his question. Recently, it was wonderful to be in his electorate with the cabinet and to visit the Nambour General Hospital, where we are investing \$86.2 million for a redevelopment that will see almost a doubling of bed capacity, going from 137 to 255 beds by 2023. That increased bed capacity and the other improvements that are being delivered will help tackle the increased demand for health services in the region, which we know has a growing community. Already, the redevelopment has seen a new purpose-built renal dialysis unit, more mental health beds and a new medical imaging department.

The day after we were at the hospital, they started pulling down Building A, I think it is called, which is where the new emergency department will be built. It is very exciting to think of the new facilities that will be there. There are so many, including increased capacity of emergency care, increased capacity of wards for surgical and medical patients, a new same-day rehabilitation unit, the refurbishment of cancer care services, a new central sterilising unit, and a new courtyard and drop-off

zone located near the emergency department. Of course, this is on top of our \$9.78 billion investment across the next six years, as announced in this year's budget, including the new Bundaberg hospital, Coomera hospital and Toowoomba hospital and a further 11 hospital expansions including in Cairns, Ipswich, Logan, Townsville, Hervey Bay, Mackay, the Gold Coast, Brisbane and, of course, Redcliffe.

We know that investing in the public health system alone will not take pressure off the system. We know we need to work in partnership with the federal government to deal with the primary healthcare sector. There are many reports, including today, around bulk-billing and the expectations that bulk-billing may get down to as low as 30 per cent in the next couple of years. That will put further pressure on affordable and accessible health care in the community. When people stop looking after their health and stop going to their GP, they end up with chronic complex health conditions, which means they end up in our EDs and in our hospitals.

I welcome the commitment of the new federal health minister, Minister Butler. Even the AMA has said, 'We do think the new health minister gets it. He is listening.' It is wonderful to hear the AMA recognising that. It is amazing how, in such a short period, the new Labor health minister can achieve so much when apparently we did have two health ministers. You would think that with a two-for-one deal we would get something good but, quite honestly, for two we got nothing. It fell on deaf ears. They failed when it came to COVID. They failed when it came to investing in our primary healthcare system. We welcome the new federal Labor government.

East Brisbane State School, Gabba Redevelopment

Dr MacMAHON: My question is for the Deputy Premier. With regards to architect-led consortiums recently being asked to submit proposals for the Gabba rebuild, what details have been included in that design brief, when will they be made publicly available and is the protection of East Brisbane State School a key design criteria?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for South Brisbane for her question. As we have said repeatedly, we are working through the process of determining what the design for the Gabba is in more specifics and that will then determine what the implications are for East Brisbane State School. At that time we will be able to consult with the community regarding options from there. I understand the education minister, who is leading that engagement, has a meeting with the school community later today. We will continue to work through exactly what the plans for the Gabba mean for East Brisbane State School. I will be happy to advise the member of the outcome of that work once it is available.

Path to Treaty

Mr McCALLUM: My question is of the Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. Will the minister please advise the House on what the next steps are on our path to treaty?

Mr CRAWFORD: I thank the member for Bundamba for the question. I acknowledge him as an assistant minister in this House and also as a proud Gubbi Gubbi man with over 6,000 years of genealogy tracing back to the Sunshine Coast. As earlier announced by the Premier, Mick Gooda, Michael Lavarch and Sallyanne Atkinson, who worked on the Treaty Advancement Committee, will continue to work on the Independent Interim Body, the IIB, which will embark on about 12 to 18 months of workload. I am pleased to advise the House of another seven members who will be joining those three.

After in excess of 100 expressions of interest from Queenslanders, the seven members joining the IIB are: Bianca Beetson, a Kabi Kabi and Wiradjuri woman based in Brisbane who has extensive experience in the First Nations art and culture sector; Seleena Blackley, a young Kalutungu and Moa Island woman and a youth advocate and cultural facilitator for Save the Children, Mount Isa; Cheryl Buchanan, a Kooma woman based in South-West Queensland who has extensive experience in cultural advocacy, including with the Indigenous Advisory Group with the State Library of Queensland and who is also a former Treaty Working Group member; Aaron Fa'aoso, a Torres Strait Islander man, actor, film and television writer, director and producer; Marg O'Donnell, a non-Indigenous woman based in Brisbane who has extensive board and public service experience, including as a former director-general responsible for Aboriginal affairs; Ray Rosendale, a Kuku Yalanji man based in Cairns who has extensive experience, including as a First Peoples cultural adviser to the Australian Navy; and Natalie Seigel-Brown, a non-Indigenous woman based in Brisbane who is currently a commissioner of the Australian Productivity Commission with oversight over the Closing the Gap agreement and school reform.

This group has a very important job ahead of them. Primarily, their role over at least the next four months will be to co-design with the government the truth telling and healing inquiry to chronicle the history of this state. They will also co-design, again with the government, the treaty institute legislation that will come back to this House. The group will help to establish a path to treaty office within the Queensland government so that we can make the necessary changes across the government and then work towards establishing the formal treaty institute, which we expect to stand up within 12 to 18 months.

Katter's Australian Party, Staffing

Mr KATTER: My question is to the Premier. On 23 October 2019 the Premier told this House that she would publish the full costs of legal advice provided to defend against allegations of corruption, bribery and contempt after she threatened to withdraw and then withdrew parliamentary staff provided to the KAP. Can the Premier advise if this figure was indeed released and what was the full cost of this defence to Queensland taxpayers?

Ms PALASZCZUK: These matters were in the last parliament. I can advise that legal indemnity guidelines were followed.

Arts, First Nations

Mrs GILBERT: My question is of the Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts. Will the minister provide an update on how *Creative together 2020-2030: a 10-year roadmap for arts, culture and creativity in Queensland* is elevating First Nations art?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for Mackay for her question and for her commitment to arts, culture and creativity in Queensland and to our 10-year road map. We know that our stories—who we are, where we come from and the truth of all of that—can be the most powerful thing about us. Certainly as we move along the path to treaty, that power will be incredibly important. Arts, culture and creativity will play a very critical role in all of that—being able to tell our stories in a way that we are able to dissect and accept some of those sometimes uncomfortable truths of our past. That is why the Palaszczuk government in this financial year, at the last budget delivered by the Treasurer, committed a further investment of \$50 million over four years to implement our second action plan of our Creative Together 10-year road map for arts, culture and creativity. That plan and that investment now bring almost \$80 million of new money over the life of the strategy so far, which is a massive commitment to the arts in Queensland.

Creative Together includes a priority to elevate First Nations arts, supporting that notion of a path to treaty. Our first action plan laid the foundations. It established the First Nations Arts and Cultures Panel. It funded four more Indigenous arts centres, including in Coen and in Cherbourg. I recently announced that 25 per cent of all of our arts statutory bodies now are First Nations peoples. Of course, the second action plan will continue to prioritise the elevation of First Nations arts.

We welcome the Albanese Labor government, which is consulting for a new national cultural policy including the goal to recognise and respect the critical place of First Nations stories at the centre of our arts and culture. It is refreshing to have a federal government that has some interest in the arts again. There was an absolute vacuum from the former LNP federal government. It did very little for the arts. It makes you wonder if they had hoped that maybe nobody would even notice that there was an arts industry in Australia. Who knows? Maybe former prime minister Scott Morrison was secretly the arts minister! That would explain everything.

A government member interjected.

Ms ENOCH: I take that interjection—not quite a performance piece, but it might explain a lot of things in terms of being able to actually deliver anything in that space. The Palaszczuk government continues to be committed to the arts in Queensland for a variety of reasons, including our path to treaty.

Minister for Resources

Mr WEIR: My question is to the Minister for Resources. Does the former Wilderness Society campaign manager now working in the environment department wield more influence on resource policy than the minister?

Mr STEWART: I thank the member for the question. No.

Sport and Innovation, First Nations

Mrs McMAHON: My question is to the Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement. Can the minister inform the House about how the Palaszczuk government is working to support Indigenous Queenslanders through sport and innovation and are there any alternative approaches?

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I thank the member for Macalister for the question. I note her genuine commitment and enthusiasm around community sport. As she knows, community sport is often where the raw talent of Queensland's elite athletes of tomorrow first appears. On a day when we are celebrating and acknowledging the way in which the Premier, this government, this parliament and the whole of the Queensland community are coming together to take those first steps on the path to treaty and to set the framework for truth-telling, it is vitally important that we celebrate how we can see First Nations people succeed on great platforms. Sport and innovation are two of those platforms.

I acknowledge that four First Nations athletes, supported by the Queensland Academy of Sport, competed at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. Kingaroy born Taliqua Clancy clinched her second Commonwealth Games silver medal in beach volleyball after also achieving an Olympic silver in Tokyo. QAS supported boxer Alex Winwood, weightlifter Brandon Wakeling and 18-year-old S14 women's 200-metre freestyle swimmer Ruby Storm made their Commonwealth Games debut. I want to congratulate them, and I am sure the House will want to congratulate them as well. All four athletes have potential not only to do their best and show their best as individuals but also to inspire more Indigenous Queenslanders to stay active, healthy and engaged in their communities, in the Queensland community and in the whole of the nation and to be on that international stage proudly as Indigenous people.

That is why the Palaszczuk government is backing initiatives such as the First Nations Sport and Recreation Program and the Deadly Active sport program. We are investing more than \$814,000 in 24 organisations through the First Nations Sport and Recreation Program, and over the next three years there will be \$1.7 million for Deadly Active sport. This is a new approach to helping close the gap and empowering communities to make decisions about the sport and active recreation programs they want and where money should be invested.

Our Advance Queensland Deadly Innovation Strategy is also supporting communities to foster great ideas and to grow innovation and economy. For instance, we have helped the Cherbourg community open the first community owned First Nations IT support centre, with digital skills training and support and eight jobs—and more to come. This a concept that would have never passed muster with the LNP. Not only did they rip \$50 million out of innovation; they also cut \$20 million from the Smart State brand.

(Time expired)

Agriculture Industry

Mr PERRETT: My question is to the Premier. Will secret changes to the environment legislation reported today mean that farmers will be forced to cut the number of livestock they have on a bureaucratic whim?

Government members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, I am still shocked by those revelations today about the former prime minister.

Mr Perrett: It's not funny.

Ms PALASZCZUK: No, it is not funny. It is absolutely not funny—I agree. It raises a whole lot of Constitution related issues, I would imagine.

I am advised that there has been no decision about the final contents or the introduction of any amendments to this bill. I expect the department to consult with all stakeholders—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I am sorry to interrupt, Premier. Members to my left, the Premier is being responsive to the question asked. It is not helpful to the House for there to be continual interjections.

Ms PALASZCZUK: On this side of the House we acknowledge that there is a word 'consultation'—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I did not realise I was being so controversial!

Mr Watts interjected.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Toowoomba North and Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

A government member interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Direct your comments through the chair.

Ms PALASZCZUK: There will be full consultation unlike under the Newman government where there was very little consultation.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members, I am having difficulty hearing the Premier.

Mr Janetzki interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Toowoomba South, you are continually interjecting. You are warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Ask the member for Clayfield about your royalty increase—there you go.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock! Premier, it would be helpful if you could direct your comments through the chair as well.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The members opposite might want to discuss with the member for Clayfield when the member for Clayfield did something about royalties in this House, as I recall.

Mr Dick interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right—and cut funding to seniors and a whole range of other things.

A government member: Cut biosecurity as well.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will take that interjection. That is right. When we are dealing with issues such as foot-and-mouth disease we are increasing the number of biosecurity officers. Those opposite cut biosecurity officers across Queensland when they were in government, especially in North Queensland. From memory, they even cut the biosecurity office in Townsville.

Mrs Gerber: This is embarrassing!

Ms PALASZCZUK: Let me say, member for Currumbin: I doubt we will see you on this side of the House. Perhaps the member for Currumbin can concentrate on her job. I am glad she interjected because I can point out that we are building a satellite hospital in the member's electorate.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, the level of interjection will cease or you will be warned under the standing orders.

Southern Moreton Bay Islands, Transport Infrastructure

Ms RICHARDS: My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Can the minister update the House on transport infrastructure upgrades for the Southern Moreton Bay Islands?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the member for Redlands for her question and for her commitment to her Southern Moreton Bay Islanders and her terrific work as chair of the War on Wrecks Taskforce, doing not just magnificent work in our waterways around the Southern Moreton Bay Islands but right across the state. I thank the member for her commitment.

It is important that we acknowledge certain milestones on such an historic day in terms of our Path to Treaty. Our commitment has been to work with First Nations communities across this state within our departments. I acknowledge that TransLink and Transport and Main Roads have worked very closely with First Nations communities with the rollout of our smart ticketing program, for instance. We worked with artist Elisa Jane Carmichael who designed the motifs for the smart ticketing trial which will unite 18 different public transport system ticketing processes into one. It will be the biggest geographic area for one ticketing system in the world. We work with our First Nations communities not just on that but on the cape where we work with Indigenous road building businesses. It is very important that we have these partnerships.

We are currently delivering a \$44 million commitment to ferry terminal upgrades for the Southern Moreton Bay Islands because of the hard work of the member for Redlands and her advocacy for them. For those members of the community, getting a ferry is essential to get to services and to do the ordinary

things that people on the mainland take for granted. I note that the member for Redlands recently attended the float out of the new Russell Island terminal and will soon be attending the float out of the Macleay Island terminal as works ramp up. This is great news for the Southern Moreton Bay Islands residents as we see improved public transport infrastructure in their area. These ferry terminal upgrades are happening because of this government's commitment to better public transport in the Southern Moreton Bay Islands.

This work is being undermined by the work of disgraced Mayor of the Redlands, Karen Williams—an LNP member, I might add. Amity Trader runs a ferry service from the mainland to Coochiemudlo Island. To do that they pay landing fees to the council. I was shocked to learn that under the council and the disgraced mayor these landing fees have spiked by 88 per cent for the financial year, with more exorbitant price increases to come. The landing fees are jumping from \$72,000 last financial year to \$136,000 this financial year and then to a whopping \$346,000 in 2025. That is a 500 per cent increase. This blatant revenue grab by the disgraced mayor ought to be reversed if she has any respect for Southern Moreton Bay Islanders because inevitably this increase will be passed on to them to pay as cost-of-living imposts.

M1 Upgrade, Signage

Mr CRANDON: My question without notice is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Under the minister's watch there is now over \$3.5 billion in budget blowouts, projects are two years delayed from even starting and union influence on job sites is at record levels. Does the minister acknowledge a Gold Coast sign—and I table a photo of the sign—sending motorists the wrong way is an indication of the state government heading in the wrong direction?

Tabled paper: Image of inaccurate transport sign [\[1141\]](#).

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Gesticulating is not helping either.

Mr BAILEY: I welcome this ham-fisted dixer from the member for Coomera. There would be zero chance of a contractor getting a sign wrong on an M1 project under the LNP because they did not build any. Not a single new dollar was spent on the M1 in the three years they were in power. The people using the M1 are getting \$5 billion worth of investment. Let me say that again: people are getting \$5 billion worth of M1 upgrades under this government and he is whinging about a sign that a contractor got wrong. Come on! No wonder the member's margin has dropped from 73 per cent to 51 per cent. He is lazy and he misleads. The question was full of inaccuracies. We have our seventh record commitment to road and rail upgrades. We have a \$29.7 billion commitment to road and rail upgrades, including \$5 billion for the M1.

Mr Crandon interjected.

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

Mr BAILEY: We are not ignoring the M1 like the LNP did. They had three years and three budgets to spend a single new dollar on the M1. What did they do? They ignored it. There was nothing about the interchanges. There was nothing about the Gateway Arterial. There was nothing about the southern area. They did nothing for the M1.

They have the hide to have the lazy member for Coomera get up here and talk about a contractor getting a sign wrong. If ever there is a paucity of integrity across there, we have the member for Coomera's performance and also the Leader of the Opposition who will not apologise for misleading people about the laptop—five or six months of complaining about the laptop, goons, raids, all those things. When he was found out, the Leader of the Opposition squibbed it and ducked it. He is as weak as water. He would not apologise and would not acknowledge that. They made a lot of it. He talks about integrity but he cannot walk the walk. He talks about it but he cannot do it. There were lots of press conferences and lots of talking about the laptop in here, but he did not acknowledge that it was dishonest and it was misleading this House.

Here we have the same old lack of integrity in terms of the little questions from the backbenchers but also from the leader who talks about integrity but could not walk it if he tried. He has constantly misled this House when it comes to the laptop matter. He should apologise if he has any integrity whatsoever. That is what a real leader would do. He is too weak and he will always be too weak.

Flood Recovery

Ms PUGH: My question is of the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement. Can the minister please update the House on the Palaszczuk government's nation-leading response to our flood rebuild and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr de BRENNI: As members know, Queensland was devastated by the floods that struck this state throughout summer and autumn. More than 7,000 homes were damaged by flood across 39 local government areas. In particular, I want to acknowledge the member for Mount Ommaney. Many hundreds of those homes are in the electorate that she represents—approximately 400, in fact. I want to acknowledge her because she, like so many other members of this House, rolled up her sleeves and got out on the ground and supported her constituents in an incredibly tough time. I want to acknowledge as well her federal counterpart, the member for Oxley—the new Speaker of the Australian parliament—who was out there day after day with his sleeves rolled up supporting members of that community.

Many more members of this House were out there supporting members of their community. The member for Bundamba was out there supporting his community, as were the members for Toohey, Miller, McConnel, Ipswich West, Bulimba, Lytton, Murrumba Downs, Maryborough, Bancroft, Pine Rivers, Waterford, Kurwongbah and Stafford. I thank them for their significant efforts in the immediate response, now in the recovery and on to the rebuild.

Ms Camm: What about the members on this side of the House?

Mr de BRENNI: I note the impacts on communities represented by those opposite. I note the efforts of all MPs in assisting their communities. It is that sense of Queensland spirit that brought out the best in people in this state, as thousands upon thousands of families' homes were inundated during record-breaking severe weather.

In the immediate aftermath, the Queensland government provided emergency funding of more than \$32.5 million in financial assistance, benefiting over 100,000 Queenslanders; \$50,000 for Structural Assistance Grants to make homes safe, secure and habitable; grants of up to \$75,000 for primary producers to get them back on their feet; up to \$50,000 for affected small businesses and not-for-profit organisations; and \$20,000 for sporting and community clubs to get them back up and running. I want to acknowledge the Minister for Communities and Housing and Minister for Digital Economy. I am advised that every single Queenslanders who approached her department for emergency housing—every single one of them—was supported.

It is our Resilient Homes Fund that is the largest household disaster rebuilding program in this nation since Cyclone Tracy struck Darwin in 1974. This program and its rollout is far more complex. The Resilient Homes Fund is a joint operation in conjunction with local governments, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority, the Department of Energy and Public Works, insurance companies, the building and construction industry and the Australian government.

I want to acknowledge the Australian Minister for Emergency Management, who has been on the phone nearly every day. The member asked about alternative approaches. Not once did his predecessor, Senator Bridget McKenzie, ring and ask about the experience of Queenslanders impacted by floods.

(Time expired)

Resilient Homes Fund

Mr McDONALD: My question is to the Deputy Premier. Estimates revealed 76 families in the Lockyer Valley and 37 in the Somerset Regional Council area affected by the February 2022 rainfall event have had their lives on hold for almost six months while waiting for a decision on their application to the Resilient Homes Fund. How much longer do these families have to wait?

Mr SPEAKER: I call the Deputy Premier. You have one minute to respond.

Dr MILES: I thank the member for his question. As I sought to explain at estimates, the process for identifying which homes should be raised, which should be retrofitted and which should be bought back is an iterative process working with home owners to determine the best possible option often in consultation with their insurers and their builders. That does not stop any home owner from progressing with immediate repairs to make their home livable again. We certainly encourage them to proceed with that.

As I advised the House earlier today, 90 have now been approved for the buyback program. We will proceed from here to work with them to identify an appropriate value for those properties. For those that are being raised or retrofitted, it will take some time to identify contractors, to get the building work done and to pay those builders.

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

MOTION

Business Program



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.14 am): I move—

1. That all remaining stages of the Trading (Allowable Hours) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill be completed by 5.55 pm on Thursday, 18 August 2022 with the minister being called on to reply by no later than 4.35 pm (one hour and 20 minutes before the completion time); and
2. If all stages of the bill listed in 1. have not been completed by 5.55 pm on Thursday, 18 August 2022, Mr Speaker:
 - (a) shall call on a minister to table any explanatory notes to their circulated amendments, any statement of compatibility with human rights or any statement relating to an override declaration;
 - (b) shall put all remaining questions necessary to pass the bill without further debate;
 - (c) may interrupt non-specified business or debate on a bill or motion to complete the requirements of the motion;
 - (d) will complete all stages required by this motion notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders.

I welcome all members back to the Queensland parliament. It has been a few weeks since we sat here in this chamber, but in those weeks the Palaszczuk government has been getting on with the job of delivering for Queenslanders.

In addition, we have seen the annual budget estimates process take place in the old red chamber just a few metres down the hall from this chamber. This annual event is looked forward to by ministers, departments, the opposition, the crossbench, advisers and even the media, as it is the opportunity to talk about the budget—and what a wonderful budget it is.

This week we will see the debate of the budget reports. As we all know, each of the committees developed and tabled their report into the annual budget, with the Economics and Governance Committee tabling two reports—one for the Appropriation Bill and one for the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill. Pursuant to the standing orders, each of these reports will be debated this week for up to one hour each and will be debated in the order of the estimates hearings. I am sure it will be an interesting debate.

Once completed, the House will consider the Trading (Allowable Hours) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill until it is completed, or by 5.55 pm on Thursday, as outlined in the business program motion before the House. If the bill is finished before then, the House will continue with other items on the *Notice Paper*.


Members would be aware that I moved a motion this morning to enable the member for Callide to make his first speech to this House at 5.10 pm today, ahead of the debate of private members' bills at 5.30 pm. This week will also contain the usual matters of public interest, private members' statements, debate of committee reports and question time. This parliament will also witness an historic event today at lunchtime, with a major event occurring on the Speaker's Green—the Path to Treaty event, which I encourage all members to attend.

Let us take a moment to look at what happened last sitting. A business program motion was moved and agreed to by the House to time limit the consideration in detail for the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill for 1 hour and 30 minutes post the conclusion of the Treasurer's reply speech. It is not surprising that those opposite took objection to this time frame. They said that they 'are very happy to stay as long as it takes to debate'. They went on to say—

The clauses can be unpacked during consideration in detail. Indeed, the LNP will be unpacking and challenging aspects of those. We do not want that part of this debate to be guillotined, and therefore we will be opposing this motion.

What does the record reflect? It shows that the second reading and the Treasurer's reply speech concluded at 4.48 pm on the Friday—a reasonable time. This is after all members of the House were given an opportunity to address the cognate debate of the appropriation bills. Then consideration in

detail commenced at 4.49 pm, with the third reading and long title questions being put at 5.59 pm with no dissent. The House then rose at 6 pm. This means that consideration in detail went for approximately one hour—within the 1 hour and 30 minutes that the House set. There was no-one cut off. No guillotine occurred. All members were provided an opportunity to unpack the clauses. This shows the business program is working and I thank all members for working within the program. It is great to see the business program working as designed. With those few words, I commend the motion to the House.


 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (11.17 am): I was almost set to jump up and talk about how wonderful it is to see the bipartisanship continuing when it comes to the business program motion until that little gibe at the end by the Leader of the House.

I will comment on the last few words of the Leader of the House. Just because the opposition chose not to use the full hour and a half does not mean that we would not have or could not have given the opportunity. We will continue to request 'as long as necessary'. It is the democratic right of every member of this House to come into this chamber to represent their community and have their say. We will continue to say that.

What I will say about the business program motion this week is that, yes, it appears a level of bipartisan negotiation continues. Yes, true, it is following the committee reports on the appropriation bills, and that is a fairly set standard agenda for this first week following budget week. I also acknowledge and thank the Leader of the House for accommodating the maiden speech of the new member for Callide, and we on this side certainly look forward to being in the chamber this afternoon at 10 past five to hear that contribution from that fine young gentleman.

I also note that we are returning to a more traditional sitting week: tonight there will be private members' bills debated, there will be committee reports on Thursday, and it looks like there will be at least one bill completed this week. I also acknowledge that our request for additional time for consideration in detail on the Trading (Allowable Hours) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill was agreed to, and we on this side thank the Leader of the House for that accommodation.

In wrapping up my remarks this morning I will say that, whilst these allocations of time will continue to be debated and whilst there will continue to be guillotines, one of the frustrations of the opposition is that whilst these are guillotined we often find government members moving motions without notice. These are often politically motivated motions. Occasionally there are multiple motions each week which chew up one or two extra hours of time that could be spent debating legislation and could remove the guillotines we are seeing on these debates, therefore not necessitating these kinds of debates in the first place. I want to note that, whilst there are guillotines and the government continues to move political notices of motion and motions throughout the week, that is time that could be better spent on legislative debate. That time would be better spent on committee reports when they have to make way. It could be better spent on doing the general business of the parliament. I conclude where I started: we on this side will always defend the right of each member—whether they choose to or not—to speak on any piece of legislation and consideration in detail.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (11.21 am): That is about as close to a bipartisan speech as I have heard in these business program motions with the exception of the comment from the member for Glass House that, while the government entertains opposition motions, we should not move motions ourselves, which seems to be fairly contradictory. The parliament is a dynamic place and issues need to be raised in a dynamic way. Occasionally that means the government will move a motion, and that is ordinary parliamentary procedure that goes back probably to 1860, I suspect.

I look forward to the speech of the new member for Callide. I note that the former member for Callide, who is in Canberra, is already raising a similar situation. He railed against speeches being kept to 10 minutes—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Come back to the motion, Minister.

Mr BAILEY:—while only taking eight minutes for his speech himself. We look forward to the first speech of the member for Callide. That is as close to a bipartisan speech as I have heard. We should get on with business.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL


Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation (Parliament) Bill

Economics and Governance Committee, Report

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): The House will consider the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill first and then the Appropriation Bill. The question is—


That the report of the Economics and Governance Committee be adopted.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (11.23 am): It is not often I agree with the member for Kawana, but a few years ago I heard him say that this building is Queensland's pre-eminent heritage building and collectively we have a great responsibility to this parliament. I have not agreed with him since, but those are sentiments that we endorse in the 29th report of the Economics and Governance Committee. I recognise the important role the Speaker and Clerk play in administering this budget, but I also recognise that it is about much more than the simple historic preservation of this incredible building. This building is much more than inert stone, glass and timber: it preserves the living heritage of 162 years of continuous democracy. This legacy and living heritage are not to be taken lightly or for granted. It needs to be supported, modernised and backed by appropriate technology.

At the estimates hearings I made a special effort to recognise not only our secretariat—who do a fantastic job in supporting us—but of course Lindsay and the AV team and the Hansard team. They use that funding to stream our examination of this budget directly to Queenslanders. I know they did a great job, but I did not know that Hansard—who did a great job giving us the transcript so quickly—is using this budget to implement the latest in automatic speech recognition technology to modernise existing processes to enable a quicker turnaround producing our official record. We recognise that all of this goes on behind the scenes and that the parliament is modernising both its processes and physical surrounds.

What I am really disappointed about—this is a particular disappointment—is that in their dissenting report the opposition lodged a simple cut-and-paste list of reservations for both reports 29 and 30 which the Economics and Governance Committee so carefully prepared. This cut-and-paste job about parliamentary appropriations had almost nothing to do with the parliamentary budget. The Appropriation (Parliament) Bill is separate because it is so vital. It had nothing to do with the parliamentary budget, nothing really to do with our hearing and our questions on notice. It shows the disdain the LNP has and seems to show a lack of care for this valuable institution. We deserve better than a simple cut-and-paste job. I call on the LNP to address issues in the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill separately rather than repeat the cut-and-paste job they did for both reports.

I am pleased to report to the parliament that the committee only made one recommendation in their report: that the expenditure for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service as detailed in the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2020 be agreed by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (11.26 am): I too rise to address the Economics and Governance Committee report into the Queensland parliament part of the appropriation. In doing so, let me again begin in a bipartisan way and acknowledge the great work that Mr Speaker, the Clerk of the Parliament and the entire team here do to ensure the ongoing functions of this chamber and the precinct in maintaining—as the member for Logan said—their heritage value, engaging with the broader community—after all, this is their parliament; it is not ours—and ensuring that school groups, tour groups and all sorts of locals and tourists alike can come and enjoy the parliamentary precinct.

I took the opportunity during estimates to drill down a bit to ensure that parliamentary staff are kept safe during Annexe renovations. They will be operating on a day-to-day basis in a construction worksite, and I thank Mr Speaker and the Clerk for their reassurances that everything will be done to not only comply with workplace health and safety requirements but also the wellbeing of those staff in amongst all the work that will be going on. I know that both gentlemen and their teams have also gone to great lengths to assist us as members of parliament during the transition as we operate from various meeting rooms and so on throughout the precinct. We in the opposition certainly want to place on the record our thanks to the parliamentary staff for their ongoing work in this House.

I want to take up the member for Logan's comments about some of the statements of reservation made by the opposition, particularly as they pertain to this appropriation, and to the broader sentiment and some of the reflections made by the Clerk of the Parliament in terms of the operation of committees. I took the opportunity to clarify with the Clerk some of his feedback around the committee structure itself which we have read in various submissions he has made. Perhaps we did not quite see the protection racket we have seen in previous years from deputy chairs—

Mr Stevens: Chairs!

Mr POWELL: Sorry, from the chairs; I stand corrected. Apologies, member for Mermaid Beach. How dare I! We would love it if the deputy chairs could assist us a bit more to ensure we got a few more questions in. Perhaps we did not quite see the protection racket from chairs that we have seen in previous years, but it still raised its head at various points.


The Clerk made a particular point about the role of the committees as they were deemed to have been set up back in 2011 in the review, particularly around their oversight of matters such as public works and accounts. Those comments made by the Clerk certainly give rise to what we in the opposition have been saying—that is, it is well and truly time to have a look at the structure and operations of the committees and determine whether they are living up to the expectations that were set by both parties back in 2011 when we established this new system. I remind people that we do not have an upper house here in Queensland so the committee system has to be robust and it needs to be able to challenge elements of the operation of various ministers and their departments, particularly, as the Clerk said, around public works and accounts.

We also wanted to express our strong view that key integrity bodies, such as the Auditor-General and the Integrity Commissioner, should be tied more closely to the parliament and its committees rather than the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, and that matters such as staffing and budget allocations should not be the decision of the same bodies being held to account by those integrity agencies. Again, that came through a number of committee hearings as part of the estimates process.

We also queried, as we did again today during question time, the amount of taxpayers' money being spent on both the Carne and the Trad matters around the CCC report. It does concern me that the parliament has already had to pay out \$28,000 in those matters. They are taxpayers' dollars that could be far better spent on many other things, and we anticipate that those costs will increase as those matters continue.

I will close by saying that we failed to get the assurances—and I think more importantly the people of Queensland failed to get the assurances—that this government knows what it is doing when it comes to health, housing, youth crime, cost of living and the integrity crises that are gripping this state. I know my shadow ministerial colleagues and other LNP colleagues will unpack these in their contributions over the next few hours.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (11.31 am): I rise to make a contribution to the Economics and Governance Committee's report entitled *2022-23 Budget estimates: Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2022*. At the outset I want to acknowledge and thank the member for Logan, the chair of the Economics and Governance Committee, on another year of fine chairing of the estimates hearing for the Speaker, the Premier, the Treasurer and Minister Hinchliffe. He, like all the chairs, does a tremendous job chairing the committee, not only during the two-week estimates process but throughout the year, ensuring that the people of Queensland and key stakeholders are able to have their say on important legislation and matters which impact them and the wider community. I acknowledge all of the committee members of all of the committees for the work they do. I echo the comments made by the member for Glass House in acknowledging the work of the parliament itself in supporting the elected members in the work they do to represent their communities and the people of Queensland.

The report before the House deals with the parliament appropriations. I note the committee's recommendation that the proposed expenditure be agreed to without amendment. The funding provided to the parliament will ensure that its important independent apolitical work will continue on behalf of the people of Queensland. I note the hearing discussions that were had in relation to the committees and the processes of parliament. I note also the comments made today by the member for Glass House on behalf of the opposition, saying that it is time to review the estimates processes. While discussions are important, they should be held in the context of the facts, and I want to take a moment to put the facts on the record.


In relation to this year's estimates, I have been advised of the following, which I note are approximates. There were approximately 1,233 questions asked during the seven days of hearings. Of the 1,233 questions, I am advised that approximately 298 questions were asked by government members of the parliament and approximately 935 questions were asked by non-government members. This means that non-government members asked over 630 more questions than members of the government. I am further advised that there were around 2,907 minutes of questions throughout the seven days. Approximately 39 per cent of the time utilised for questions was used by government members and approximately 61 per cent of the time utilised for questions was used by non-government members. Let me say that again for the benefit of those opposite: approximately 61 per cent of the time for non-government members and 39 per cent of the time for government members. As Cher said, let us 'turn back time'—and do not worry: I am not going to break out in song.

Government members interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: I know. You are disappointed, aren't you? You would be a lot more disappointed if I sang!

During the 2013 estimates hearings and those dark days of the Newman government, I am advised that approximately 44 per cent of the time was utilised by government members and approximately 56 per cent by non-government members to ask questions. During 2014, approximately 51 per cent was utilised by government members and 49 per cent by non-government members to ask questions. As members will see, this year there was more time utilised by non-government members, which is a positive thing. It means more time for non-government members to ask questions of the executive about the appropriation bills which deliver for all Queenslanders.

We all know that the estimates process does not just happen. It occurs with the support of many people—from departments, advisers and, most importantly, the parliamentary staff who set up the chamber, facilitate the day and record the events of the day in *Hansard* for future generations. On behalf of the Palaszczuk government, we thank all parliamentary staff for their work in supporting the people's house to function.

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (11.35 am): I wish to acknowledge the Parliamentary Service for their support and the wonderful work of the staff during estimates. I particularly mention the Clerk and Mr Speaker for making sure that Parliament House—which I believe is the pre-eminent building in the heritage world of Queensland—is being protected and upgraded with the extra expenditure we are seeing in this parliamentary term. I believe there will be some costs coming through in the following year in terms of other matters that have incomes generated through the Parliamentary Services that will be affected by this year's alterations et cetera, so we will see how that turns out. It is a well-deserved improvement to the parliament and we look forward to the outcomes ASAP.

I share the concerns of the Manager of Opposition Business in relation to the amount of \$28,000 that the Clerk mentioned at estimates was spent in being a party to the Peter Carne matter, which unfortunately has come down in what I believe to be a negative result for the parliament. I can confirm that the Economics and Governance Committee had a brief sojourn to New Zealand several years ago, where the Chief Justice in New Zealand overruled the powers of the parliament in that particular country. The parliament responded by letting the Chief Justice know that they would legislate to overcome her perception that the courts were more powerful than the parliament. I am hoping that, even though there is a cost to this parliament, we do pursue the matter that the parliament is the pre-eminent body for the rule of law in Queensland. We do not want the court's interpretation, whatever that may be, whichever way they may go in these matters, overruling the will and the power of this particular parliament.

In relation to other matters that were raised, the Manager of Opposition Business mentioned the portfolio committee system and that the Clerk advised at estimates that he was disappointed at how the committee system had proceeded following the 2011 bipartisan review. Basically, that is unfortunately the result of a lot of these committee meetings being held in private. His advice was that the original intention was that the portfolio committees—which is basically our alternative to an upper house in a unicameral parliament—should meet in public wherever possible and only move into private when there are issues that need to be considered in private. The reality is that matters are better held in public so they are accountable for the public to see. I think we would all agree that that is a better outcome for the portfolio committee system for the future—as the PCCC does. I note the wonderful chairing of the PCCC by the member for Scenic Rim in these public meetings. That was a paid comment!

Mr Krause: No, it wasn't.

Mr STEVENS: No, it wasn't; it was an independent comment. I correct the record.

I turn to the other matters that I think were important. I took quite a bit of time and consideration by the Economics and Governance Committee to reach a decision on some matters, like the fact that independent bodies, such as the Auditor-General and the Integrity Commissioner, should be more closely aligned, perhaps through legislation, to the portfolio committee system. Basically, now where they are really under the control or direction of the Premier's department it is a bit like Caesar judging Caesar on these matters. The Clerk's advice was that he believed they should be more tied to the portfolio committee system in the future, but that is another matter that we will have to raise. I thank the Clerk and Mr Speaker for their attendance and for their very full explanations to the committee in all matters in relation to the Parliamentary Service. I look forward to a great year ahead, despite the little conundrum that we have about different venues.

Report adopted.

Clauses 1 to 4, as read, agreed to.


Schedule, as read, agreed to.

Appropriation Bill

Economics and Governance Committee, Report

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): The question is—

That the report of the Economics and Governance Committee be adopted.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (11.41 am): I rise to speak to the committee report on the Appropriation Bill 2022 and the budget estimates for 2022-23. The Economics and Governance Committee met for a full 12 hours of hearings to ensure that this committee could examine the budget for the coming year. Truly, we are living in some pretty extraordinary times. The Premier and the Treasurer spoke to our committee and answered questions about the key issues, the strengths and the challenges of the Queensland budget and the Queensland economy. It is clear that our economy is one of the strongest in recovering from the first stages of the impact of COVID-19. We have significant challenges from this success with thousands coming to our state from southern states.

We know that this government backs the services we need. We invest in the services, the roads, the ambulances and the ambulance stations, and especially in the hospitals that we know the LNP did not invest in and would cut if they were drawing up the Queensland budget. Importantly, one of the first questions I put to the Premier was about the continuing challenge of COVID on our economy, our health services and our lifestyle. The Premier briefed the committee on the latest expected modelling, which was tabled, showing that COVID continues to impact Queenslanders and their access to the health service. At that stage, there were some 1,170 patients in our hospitals and thousands of health workers affected with COVID or flu, and 21 Queenslanders had tragically died in the previous 24 hours. The Premier went on to be asked by the member for Hervey Bay about the investment in hospitals, and the Premier spoke about the record investment in hospitals in our state, which I am pleased to say includes a significant investment of 112 additional beds at the Logan Hospital.

These questions relate to important issues that impact all Queenslanders. They are vital to the key question that we were examining: that the expenditure in the budget be agreed to. However, this was not the approach of some of our guest members. Instead, they sought to make disgraceful attacks with no basis in fact. I want to, on behalf of the committee—and I would like to think the whole committee, but certainly at least three members—apologise to Mr Tony Keyes. I recognise that he is a highly respected public servant who had served the Newman LNP government where he was rightfully not criticised. However in the gotcha culture of the LNP, serious questions in our budget and our economy have no place. Instead, we saw pathetic attempts by the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Maroochydore to malign hardworking and highly respected public servants. The member for Maroochydore five times falsely asserted that Mr Keyes worked for the Labor Party, and despite that assertion being contradicted by the Premier in answer to the very first question, she persisted in attempting to undermine the Acting Integrity Commissioner. As chair, I counselled the member to follow the standing orders and not make assertions that were not supported by facts. It is a disgrace that the member for Maroochydore continued to attack Mr Keyes.

The member for Maroochydore was told in no uncertain terms that 23 years ago he was seconded and directed to advise on a single bill for six weeks, but the member persisted. Finally this assertion was made to Mr Keyes directly. As chair, I felt it was important that Mr Keyes had the opportunity to address this slur against his character. Mr Keyes answered—

I have never been a Labor Party staffer. At the relevant time I was an employee of the Central Land Council, which is a Commonwealth statutory authority. The director of the Land Council made my services available and directed me to relocate to then senator Bolkus's office in order to provide legal and policy advice in respect of ...


a single bill—

On the second part of the member's question—

This was the slur against his character—Mr Keyes regretfully had to say, and he should never have to say because he is highly respected—

I would simply say that I have always striven to perform my public duties with utmost professionalism and integrity and in a strictly nonpartisan way. I have done that in my previous roles and I intend to do it in the current role.

One would have thought that this very act of decency and integrity by a hardworking public servant would silence them, but no. The Leader of the Opposition continued to lead with these slurs. I apologise to Mr Keyes. Moreover, I apologise to all of the hardworking public servants who live in fear of slurs against their character from the opposition. If the member for Maroochydore had a single piece of integrity she would apologise to Mr Keyes. The report itself should have contained an apology to Mr Keyes. It is regretful that this incident happened.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.46 am). The process that the member before me refers to is one of great importance, and if estimates is to function the way that it should—and I will conclude my remarks at the end by talking about the process—it needs to be one that allows genuine scrutiny. This process does not allow that. This process highlighted waste and poor priorities of the government. There is no poorer priority of this government than the matter of integrity. The fact that the former integrity commissioner was not able to come forward to answer questions, despite her request to do so, despite her willingness to be able to continue in her role so she could face the scrutiny and inform the public in that process shows everything you need to know about this government. Indeed, that remains unanswered. It was also a process that prevented revelations from the Premier on the appointment of the former under treasurer, the indemnity provided to former deputy premier Jackie Trad and indeed the process of RTIs in this state and what it is doing to prevent public scrutiny of the way that the government operates.

However, it is in the area of waste where the public truly saw how badly this government respects its money because, in the end, it is the money that belongs to the people who pay tax. It is not the money of the Premier or her ministers; it is the money of Queenslanders. This estimates highlights how badly this government wastes money; in fact, more than \$3 billion in new wasted expenditure. That is over and above the \$1 billion blowout on just two projects on the Gold Coast alone, but \$3 billion was uncovered during this estimates process.

I refer, of course, to the blowout of the Cross River Rail where the minister can continue to attempt to hide money in different buckets, but in the end it is a project which was touted as costing a little over \$5 billion but that will now cost \$8 billion. I talk about \$2 million to attract two tradies, I talk about money for koala conservation that quietly gets spent on delivering a roller-coaster rather than providing an essential bit of environmental work, but, above all, I talk about Wellcamp. It was in this hearing where the complete and utter disrespect for this process was exposed. The waste on Wellcamp we know is north of \$220 million. The reasons why Queenslanders feel so passionate about that waste is because they saw it from the get-go as a bit of political brinkmanship, a bit of gamesmanship—one level of government trying to have one up on another.

When governments put politics ahead of people, that is when we get bad outcomes; that is when taxpayers' money gets flushed down the drain, and that is what we saw here. Make no mistake, the revelations of Wellcamp would never have come to light without this estimates process. It would never have happened unless a brave acting Auditor-General was prepared to reveal that she was putting the microscope over the dodgy process that led to this debacle. Then it cascaded one after another to the point that within 48 hours we had the Deputy Premier, who until that moment had stonewalled in a boycott-like fashion. Then all of a sudden under the glare of estimates we watched the government give up on 12 months of spurious defiance, clinging to some form of commercial in confidence that never existed. It exposed everything that people need to know about this government. This is a government that has given up on integrity, it has given up on transparency and it has given up on treating taxpayers' money in the special way it deserves.


I am going to conclude my remarks by talking about this estimates process. The irony that I follow the member for Logan in making this contribution is not lost on me. I start with the need for less time wasting because the member for Logan in deliberately looking for ways to wind down the clock, to call the same speaker on multiple occasions—

Mr POWER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This is, firstly, untrue. Secondly, I find it personally offensive and a reflection on the chair. I ask that the member withdraw.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I withdraw. Let it be clear that the time wasting in the estimates process must stop. We need more time for non-government questions.

Finally, let me reiterate to the House that the circus that is government members chairing estimates must end. The best process would be for the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker to chair the process or, indeed, someone who is a non-government member because the farce that we have seen cannot continue.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (11.51 am): I am pleased to contribute to the debate on this report, and what an irrelevant contribution by an irrelevant Leader of the Opposition that was. Of course, yet again in this House he had nothing to say about the 2022-23 budget, which followed on from his shameful effort in estimates when he did not ask about the budget but instead continued to smear and attack public servants.

The Leader of the Opposition made the false claim that the acting Integrity Commissioner was a Labor staffer, a claim specifically refuted at the hearing. However, at the hearing and today there has not been one word of apology and there has been no withdrawal from the Leader of the Opposition. His attack has started. It started with one public servant, but we know the Leader of the Opposition will not stop there—cuts, in the words of the Leader of the Opposition, just not savage ones. Already the old habits are back; they are lining up for another attack on public servants, just like the Leader of the Opposition's mentor and idol, Campbell Newman.

Just a few days ago, on 12 August, the Leader of the Opposition said, 'We will reform but it will be done at a pace that people will expect and deserve. There will be changes made but people will be treated with respect and decency and we're going to put this state under new management.' Where have we all heard that before? It was Campbell Newman in 2014. He stated—

At the end of the day, in every single case we tried to deal with people decently, carefully and responsibly to try to assist them out of the Public Service.

They were the words of Campbell Newman repeated by the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr STEVENS: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The matters that the Treasurer is raising are totally irrelevant to the report that is before him. Could you bring him back to the report that we are debating now?

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

Mr DICK: Once again, the playbook of the LNP is to cut, sack and sell, but the cutting and sacking comes first.

Moving on to the report, let me thank the members of the Economics and Governance Committee for their report and I thank their staff. I want to particularly acknowledge the member for Logan. It is a difficult thing to be a chair of an estimates committee and the member for Logan distinguishes himself by the way he conducts himself as the chair of that committee in this parliament.

I am pleased the committee has recommended that the proposed expenditure be approved. Unlike the Leader of the Opposition, I am happy to talk about the budget because this year's budget is one that delivers the good, the better and the great—good jobs and better services, and it protects the great lifestyle of Queensland. There is a record and transformative health budget, \$26.6 billion, the largest in Queensland history; a \$9.8 billion commitment to deliver new hospitals and expand existing hospitals; a record infrastructure spend, \$59.1 billion statewide over four years; and it positions Queensland for a golden decade of opportunity in the lead-up to the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Of all the numbers in the budget, the one that is most important to me and the government relates to jobs: 472,400 Queenslanders have found work under our government since 2015—more than a thousand per week. A total of 219,400 jobs have been created in Queensland since the start of the pandemic. That is more jobs than any other state or territory and almost as many jobs as New South Wales and Victoria combined.

While there was good news in the budget, there was not good news from the LNP. The centrepiece was their smearing of the Integrity Commissioner, which was not the first time. Last year the member for Mermaid Beach smeared the integrity of the State Actuary and he has never apologised

for that. Their statement of reservation shows that 10 years on from 2012 they have not learnt their lesson: still wanting to cut expenditure, still wanting to inflict austerity upon the people of Queensland, still wanting to smear and attack public servants and processes by whatever false means possible. In the latest episode they are trying to define a phone call as a meeting. I want to apologise to the LNP. I failed to disclose a meeting last week with a Thai takeaway. Topics included pad Thai, green curry and, if I recall correctly, steamed dim sims. In the spirit of full disclosure—


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Treasurer, let's come back to the motion.

Mr DICK: I call on the Leader of the Opposition to disclose the meeting he had with his removalists when he moved from Townsville to Broadwater and then abandoned his own electorate to come and live in Brisbane, more than an hour's drive from his electorate. That is standing up for your community! Better yet, what about the meeting that the member for Broadwater had with the previous member for Broadwater to tell her he was coming to take her seat and sack her? Perhaps he did not give her the courtesy of a phone call.

In this craven effort from the LNP they think they have the right to do whatever they want to whomever they want, like Scott Morrison swearing himself into all those portfolios which is now coming out: Treasury and a whole heap of other portfolios that he swore himself into. He has never said publicly what he did. He did not say it at the time and he has barely apologised or explained it today. This is a scandal of monumental national proportions that the LNP are responsible for.

I can only conclude by saying that next year will be better than this effort by the LNP because this year they absolutely hit rock bottom.

(Time expired)

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (11.56 am): There is the Treasurer of Queensland—four minutes obsessing about the Leader of the Opposition. The report that we are debating is the committee report into the Appropriation Bill of this parliament. It is the committee report, and yet that is what we got from the Treasurer of Queensland. I am reminded of the words of Sir Leo Hielscher, Queensland's most respected public servant, who said that the Treasurer is up against 17 others in the cabinet; it is the Treasurer's responsibility to stand up to the other 17 members of the cabinet to determine whether there would be spending. What we have seen from the estimates process this year is that this Treasurer has failed that most basic test. The Treasurer has failed that most basic test of standing up and caring about every single dollar that is spent in this parliament.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Pause the clock. Members, I cannot hear the member. I am very close to him, but I am not hearing what he is saying over the interjections. Members at the back, please cease your interjections. I cannot quite see who it is because of the masks.

Mr JANETZKI: The Treasurer promised 26 times in this place and outside that there would be no new or increased taxes. The failures of the Treasurer's colleagues have forced him to shred his own credibility and break that promise. It is the wasteful spending—an avalanche of wasting spending—that has been unveiled in this estimates process from ministers lining up, end to end, on that side of the House that has shredded the Treasurer's credibility and shown him to be incapable of reining in wasteful spending and caring about every single dollar that is spent.

Honourable members have only to look at the Minister for Transport and Main Roads to see that. Cross River Rail has gone from \$5.4 billion to near \$8 billion. There have been blowouts in the Coomera Connector to \$600 million. We have the 'minister for roller-coasters'. An amount of \$2.7 million was to go to koala spending; instead it was put to a roller-coaster.


In terms of the housing minister, a billion dollars will be delivered over 25 years out of a fake fund through the corporatisation of the titles registry, which is now cutting services in rural and regional Queensland. We have a small business minister who could only find two tradies for \$2 million. In the department of small business, \$4 million outlaid in COVID grants is currently being clawed back. Of course, we have the flagship of their wasteful spending—the Wellcamp quarantine facility. We have just heard the Leader of the Opposition reflect on what that means for Queensland. What it meant for the people of Toowoomba was a level of disrespect that has never been shown to a region—ever. We recall that the Deputy Premier and the Premier would pass through Toowoomba and not talk to a single soul there on their way out to Wellcamp. They have now been shown to have blown over \$200 million—\$237 million at last count—in wasteful spending, and they have nothing to show for it.

Not only have the Treasurer's ministerial colleagues been engaging in wasteful spending; the Treasurer has also been up to a fair bit of wasteful spending of his own in the last couple of months and years. We had the COVID report that was delivered by the Auditor-General. Isn't the

Auditor-General doing a great job of revealing the wasteful spending and the wrong priorities of this government! Just before the budget process we heard that the government had spent four times as much on self-promotion than on health promotion. Imagine spending \$10 million spruiking your own economic policy and only \$2½ million going towards health promotion.

Of course, we have the ultimate: \$1 million in spending to preserve the Treasurer's glass jaw. It has cracked. His credibility is shot with his broken promises. To pay for the credibility covering of his broken promise, during estimates it was revealed that over a million dollars has been spent advertising the coal royalty hike. Who would imagine that a treasurer would spend a million dollars advertising a tax increase? It was because he had broken his promise and his credibility was shot, not just in this place but also with industry—four new taxes.

The Treasurer should be thinking carefully about how many nurses could have been put on, how many ambulance vehicles could have been put on, how many more teachers could have been added, how many more social houses could have been added to the stock in Queensland. The Treasurer's credibility is shot. This is a government of more debt and taxes, wasteful spending and the wrong priorities.

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (12.02 pm): I rise to speak to report No. 30 of the Economics and Governance Committee which outlined the committee's estimates hearing on Tuesday, 26 July. During the estimates hearing the committee heard from the Speaker and the Clerk of the Parliament, the Premier, the Treasurer and the Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement.

The committee heard about the budget spending of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, the funding allocated for the Brisbane 2032 task force and the establishment of the commission of inquiry to examine the Queensland police responses to domestic and family violence. I note that the budget of this department also outlined an increase in funding to Screen Queensland to fund the development and operation of the Far North Queensland studio in Cairns.

The committee heard all of these things, yet the only thing that seemed to attract the interest of opposition members—specifically those guests who visited—was a decidedly unnatural obsession with laptops. In a display that could rival my 12-year-old daughter, the muttering, the childish interjections, the interruptions and the occasional outburst of 'What was on the laptop?' showed an opposition that had no interest in the examination of the budget. This opposition has the gall to sit and moan about the standard of accountability in committees and during the estimates process.


An entire day—9 am to 9 pm—of this committee was devoted to examining the spending of departments, yet so few questions were actually devoted to the budget or expenditure of the government. I have heard this morning in this debate that there was time wasting by the committee in order to limit the questions by opposition members. I would argue that the opposition members could hardly structure a question that was in accordance with the sessional and standing orders. The fact that opposition members cannot ask a question at this point about a budget shows exactly the contempt they have for this process.

Over on the opposition side, I am sure there is a member who is capable of structuring a question. I believe that the member for Ninderry is trained as an investigator and knows how to ask a question that is not leading and that does not contain inferences or imputations, but I am afraid he got only two or three questions the entire day. That shows just how much time wasting could be avoided if the members could actually put forward questions about the budget and within the sessional orders.

I have heard those opposite complain this morning and in the statement of reservation about the amount of money 'squandered' by this government. They talk about Wellcamp—I just heard a lovely treatise about Wellcamp. During the estimates hearing we also heard a little more about 1 William Street and what those members left us in terms of the costs that will be borne by future governments because of the deal they did for 1 William Street. We should talk about the squandering, the sale of assets and the debt that we will be incurring year after year. We heard that the rent of that building is increasing. Governments in Queensland will be forever spending more and more money for 1 William Street—the one piece of infrastructure they built during their time in government.

We have invested massive amounts of money in infrastructure—roads, schools and water infrastructure—not just here in South-East Queensland but throughout Queensland. The one thing that opposition members were able to give Queensland was a building that Queensland taxpayers are now committed to paying millions and millions of dollars for each year. That is what we heard about government spending during estimates.

The previous speaker was quite hooked on the Treasurer's spending in relation to information about taxes and levies. I am extremely impressed with the money that will be spent by this government going forward on mental health. Those opposite want to jump up and down about the cost of this massive investment in health. I am going to talk about the massive improvement in wellbeing of Queenslanders because of this spend. If those opposite want to talk about wasteful spending on self-promotion by a treasurer, I have just two words for them: Strong Choices.


 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (12.07 pm): Waste, secrecy and dodgy deals. Dodgy deals for mates are in the DNA of this tired, third-term Labor government. So are broken promises. This government has become a sovereign risk to the reputation of this state for investment by business. This is a Labor government that misleads and tells untruths—26 times breaking its promise not to increase taxes. Never have we seen a situation where Queensland's largest trading partner has publicly spoken out about the sovereign risk of this government and what it has done by misleading people with regard to royalties and increased taxes. I know that this government does not like to listen to the fact that our trading partners matter, but it is about the jobs of Queenslanders and the reputation of the state for all people who wish to invest in the future of this state.

No matter how much money this government rips from the pockets of Queenslanders, they will find a way to waste it. We saw something like \$10 billion in windfall revenue in the last year, yet they increased their costs by about \$7 billion. They cannot help but spend money on advertising the budget, yet they cannot find money for frontline services to address and fix the ambulance ramping issue by listening to service providers. We have never seen such a bad situation, with so many ambulances ramped and desperate Queenslanders unable to gain access to services, because of the mismanagement of this government. There has been more than \$3 billion on wasted projects and blowouts. There is an inability to listen to frontline workers in order to solve these issues.

This government is not listening. What an irony that it was only a matter of weeks ago that Peter Coaldrake handed down a report titled *Let the sunshine in* and yet this government has learnt nothing. Reports due to the integrity crisis are done and then the government ignores the recommendations. It did not take long for it to ignore that title of *Let the sunshine in* and we have an Attorney-General who will not let the sunshine in on what she signed off on and how much of taxpayers' money was spent on covering up Jackie Trad and that CCC report. It did not take it too long to forget, and there is no sunshine there; it is a total eclipse of the truth. This government is incapable of telling the truth, of respecting the value of Queenslanders' money and of listening to their great concerns about the cost of living, health services, youth crime and other crime issues and housing. This government has announced a housing plan that will not even fix the issues that we see today because it has a total inability to manage people's money.

This morning the Attorney-General claimed that 'there is nothing to see here' with regard to the CCC report into Jackie Trad and the indemnity that the Attorney-General signed off on. There is nothing to see because she will not allow it to be seen. There is no sunshine being let in on this expenditure of taxpayers' money, and this is not an ordinary indemnity that she signed off on in respect of a former minister: this is a new action and a specific action that we are not aware of ever happening before—that is, the Attorney-General has signed off on taxpayers' money to keep secret a CCC report into Jackie Trad. There is no letting the sunshine in here. It is all cloaked in secrecy. It is all about their mates, their factional mates. It is not about putting Queenslanders first. It is never about putting Queenslanders first.

As for former integrity commissioner Nikola Stepanov, this Labor government allowed its black ops team to go after her with background briefing to some people in the media. They have no shame with what they did. This role must be independent and we will defend the right for this role to be independent. It is appalling when there is another report that cannot even tell you who authorised the taking of the laptop. This is an extraordinary situation. The former integrity commissioner had staff taken off her. This is a classic example of when someone speaks up about investigating issues around Labor aligned lobbyists and this government says, 'There's nothing to see here,' because it does not want us to see it.

 **Mr TANTARI** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (12.12 pm): I rise to speak on the Economics and Governance Committee report No. 30, *2022-23 budget estimates—Appropriation Bill 2022*. The recommendation of the committee is that the proposed expenditure as detailed in the bill be agreed by this House without amendment. The estimates hearings brought into focus the continuation of the great work done by the Palaszczuk Labor government in bringing Queenslanders through one of the most difficult periods in our collective memories. They highlighted the ongoing commitment of the government in working to ensure that the state of Queensland leverages its strong health response by driving our recovery and our growing economy. It gives me great pleasure to say that the report emphasises the strong

leadership shown in the state from the Premier, the Treasurer and the Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement. This came through in the estimates hearing and in the detail in the estimates report that we are now considering.

Estimates showed how this budget is steering our state to great economic prosperity as we work our way out of the COVID period that we found ourselves in over the last 2½ years. The Premier, the Treasurer and other ministers have delivered a budget that continues to move Queensland forward and in particular regional Queensland, including my electorate of Hervey Bay, through planned expenditure on the right things that matter. They are the jobs, infrastructure and health service programs that are needed at this time and well into the future. It is the right response at the right time—measured, thoughtful and on the mark.

As outlined in the estimates report, the budget has delivered a record investment in health totalling \$23.6 billion which is the largest health budget in Queensland's history. The Palaszczuk Labor government has delivered new hospitals and expanded existing hospitals like the Hervey Bay Hospital and will fund the recruitment of more doctors, nurses and frontline health workers as well as better health services for rural and regional centres.


The Economics and Governance Committee report shows clearly where the focus is with this government. It is about ensuring that the work that has been done in the last two budgets continues to roll over into this year and beyond, underpinning more jobs in more industries such as renewable energy, new economy minerals, advanced manufacturing, biomedical technology, agriculture, tourism and education services and can attract more creative and design industries that will help grow our skilled workforce and attract more overseas investment into Queensland.

Obviously with any budget process there is disappointment, and this is no different this year. The opposition's statement of reservation contained in this report is again just what we expect from the other side of this House. Yes, the opposition has agreed to pass this excellent state budget, but as always it makes no real contribution to the budget process in its statement of reservation other than statements laced with fiction and full of mistruths with no factual basis, highlighting the policy void and laziness on the other side and its inability to acknowledge the current situation, tin eared to its local communities and not listening to what Queensland communities are asking. My community was clear at the last election and it is clear now: it wants a government that has a strong economic recovery focus based on continuing a strong health response and it saw through the attempts made during the estimates process by those opposite to misrepresent the facts and spin reality. The last time the LNP was in power what did it do with its budget? It chose to cut vital services, sold everything it could get its hands on and sacked thousands of frontline nurses, doctors and public servants. That is what we got under an LNP budget. That is the way that that side of the House does budgets in this state: it cuts, it sells, it sacks. It will never be any different under it.

I must thank the chair, the member for Logan, for his patience and skill in managing to keep the estimates program and the opposition on track in the best interests of the people of Queensland. Well done, member for Logan, even though those opposite again chose to use their time to disrupt and grandstand in an attempt to discredit the estimates process. We have already heard from speakers on the other side rolling out their tired old lines that the estimates process is broken. It happens every year. It really does reflect their inability to understand the budget estimates process whatsoever.

These estimates clearly outlined a focused economic recovery plan that will take Queensland well into the future by providing the jobs and services needed in Queensland and in Hervey Bay. I am proud to be a part of a Palaszczuk government that has a targeted budget that delivers jobs, health and education services, infrastructure and housing; that works to keep Queensland safe and to keep the electorate of Hervey Bay safe; and continues to make our future strong. Keeping Queenslanders safe and delivering a strong economic plan is what this Palaszczuk Labor government is all about. While those on the other side dither, we on this side will always work to ensure that all Queenslanders have the opportunity for good jobs, better services and a great lifestyle. I support the recommendations before the House.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Before I call the member for Bonney, I welcome students and teachers from the Clifford Park Special School who have joined us today in the gallery from the electorate of Toowoomba South.

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (12.17 pm): Two months after the budget it is good to have an opportunity to talk about innovation funding in our state. I did not really get the chance to do that during budget week because at the time the funding—the next phase of Advance Queensland—was not

actually announced as part of the budget; it was completely missing. In a strange coincidence to that lack of announcement, a couple of weeks before that former premier Peter Beattie urged the state government to embrace a new innovation agenda, saying, 'You've got to have a vision and you've got to demonstrate it.' With the new funding package finally put forward by the state government hidden in the budget under decisions taken but not yet announced before being made public a month after the budget, we have not seen much of an agenda, let alone anything that you could call visionary.

Advance Queensland's funding itself is actually quite difficult to follow. When we look at the first phase, there is little detail in the budget about how this funding has been allocated and at estimates even the director-general could not simply outline how the funding package has been defined and what has been spent. It took a number of follow-up questions. We are constantly told that Advance Queensland is a \$755 million package, but it took estimates to find out that only about half of that—\$331.5 million—comes from the innovation department.


That alone is not a huge issue. It should not matter who spends the money as long as the outcome is leading towards a more innovative Queensland. We found out that the rest of the funding identified as being Advance Queensland comes from across practically every department of government. What is interesting about that is that the government can just call whatever they want 'innovation' and add any project or funding into Advance Queensland that they like. We could not get any further details on how that is put together other than that they have a discussion about it internally. They can make their innovation agenda as big as they want it by just having a chat amongst departments, so what surprises me the most is that they have only decided to claim \$755 million as innovative.

At estimates we could not even get a breakdown from the director-general of how many hundreds of millions of dollars in funding has been spent by the innovation department in terms of Advance Queensland. I have a question on notice to try to get more details on that. Innovation should be flowing through every facet of government, but without a clear way of identifying and assessing spending there is a risk that the achievements of this program are being overinflated. It is all about spin over substance. Adding to that, the funding for the next phase of Advance Queensland represents a cut to innovation.

Comparing like for like, the innovation department's funding for the last seven years has averaged nearly \$50 million a year, but the new announcement covering the next three years equates to closer to \$30 million a year. In the run-up to 2032 that is the last thing we need to see. Now is the time to invest in innovation, not to spend less on it. We have also not seen the public release of the \$375,000 review into Advance Queensland. The minister said at estimates, 'I am more than happy to review those documents to make sure that they are appropriate to be made public', later committing to the general principle of releasing the review. It has been weeks and we have not seen anything, not even a redacted copy. He is the next speaker so maybe he will table it.

I will conclude with the other interesting revelation we heard at estimates, linking two things together that I never thought would be in the same sentence: koalas and a roller-coaster. We received confirmation that the state government approved the reallocation of \$2.7 million given to Dreamworld to build a world-class koala research facility to instead go towards building the *Steel Taipan* roller-coaster. What is extraordinary about this is that we have no evidence of any efforts by the state government to see if Dreamworld will ever actually build the facility which is on hold.

The Premier herself said Dreamworld should 'do the right thing', completely forgetting the fact that her own government approved this reallocation. They cannot blame this on COVID either. The state government's own press release from early 2019 said construction was expected to begin in mid-2019, at least six months before anyone even knew what COVID was. This would have been Queensland's first native animal genomics lab, having the potential to be not only a tourism attraction but also help our conservation efforts by supporting work to manage the threats our unique fauna face. What this shows is a government that only cares about announcements over outcomes. We need to see so much more in the innovation space if we are to realise the potential of the Olympics in 2032. We should be investing more than ever in supporting these future industries to make the most of when we will have the eyes of the world on our state and the South-East Queensland region.

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement) (12.22 pm): I am pleased to contribute to this debate of the Economics and Governance Committee estimates report tabled on 12 August. The 2022 budget charts a course to deliver good jobs, provide better services and supports Queensland's great lifestyle. It charts a course to map our emergence from the pandemic that has shaken and disrupted us like nothing before. I will come first to the areas of innovation, because I know the member for Bonney is so interested.

Last month I was pleased to join the Premier and members of the innovation ecosystem at the precinct here in Queensland to announce \$142 million over three years to drive the future of innovation in Queensland. Advance Queensland has already invested more than \$1.7 billion in Queensland since 2015, backing more than 7,800 innovation projects and supporting more than 28,000 new Queensland jobs. The next phase of Advance Queensland will capitalise on the success of the programs over the last seven years and accelerate economic growth opportunities for Queensland in the lead-up to Brisbane 2032.


What those opposite, specifically the member for Bonney, have demonstrated since the announcement of the Advance Queensland road map is that they have never understood, nor cared enough to understand, how Advance Queensland is structured. Since its conception in 2015 by the Premier, the Advance Queensland program has always been a suite of policies which spans multiple departments and agencies across government. The government has never shied away from this. In fact, it is something that we embrace because innovation is not a limited field. It exists across all government agencies, across all government departments and across the whole of the economy and society.

As an example, if it is an innovation surrounding opportunities presented to the state by hydrogen then it is best placed under programs run by the Department of Energy and Public Works. If it is a biomedical opportunity it may be best placed to be run by Queensland Health. Similarly, if it is a manufacturing innovation, it is best to sit with the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water under the administration of my colleague here, the minister. This is still funding towards innovation, but the government recognises that it is more appropriate to be administered by the appropriate agency.

As was explained to those opposite during the estimates committee hearings, there is a steering committee which works across government, including participation of central agencies, to determine the categorisation of what is considered innovation. This is not a unique process, and one used for multiple programs across government. Obviously we just need to see from those opposite more experience in government and more understanding of how government processes work. Surely learning from the estimates process is something that those opposite should do and could do and I welcome this as a learning experience for those opposite. Members' comments are evidence that the opposition does not understand innovation or its contribution to the Queensland economy, which is not surprising because we saw the former Newman LNP government slash \$50 million from the innovation budget and \$20 million from the Smart State grants budget.

Earlier the member for Bonney made some comments about koalas and roller-coasters. I acknowledge that funding for the project at Dreamworld that was announced in 2019 was provided by the Department of Tourism to attract international visitors. With international borders closed during the pandemic, Dreamworld chose to invest the funding in infrastructure to attract domestic visitors and support local tourism jobs. The Palaszczuk government provided an additional \$3 million over two years to SEQ's wildlife hospital network in the most recent budget, including \$1 million to the Currumbin Wildlife Hospital. I acknowledge the great work of the minister for the environment, who is also in the House at the moment. It is part of that \$24.6 million that the Palaszczuk government has allocated to further implement the South East Queensland Koala Conservation Strategy 2020-2025.

Those opposite voted against our sensible tree-clearing laws. It is this government that has introduced the strongest koala protections in Queensland history and has just announced the biggest investment, some \$262½ million, to expand our national park. Those opposite do not have the record to stand up on koalas so they have to come up with quirky little criticisms to cover themselves. It is the worst of fig leaves. This budget is strong and I compliment the committee on the work it has done in processing the estimates.

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (12.27 pm): As the statement of reservation in this report clearly indicated, this particular appropriation bill was about waste, taxes and more debt. We saw the Treasurer running around through the COVID period, a little brochure tucked under his arm titled 'Unite and recover'. The reality is that it is 'unite and cover-up', because of their dodgy accounting figures. I will give an example in terms of the 'Claytons' privatisation of the Titles Office for \$7 billion. We found out that is over 50 years and it is not going to be privatised at all. What we have done is ripped \$7 billion off the budget figure to save this Treasurer getting a far more embarrassing outcome in terms of the ratings agencies downgrading this government—worse than Andrew Fraser. That is a big accolade for this Treasurer to claim: to be worse than Andrew Fraser, who achieved a downgrade to AA which preceded the removal of the Bligh government back in 2012.


We have more taxes, which the Treasurer denied would happen when he came in. We have three new and major taxes on important groups in our communities. Obviously, we know well and truly how the mining industry has reacted to the imposition of royalties without consultation. We talked about consultation earlier today. There was no consultation; they just whacked further impost onto an industry that is propping up Queensland's balance sheet.

And what of the poor Japanese relationship? Our largest trading partner was gobsmacked that major companies involved in investing in Queensland have been treated in the way that they were without consultation. We do not know what will happen from that, but I believe that the Japanese are looking at alternative suppliers for a lot of their requirements from the resources industries, which is a direct result of this Treasurer not consulting with the groups onto which he has put more taxes.

The racing and gambling industries have also copped a brand new tax, without consultation—thank you very much. They have wiped Queensland. We have seen the effects already—and the racing industry would be aware of this—in terms of investment from the players in the Queensland racing industry, which again will have a long-term effect on the sustainability of the racing industry in Queensland.

We heard about the \$22 billion record spend in health. We all know that every year, in the new government, there is a record spend on health. However, what we did not know is that in Queensland there will not be one new hospital bed until 2026. That is an absolute embarrassment for this government, which is hiding behind a record figure—which is a record figure every year, anyway—yet there will not be one new bed until 2026. That is an absolute blight for people who are lining up at hospitals. Across Queensland we now have ambulance ramping at 45 per cent. Why is that? It is because this government has handled the health portfolio in an absolutely disgraceful manner meaning that people cannot get into hospitals. That is a major part of the failing of this particular Appropriation Bill.

We identified \$3 billion of government waste, which is an absolute shame on this government. Matters were well accounted for by the opposition in relation to Wellcamp and \$228 million. Numerous people from the community ask me: why don't they fill it with homeless people or mothers who are living in their cars with their children because the housing minister sold off properties that would otherwise be available to them? Rather than having people sleeping in their cars, why don't they use that facility for homeless people? Instead, they are letting it sit idle as a great white elephant at Wellcamp. This budget is a total disaster for Queensland.

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (12.33 pm): I rise to speak on the estimates report for the Economics and Governance Committee. I congratulate the Premier, the ministers and the Speaker, as well as committee members from all sides. In particular, I acknowledge the chair, the member for Logan, for the way that he ran the show. The Economics and Governance Committee heard from the Speaker, the Premier, the Treasurer, and the Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement.

As the assistant minister to the Premier for veterans' affairs, I was particularly pleased to hear from the Premier regarding that portfolio. We are continuing to roll out our commitment of \$10 million in funding over four years to provide additional support to veterans, their families and ex-service organisations. This funding will ensure that support is provided to those who have served our country. It includes \$3 million for capital works and community projects that enhance recognition for our veterans, known as the Queensland Remembers Grants Program. There is over \$1 million for up to 300 traineeships and apprenticeships and enhancements to the Queensland Veterans' Portal and Veterans' Employment Pathway. I was really pleased to hear the Premier speak about the case study of someone who has gone through that trainee and apprenticeship program. It really is a useful one. It is a really great collaboration that we have with TAFE Queensland. There is over \$1 million for employment services through The Oasis in Townsville and \$1 million to assist ex-service organisations in managing the impacts of COVID-19, just to name a few.

We are getting on with the job of delivering the new Queensland Veterans' Council, which is a statutory body responsible for providing advice to the Queensland government on veterans matters and managing Anzac Square, the state war memorial and the Anzac Day Trust fund. Applications opened for the Veterans' Council and the Veterans' Reference Group, which will support it, in April and closed in May this year. Numerous applications were received for those two esteemed bodies.

We are also investing in training, apprenticeships and employment services, including for 52 Queenslanders who are currently enrolled in the Defence to Civilian Success Training Program, which provides free TAFE and apprenticeships. Of course, that is on top of our Veterans' Employment

Pathway program, which has assisted more than 1,000 veterans to start new careers within the Queensland Public Service since July 2018, including over 300 veterans who have secured employment in the past financial year alone.

I turn to the committee itself and its conduct. Integrity pursuits were shown up to be the joke they were. We were chasing laptops and conspiracy theories instead of actually examining the budget. During the estimates hearing we heard disgraceful accusations that public servants were former Labor staffers when it is quite clear, and was demonstrated in the committee, that they are not. We saw a continuation of how those opposite treat the Public Service and the lack of respect they have for government employees. It was pretty much a re-run of last year and the year before in terms of chasing the grab rather than having a proper examination of the budget.

We have heard many of those opposite in their addresses about the process today, as well as in the estimates hearing itself, banging on about Wellcamp, but of course they are completely quiet about the Pinkenba facility planned under the former prime minister and minister for about 10 other things. If he had given himself the additional role of minister for quarantine maybe it would have been started a bit earlier. There has been \$410 million spent on the unused Pinkenba facility and \$21 million spent on the COVIDSafe app, but all the opposition care about is a conspiracy theory relating to a laptop here in Queensland.

I am proud of how we run our estimates process where the minister of the day is questioned by the opposition. Of course, unlike the approach of LNP governments, we tell the public who our ministers are. Can members imagine the estimates process if we ran our government like the Morrison government? We would not know which secret minister would show up on any given day. It is a bit hard to hold the minister of the day to account when you do not know who the minister is. I am sure there is more to come out of this story but when Malcolm Turnbull says it is one of the most appalling things he has ever heard then we know it is bad—and that is from the bloke who did utegate. Recently, former home affairs minister Karen Andrews called on the former prime minister to resign. That is what you get when you have an LNP government at a federal or state level: a complete trashing of democratic processes and a complete trashing of transparency, which is in stark contrast to what we see in our Queensland estimates process.

This is a great budget for Queensland for now and for setting us up for the future. It is a budget that is supported by this parliament, including those opposite. It is about good jobs, better services and a great lifestyle.



Mr PURDIE (Ninderry—LNP) (12.37 pm): As a member of the Economics and Governance Committee, I rise to speak on the Appropriation Bill estimates report 2022. For all intents and purposes, the estimates process is an opportunity to scrutinise the government's expenditure as outlined in the budget. A diligent government prioritises funding on the basis of its election promises and the delivery of essential services. It bases these decisions on what matters to Queenslanders. A diligent government is one that listens and is responsive to the needs of the community.

However, as we are now well and truly realising, this is not a government that listens to Queenslanders and, very clearly, its priorities are not meeting the expectations of taxpayers. If we consider the government's budget a key tool of accountability, the estimates process has revealed the depths to which this third-term Labor administration has sunk in order to avoid accountability and shirk its responsibilities. The budget is characterised by many shortcomings that were exposed during the estimates process. While that was not surprising, the level of neglect, waste and disregard for accountability and transparency that this government has been hiding behind was surprising. The tone for estimates was set on the very first day when the respected Clerk was forced to apologise in advance. He said in a general sense that the current estimates process was not working as well as what was envisaged in 2011 after an overhaul. In fact, he said, things had gotten worse.

It should come as no surprise that all of Labor's usual tactics of subterfuge, distraction, obstruction and interference were being rolled out. It was not enough, though, to stop the truth finally being revealed. The Palaszczuk government's extraordinary incompetence was exposed throughout the estimates process, which revealed that an extra \$3 billion of taxpayer money has been wasted. Queenslanders finally learned that Wellcamp cost Queenslanders well over \$200 million. We also found out that a \$2 million advertising strategy produced just two tradies, while millions of dollars allocated to a koala lab were put into a new roller-coaster. Taxpayer money continues to be used to stop a report about Jackie Trad being made public, while 30 complaints have been made to the CCC regarding the QBCC. What about the electricity rebate Queenslanders have been waiting for? Well, the cheque is still in the mail because the government never told energy retailers to provide it.

We also learned that Cross River Rail has blown out to \$8 billion and that the energy sector's IT upgrade has blown out by \$186 million. Unfortunately for anyone needing urgent medical attention, ambulance ramping has hit a new high, at 45 per cent. We also found out that, instead of reporting poor performance, this government simply scraps the target. The satellite hospitals that were promised have been delayed and are already over budget, while the government has also failed to deliver on the promise to employ 6,000 teachers, police numbers have failed to keep pace with population growth and it will take 25 years to deliver on the social housing promise. Almost \$1 million was spent on the Caloundra youth jail before the project was scrapped and the government will simply write off \$4 million of small business grants made in error.


Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Member, I am sorry to interrupt you, but the time for debate of this report has expired.

Report adopted.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee, Report

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): The question is—

That the report of the State Development and Regional Industries Committee be adopted.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (12.41 pm): I start by thanking the minister and his staff for providing very fulsome and comprehensive answers to all of the worthwhile questions asked during estimates. Estimates is very much a source of important information to us all here, especially those answers to questions from government members. I always draw people's attention to those answers. For example, during our estimates hearing we learned about the Resilient Homes Fund. I think this is an incredible achievement of the Palaszczuk government. I congratulate the government, the Premier and the Deputy Premier on it.

During estimates we learned that there were 4,200 expressions of interest: 427 are looking for buyback; 667 are unsure of their options, 1,500 are looking for a refit; and 1,200 are looking for house raising. There were 8,600 initial assessments and 3,100 inspections. That is an incredible amount of work in such a short amount of time in terms of this wonderful initiative. Today we heard an update—\$220 million expended already and 90 houses approved for buyback.


I thank the Deputy Premier for acknowledging the role that Major Street, Deception Bay played in generating this particular initiative. The Deputy Premier noted that when he saw what was happening in Major Street it helped convince him of the need for this fund. I went through that process in 2015, seeing what Major Street residents had been through. For many years since I have been exploring our options for buyback and retrofit. Once again, estimates was a great opportunity to learn about what we can do through this Palaszczuk government.

I want to quickly talk about what the Leader of the Opposition thinks estimates needs. I note that there were a couple of things he did not highlight when talking about his ideas of reform. My question to him is: how will he reform what the opposition does? What will he do about the poor quality of opposition questions? We have seen it. Each year we as chairs remind them to stick to the standing orders—it is easy—yet each year they keep throwing out imputations, inferences, arguments and hypotheticals. They know the drill: 'It breaches standing order 115. Recast your question.' Each year we rule out such questions or ask opposition members to recast their questions. They keep doing it. I do not think it is poor planning. This is what they want. They want the drama to be played out on the news. They do not want expenditure examined; they want a drama to feature on the news. This is what members of the opposition never talk about when discussing how they would reform estimates—how they attempt to turn it into a circus each year. What a shame. They talk about their solutions. They do not want solutions or answers; all they want is to get a grab on the news. They do not want to put the government under scrutiny; they want to turn estimates into a circus.

The opposition leader now has an opportunity to do what he can to reform estimates. He should reform what opposition members and their advisers do each year. We have heard the Treasurer say it many times: if you want decent answers, ask decent questions.

I highlight what we learned about biosecurity this year. I congratulate the minister for agriculture. Some \$200 million has been expended on biosecurity this year. We heard about the preparedness to deal with foot-and-mouth disease and lumpy skin disease. It is very clear that we do not have it now but we are very prepared. There are exercises being conducted and we are prepared. In terms of fire ants, it was really good to hear how we are part of a national strategy to counter and repress fire ants when they pop up. That includes surveillance teams and sniffer dogs.

This is an historic day in this parliament. I finish by acknowledging a special guest in the gallery, Professor Kay Saunders AO, who has been an incredible person in terms of highlighting over the years the need for a treaty.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (12.46 pm): I rise to speak to the state development committee report on budget estimates. I say to the honourable member for Bancroft that I do not think there is anything wrong with the questions; it is more about the answers and the fact that government members continue to run a protection racket for incompetent ministers. I will not be lectured to by the member for Bancroft about circuses. This is a fellow who walks around this place in a three-piece suit in his own circus!

Mr WHITING: I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker—

Mr BLEIJIE: Madam Deputy Speaker, I think he is taking offence!

Mr WHITING: I take offence and I desire the member to withdraw that comment.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. When the chair of the committee talks about recasting questions, it is just because he does not want the minister to answer. It is the cover-up of incompetent ministers. In this estimates process, in my first question I asked whether the director-general was aware of any self-confessed vote rorters working in his department. He said, 'No.' He only had to look in the mirror! This is a director-general who is a self-confessed vote rorter. This estimates hearing for state development was always destined to be a bit dodgy. Members opposite say that we are attacking public servants. I am not; I am attacking Mike Kaiser, the director-general, because he is a self-confessed vote rorter, pursuant to a report in Queensland.

Then we go to the Deputy Premier, who tried to take the high moral ground that at estimates he was always going to tell everyone the Wellcamp costs. For 12 months he refused to answer any questions about the cost of Wellcamp. He said, 'No, it's commercial-in-confidence. I'd be breaching the deal with the Wagner family. We absolutely cannot tell anyone what Wellcamp is costing.' All of a sudden, on budget estimates day—incidentally, the day after the Acting Auditor-General confirms an investigation is launched into the Wellcamp facility—the Deputy Premier said, 'We can advise how much Wellcamp cost. I always intended to talk about this at estimates.' That is absolute baloney—absolute rubbish. He never did. He was only forced into it because the Acting Auditor-General 24 hours prior said that there was an investigation on foot.

Over \$220 million was absolutely wasted on the Wellcamp facility. Now it is sitting there vacant. The government does not want to use it for all the homeless people in our communities. They do not want to use it for DV victims. They do not want to use it for flood victims. They said they were going to use it for cruise ship passengers with COVID yet they have to drive past the Pinkenba facility which is next to the cruise ship terminal. They have to get on a bus and drive an hour and a half out to Toowoomba to use the facility there when they have to go past a quarantine facility next to the cruise ship terminal. It is like they came up with every excuse not to use it for quarantine because it never was. Around 700 people used it. The government could have bought a unit for every person who went into this quarantine facility. They could have given them a house to quarantine in on their own. That is how much money they wasted. Will they extend the lease? The lease expires in April. They have a 12-month extension of the lease. Are they going to extend the lease? I have no idea. What an absolute waste of Queensland taxpayers' money by the Deputy Premier.

Everywhere we go across Queensland, do members know what people are talking about? They are talking about Wellcamp. They are talking about 'Wastecamp'. They are talking about 'Wellness Camp'. They are talking about Wellcamp, 'Wellness Camp' and 'Wastecamp'. This will be one of the biggest public failures of the Labor Party we have seen since the health payroll debacle. This is at the feet of the Deputy Premier. He is to blame for this quarantine facility at Wellcamp—no-one else.

He talks about the resilience package and flood victims. The money has only started rolling out in the last 48 hours because Channel 9 did a story on Friday last week about them refusing to talk to home owners. Tanya, who Channel 9 featured in the story, all of sudden got a phone call from the minister's department saying, 'We will sort it out for you.' It is after the actions of the media that this government acts and not beforehand.


I had a constituent of mine, Ian, come in to my electorate office the other day and he said that he wanted to meet with the Deputy Premier to talk about taxpayer money wasted on Wellcamp. He asked me to give a gift to the Deputy Premier. This is the gift he wants to give to the Deputy Premier. It is a wellness white elephant.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Pause the clock. Member for Kawana, you are not able to use that as a prop in the House.

Mr BLEIJIE: And I am not going to table it either, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I figured that.

Mr BLEIJIE: My constituent wants to know how he can gift it to the Deputy Premier. Noting the Deputy Premier is in the chamber today, I say to the Deputy Premier that if wants to meet me out the back I would happily hand this white elephant to him on behalf of my constituent. That is the legacy of the Deputy Premier—an absolute debacle and bungle; the \$220 million white elephant at Wellcamp or, as we know it, 'Wastecamp'.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (12.52 pm): I can confirm for the benefit of the House that I will never be accepting the member for Kawana's invitation to meet him out the back.

I rise to welcome the tabling of the State Development and Regional Industries Committee report into the proposed budget appropriations for 2022-23. I note that the recommendation from the committee that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2022 for the committee's areas of responsibility, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment. I would like to thank the committee for their work in examining and scrutinising the 2022 budget as it relates to my portfolio responsibilities as Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure. The committee's work plays an essential role in Queensland's democratic process. I acknowledge the work they have put in over the last few months.

The Palaszczuk government has proudly delivered another strong Labor budget—a budget that reflects our government's values and delivers on our election commitments. The Palaszczuk government's top priorities are creating good jobs, delivering better services and protecting Queenslanders' great lifestyle. This budget delivers on those priorities. Under this government, funding for Queensland's health services has increased every single year. This year we delivered the biggest ever health budget, with the biggest ever increase in capital expenditure and biggest ever increase in funding for health services.

Queenslanders have the best lifestyle in the country and thousands of Australians are rightly looking to move here and call Queensland home. While we welcome more Queenslanders, we also acknowledge that this is putting pressure on our housing supply. The Palaszczuk government is tackling this, investing in social housing, supporting good, affordable housing developments and unlocking more land for development. Across Queensland we are unlocking 50,000 residential lots, including 30,000 in Caboolture West alone. The Caboolture West development will deliver homes for around 70,000 people and deliver access to 17,000 good jobs, while protecting the lifestyle Queenslanders know and love.


As Queensland's population booms we need to create more jobs to set our state up for future success. Part of our vision is to establish Queensland as a global hydrogen hub. Our ambitious vision is for Queensland to be at the forefront of renewable hydrogen production in Australia by 2030, supplying an established domestic market and export partners with a safe, sustainable and reliable supply of hydrogen. The renewable revolution creates so many opportunities for Queenslanders. We can create good jobs and we can bring manufacturing home here to Queensland.

In Maryborough, Energy Storage Industries Asia Pacific has brought their first large-scale iron flow battery hub to Queensland. The member for Maryborough can attest to the good, local manufacturing jobs this brings. I am looking forward to creating more throughout this great state.

While there is a lot to love about Queensland, we also have our own unique challenges as the most natural disaster-prone state in Australia. Earlier this year we saw the devastating impact Queensland's weather can have, with the full might of the rain bomb unleashing on the south-east. The Queensland Reconstruction Authority has done Queenslanders proud, getting on with the job of rebuilding and making our state more resilient.

It was clear from the estimates hearings that those opposite do not support the Palaszczuk government's priorities and those of the Queensland people. Tens of thousands of Queenslanders are proudly public servants, serving this great state, creating good jobs, delivering frontline services and protecting Queensland's lifestyle. Those opposite chose to use the estimates process to attack and denigrate those hardworking public servants.

It is clear the opposition has learnt nothing from their time in government where the Leader of the Opposition sat around the cabinet table and sacked 14,000 Queensland public servants. The opposition's disgraceful display at estimates demonstrates to Queenslanders that they will do it all again if they get the chance. Although, I note that the Leader of the Opposition has said he will just do it more slowly.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (12.56 pm): I rise to contribute to debate on the report of the State Development and Regional Industries Committee. It is great to have the Minister for Water in the chamber. I heard the committee chair say something like—and I cannot quite remember the words—that we did not ask any decent questions. I note that the member for Burleigh, who is in the chamber, and the member for Lockyer had fantastic questions. We had wonderful questions. It was unfortunate that the poor Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water could not answer them. We have to ask why.

The main reason is that this is a minister in name only. I feel a bit sorry for this minister. The reason I feel a bit sorry for this minister is that he is not responsible for anything. We saw what happened in the chamber this morning. We had to have the Treasurer answer a water question. They could not ask the question of the water minister. That is obvious because there is division in the Palaszczuk cabinet. We saw that on the weekend. The water minister is obviously fighting with the Treasurer and the Premier.

Let us talk about Paradise Dam. I am more than happy to do that. Where is the money? Show me the money! There is \$30 million allocated for a \$1.2 billion restoration project. They have the hide to come in here and talk about the mighty New Bradfield project. These jokers have a report on this. The report is on the minister's desk. This minister is either incapable or too incompetent to release the report. Where is the report? Who would know? It is probably sitting on this minister's desk. He cannot get it through the Treasurer and he cannot get it through the Premier.

Let's go to the area of manufacturing skills.


Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Pause the clock. Member, given the significance of the event we are going to, I am going to pull the debate up a minute early.

Debate, on motion of Mrs Frecklington, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 12.59 pm to 2.00 pm.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Trad, Ms J, Ministerial Indemnity; Caloundra Youth Remand Centre

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): It gives me great pleasure to be the first MPI speaker today, as my leader is downstairs, giving me 10 minutes which, of course, will still not be enough time for all the integrity issues that I have to go through, but I am happy to be joined by so many of my colleagues in the chamber.

Let me start with the former deputy premier Jackie Trad, who, as I have said, still haunts this place like a ghost, pulling the puppet strings. This morning when the Attorney-General was on her feet speaking and waving her arms did everyone see Jackie upstairs pulling the strings? I was waving to Jackie upstairs when she was pulling the strings—telling them when to open their mouth. That is what we have here: the Attorney-General, Shannon Fentiman, signing off on legal assistance for her factional Whistler skiing mate Jackie Trad.

Attorney-General Fentiman said bizarrely this morning, 'There is nothing to see here.' This is what I would say: there is something to see all right—a dodgy government spending taxpayers' money to protect a mate. The Attorney would have us believe that there is nothing to see here—that this is nothing out of the ordinary. What a load of rubbish! There is something to see all right—a dodgy government using taxpayers' money to protect a mate.

The Attorney-General would have everyone believe that this is not out of the ordinary to how other attorneys have given indemnities in the past. Let me tell the Attorney-General how it usually works. There are two forms in the guidelines—one is the indemnity to which we have said every former minister is entitled. It covers civil proceedings, defamation, CCC inquiries—and haven't they had a lot of them on the Labor Party side! I know why the Attorney said this morning that she has been handing out indemnities left, right and centre, starting with 'mangocube Bailey' at the start of this term and all the other issues before the CCC. She has been busy signing. It is probably no surprise that she forgot in estimates that she did not sign the original Jackie Trad indemnity and had to correct the record because her hand has been developing callouses with the number of indemnities she has been giving to Labor Party ministers and former ministers.

Here is how it works. Let me educate the members opposite. A former minister or a current minister writes to the Attorney-General. The Attorney-General seeks the Crown Solicitor's advice and the Crown Solicitor says, 'It is open to the Attorney-General, pursuant to the guidelines, to issue that

indemnity.' The indemnity is separate to legal assistance. The indemnity is if you have a finding against you and there is payment, such as a defamation claim. I will put on the record that I have been subject to one of those particular issues. I went through the process and there was a settlement. Then Labor leaked what the settlement cost was. That is fine.

Legal assistance is when taxpayers fund the legal advisers—the lawyers. That is a second application or, as the Attorney explained, a collateral application. That is what she described in estimates. She signed off on the collateral application. Clause 12 of the indemnity guidelines specify—

The State will not provide Legal Assistance to a Minister for the purpose of initiating or continuing separate legal proceedings by or on behalf of the Minister ... unless special approval—

non-defined special approval—

in writing has first been obtained from the Attorney-General.

Here is what happened. Jackie Trad got the indemnity for the CCC investigation. We have no problem with that. She then wrote to her mate Attorney-General Fentiman and requested legal assistance so she could institute a proceeding in the Supreme Court to hide a CCC report. That is unprecedented. The Attorney would have everyone believe this morning that this was nothing out of the ordinary. It is extremely out of the ordinary. It is extraordinary that the Attorney would sign off on that. It is basically funding a former minister using taxpayers' money to hide a CCC report. It begs the question: what is in the report? What is in the report that Jackie Trad is so desperate to keep secret from the people of Queensland?

The Attorney-General may think that she can get away with saying, 'There is nothing to see here.' We will not accept that. There is everything to see here. It is dodgy, it smells fishy and I think it is rotten. That is why she should front up, tell the people of Queensland how much taxpayers' money has already been expended on Jackie Trad's legal case and how much it is expected to cost. The Attorney-General would be getting briefed every single day about how much. She would know exactly in her mind. She could have said it this morning, but they just say, 'It is before the courts.' Rubbish. This is parliament. Parliament should make the decision. If the Attorney-General is not going to explain it to the public then they should legislate to make sure that this report of Jackie Trad's gets published and not try to keep defending Jackie Trad and being overpowered by Jackie Trad. The report should be public. It should have been public a year ago when the CCC actually finished it.

I will move on to the Caloundra youth jail. Mr Deputy Speaker, here are the results of an RTI application that I made on the Caloundra youth jail, yet the government would have us believe that they were only thinking about the jail and consulting the community—that they had not made any decisions. There are contracts in here! I am going to refer to every page, Deputy Speaker. It is not a prop; I need to refer to it.

There are contracts signed in here for air conditioners, for fences, for barbed wire. This looks more like something that was a done deal. The member for Caloundra puts out a leaflet 'The facts—forget the spin' in which he tried to convince his community how great this youth jail was going to be in the electorate of Caloundra before he realised the Caloundra community did not want it. Why did he realise that? The member for Ninderry and I stood up on behalf of the people of the Sunshine Coast, on behalf of the people of Caloundra, and told them what is actually in it. Then of course the government decided against it, but they spent a million dollars—wasted a million dollars—constructing this thing and never proceeding with it.

We never wanted them to proceed with it. The LNP were opposed to this youth jail in the heart of Caloundra from day one. We never changed our position, but if they had consulted before they started building it they would not have wasted a million dollars. Imagine how many nurses could be employed at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital if the government did not waste this?

Youth crime is a huge issue on the Sunshine Coast. It is a huge issue around Queensland. The member for Caloundra emailed the minister's office and said, 'I have a strong feeling that some of the angst can be relieved through some simple architectural tweaks.' The member for Caloundra wanted to architecturally tweak the jail so it did not look like a jail! What was he going to do? Put up a pink wall on the outside of it or something! What was he going to do?

An opposition member interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: He does. He knows jails, but he wanted to tweak it so it did not look like a jail. Thankfully the department said, 'No, thank you. We'll design the jail because it's a jail.' The member for Caloundra in an email to the department talked about 'community manufactured outrage'. He said that his constituents were manufacturing this outrage. He said it was all fake—'manufactured outrage'. The

member for Caloundra, Jason Hunt, said in another email to the minister, 'I would really like to nail the member for Kawana.' Let's not think about nailing people. Let's think about the Caloundra community. Let's think about how we can resolve the issues of youth justice rather than trying to nail people. Considering the fact that the government did not proceed with the jail, who nailed whom? That is the reality.

Interestingly, Kim McCosker had her car stolen at Pelican Waters. I went public with Dan Purdy, the member for Ninderry, about the outrageous youth crime in Pelican Waters. There is an email in this RTI pack where Jason Hunt emailed the minister's office when I went public about that particular incident, and Jason Hunt—who has plenty of photos with Kim McCosker, using Kim McCosker's profile on the coast—said to the minister, 'Unbelievably, the member for Kawana is talking about this issue.' It is so bad the member for Kawana is talking about stolen cars in Pelican Waters!

I wonder if he has told Kim McCosker. I wonder if he shared that little email with Kim McCosker and others. He is flouting the Sunshine Coast. He is going around the Sunshine Coast saying that he is tough on crime and he knows all about this, but the RTI reveals the real member for Caloundra and his intentions. He believed in this jail so strongly that he started building it. He not only started building it; he wanted to design it. That is how beautiful he thought this jail was!

(Time expired)

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Before I call the next speaker I would like to acknowledge students from Cavendish Road State High School in the gallery, of course from the electorate of Greenslopes.

Crime and Corruption Commission, Investigation Workshop



Hon. MC BAILEY (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (2.10 pm): That was my old school! That was a triumph of volume over quality if ever I have heard a speech.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I know you interjected on your own speaker. We will hear this speaker in silence.

Mr BAILEY: Since the last sitting of parliament a very important report has been brought down: the Crime and Corruption Commission's Investigation Workshop, July 2022. I am sure all members have read it closely. If they have not, they should. This is the report into five months of outlandish claims by the Leader of the Opposition that a laptop was seized in a raid on 27 January, the Premier authorised a 'goon squad' and information was erased. It is like something out of the Kremlin in Russia. The Leader of the Opposition said that integrity and accountability had been trashed. These are extraordinary and serious claims. I refer members to points 57, 81 and 82 of this investigation by the independent watchdog. I will read points 81 and 82. This is the report from the independent watchdog.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: Those opposite may not want to hear it, but these are the facts. The report states—

81. While the reimaging gave rise to a risk that relevant records may have been lost, the backup processes employed meant that this risk was relatively small. Further, nothing has occurred since to suggest that risk materialised.
82. In light of the above, the commentary which has suggested that laptops were 'seized' and 'wiped' as a result of a 'raid' on the Integrity Commissioner's offices is, in the CCC's view, a mischaracterisation of what occurred.

The truth is here in this report. The Leader of the Opposition's credibility has been dismantled by this report. It has been shredded. He made these claims up; they were reckless. He offered no evidence, and when it was fully investigated by the watchdog he is shown to be misleading this House. There was no raid. There was no seizure. There was no goon squad.

If integrity matters then stop hiding, Leader of the Opposition, and come out and acknowledge the truth and apologise to this House, which has been misled. It is time for the Leader of the Opposition to acknowledge the truth, to apologise and correct the record today. If he wants to be more than a 'little Newman', he needs to start behaving with some integrity and correct the record here today. He has been found out and exposed by the CCC. His outlandish overreach on this matter was always going to come home to roost. It was always going to come back to the facts, and the facts and the truth are that this is not an integrity inferno: this is a case of a little boy crying wolf once too often—the member for Broadwater and the Leader of the Opposition. His outlandish claims day in, day out at media conference after media conference and consistently in this House are matters on the public record. He has been found to not be telling the truth.

I say to the Leader of the Opposition that, if he has any integrity—he talks about it a lot—now is the time to walk the walk, because this report has shown that in the last five months he has not been telling the truth. He has been making outlandish claims. This has been an extraordinary case of overreach by somebody who should know better. He is not telling the truth about this matter.

You cannot come into this House and make things up and mislead this House. I will be writing to you, Mr Deputy Speaker, about this matter because I believe that the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Maroochydore, who repeated a lot of these claims, have misled this House. I will be writing to you about this and asking that the matter be further investigated, because I believe it has been a dishonest performance by the Leader of the Opposition. This House has rules of conduct and rules of integrity, and they have been broken by the Leader of the Opposition in a disgraceful, outlandish piece of overreach by somebody who is experienced in this place. He has served as a cabinet minister. There is no excuse of ignorance here. It is deliberate. It is disgraceful. He should apologise and acknowledge the truth in this report. He should do so today if he has any spine whatsoever.

Budget, Taxation



Mr JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (2.15 pm): I have really important things I want to talk about but I just have to spend a little time on that. Seriously, Minister, you have more front than a London high street.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is referring to me specifically and not through the chair.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): I would ask the member to use correct parliamentary titles through the chair.

Mr JANETZKI: Seriously, the minister has more front than a London high street—I swear it. For him to come in and waste five minutes of this parliament's time with that rubbish is disgraceful. For a minister of the Crown to come in here with such nonsense and waste this parliament's time with a contribution like that tells us everything about the minister and the lack of vision and focus of this government.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, you will stop waving that report around.

Mr JANETZKI: What I wanted to talk about today before that ridiculous contribution was that nothing says more about the deterioration of this government than its relationship with business. We saw it during the budget. In my earlier contribution I talked about wasteful spending and wrong priorities. Now I want to spend a couple of minutes talking about their four new taxes. It is not even about the content of the taxes: it is the way in which they were introduced and the disdain in which they hold the business community. I am going to start with the coal royalty hike first.

Over the last couple of weeks we have seen time and again that people are speaking out. In fact, I am sitting beside the shadow minister for resources, and in breaking news Blackwater South coalmine has now been put on ice. A mine with a potential 90-year life span has just been put on ice. At the same time we have coal royalty hikes, a complete lack of respect for the QRC and the Japanese ambassador—I will come back to the Japanese ambassador—and Japanese capital. Trade and Investment Queensland did not have a clue about this. Nobody saw this coming. The Queensland resources minister admitted he knew nothing about the coal royalty hike before it was announced in the budget. Today it has been reported in the *Australian* that Dr Tim Seelig in the environment department is writing regulations for the resources industry. Resources minister, I say to you: 'Stand up! Stand up for yourself! Stand up for your portfolio! Stand up for regional Queensland!'

Japanese investment in this state is enormous: \$12.5 billion of our export value goes to Japan and \$7.5 billion of that is coal, yet here we have the Japanese ambassador forced to speak out on the lack of consultation and the lack of respect—

Mrs Frecklington: The Premier had to fly to Canberra.

Mr JANETZKI: I will take the interjection from the member for Nanango. It was so bad that the Premier had to fly to Canberra to meet with Japanese investors and the ambassador. I want to reflect on what the Japanese ambassador had to say. Shingo Yamagami's criticism was that the hike was of 'great concern'. He said that they were 'not consulted on such a significant change and that they were taken by surprise'. He also used words like 'huge shock' and that some Japanese companies were 'already questioning'.

Edgar Basto, the BHP Minerals Australia boss—a mine which has just been announced has been put on ice—said that it—

... damages both Queensland's and Australia's reputation as a place to invest.

He also said—

The Queensland government's decision to impose a new tax ... without consultation is the antithesis of considered policy in Queensland's interest or the national interest.


That warning from BHP and the Japanese ambassador has already come home to roost today with the closure of this mine.

It was not just the coalmining tax. It was the payroll tax on medium-sized businesses. It was the gaming tax, after incidentally 40-odd meetings and calls between Anacta and representatives of this government. What an extraordinary thing we saw, where a listed company put in an ASX announcement that they would drop litigation against Racing Queensland if the state government passed this change. What an extraordinary outcome for a listed company to be putting something like that in an ASX announcement.

Finally, the fourth tax related to land tax. This was probably the most disgraceful thing from estimates. It appears that no-one has any idea how much tax the national land tax will capture, how it will be collected, how much it will cost and who will be impacted. What a disgrace. It tells us again that this is a government that has no business experience and it is damaging Queensland's business environment.

(Time expired)

Williams, Mayor K

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (2.21 pm): I did not think it could get any worse for Redlands LNP politicians than 2021 and Andrew Laming's antics—headline after headline, day after day, week after week. Not to be outdone by Andrew Laming, we have the LNP mayor, Karen Williams, in 2022 drink-driving and crashing her council supplied Lexus—3½ times over the legal limit. Let us look at the events leading up to that crash.

Karen Williams handed down a budget with record rate increases yet again. Redlands ratepayers are now paying the highest rates by far in South-East Queensland. What did they do after that? They popped the wine corks. They popped the champagne and got onto the ratepayer funded wine. After that, the mayor jumped onto a Zoom call with drink-driving victims. The reports are that she turned the camera off and on and continued to throw back the wines. It was that bad at the end that reports also are that she could not tell the distance between her face and the camera on the computer. A couple said that it was a complete circus by the end.

After that, she jumped in the Lexus. Police suspect that she passed out. She went through a give-way sign on a busy Cleveland four-lane road. She jumped the gutter, went over a massive drain and hit a tree, snapping it in half. Just 50 metres up the road is the ambulance station, and 1½ kilometres up the road is the hospital. An ambulance could have been taking a patient to Redland Hospital along that road, which they do hundreds of times a day. She could have killed someone. It is a disgrace and it is a shame.

What was she doing campaigning with drink-driving victims? Let us look back. Mayor Williams said that she started a petition a couple of months ago, but we find out today in RTI information, which I will table, that in fact it was not her petition; it was the Leader of the Opposition's petition.

Tabled paper: Bundle of papers concerning right to information release regarding 'Our fight for justice' ePetition [\[1142\]](#).

A text message from Karen to David Crisafulli said, 'Let me know when you have words for petition and I will get it prepared. Thanks David.' It was not Karen's petition; it was the Leader of the Opposition's petition. He hand-picked the mayor to run this campaign on breach of bail. Hasn't it blown up in their faces? She never cared about them. We know that now. You would not throw back wines while talking with drink-driving victims on a Zoom call and listening to their agonising stories and then jump in a car yourself and crash it. She was 3½ times over the legal limit.

Another text message said, 'We will pressure government to change legislation based on this. I will have a petition ready to go tomorrow morning. Take care. K.' That was to David Crisafulli. We know the next day they did a press conference with the Field family. David lied next to them and said, 'I support the mayor's petition.' It was not her petition; it was his petition. He did not have the guts to do it himself, but he hand-picked Karen to do it and it has blown up in their faces.

The text messages go on. There is one from the member for Oodgeroo to Karen. It says, 'The petition you launched today could very well be your greatest legacy. Well done.' The reply from Karen was a love heart. They were patting themselves on the back.

Dr ROBINSON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence at that statement. I find it offensive and ask it be withdrawn. I would like the member to table the document that he is speaking of.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): The member had tabled that but the attendant was having difficulty determining whether it was available for collection. Member for Capalaba, the member has taken personal offence at your statements and has asked that they be withdrawn. I ask you to withdraw those statements.

Mr BROWN: I withdraw. They were patting themselves on the back. Judge Vasta was right—two-faced politician. She did not care about drink-driving victims. If she did, she would not have jumped on a Zoom call with them and thrown back the wines. She would not have jumped in the council car drunk and crashed the car. She said, 'It was just a mistake, an error of judgement.' No, it was not. She is now going to collect a pay cheque for the next 18 months and not resign. She will be doing the bare minimum out there, all the while supported by the LNP. The member for Oodgeroo has said nothing on this. David Crisafulli needs to come out today and resign as the Leader of the Opposition because he is slimy.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member will use correct titles.

Mr BROWN: He uses victims for his own political gain, while lying about it at the same time. He is slippery. He picked the mayor. He threw her under the bus two days later and called on her to resign. He did the right thing when that came about, but this is the level that the Leader of the Opposition goes to. He hand-picked the mayor to do his bidding and then threw her under the bus. He should resign and apologise to the Field family immediately.

(Time expired)

Green, Mr P; Water Infrastructure



Mrs FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (2.27 pm): I would like to honour the memory of a Queensland great—Paul Green. Paul Green was a wonderful Queenslander, a fantastic coach, a family man and a great friend. I would like to pass on my deepest condolences to Paul's wife, Amanda, his beautiful children, Emerson and Jed, and his extended family. May he rest in peace.

We all read with incredible interest on the weekend about the new war that is being waged within the Palaszczuk government. We know that there are many wars going on between the factions. We have got ministers leaking against other ministers. We still have not found the minister who is leaking against the Premier. We have not found that one yet, but we are pretty sure we know exactly who it is. What was the war we read about in the paper on the weekend?

Mr McDonald interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take that interjection. It is the latest Palaszczuk government war, and it is the water war. What is this water war about? We actually saw it play out in parliament this morning when the Treasurer of Queensland took a water question from one of the backbenchers. The poor sceptical water minister was sitting there shaking his head thinking, 'My goodness me. I should be getting the water question, surely to goodness.' I wonder why? Because the water minister said he was sceptical about the Premier's brain snap around a desal plant on the Sunshine Coast. We have just seen the Deputy Leader of the Opposition with a big brief of RTI documents around the Caloundra jail. Imagine the documents that are going to be found in an RTI around apparently the Caloundra desal. How much is that going to cost? Did the people of Caloundra even know about it?

Honestly, all the people of Caloundra woke up on Sunday and saw the Premier's brain snap on the front page of the paper. The Premier knows that after seven years of leading this state there is still no water plan, no future water security. We have—

Government members interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Oh, here we go! We will take those interjections. The plan of these members is like the Premier at a press conference yesterday: she brings an umbrella on a sunny day because they are going to pray for rain. They are going to pray for rain!

Weren't they fortunate that the rain did fall earlier this year? However, we know—and the member for Lockyer is sitting up there—they had not even done the maintenance works to make sure that the lift pumps worked on Atkinson Dam. We still have North Pine Dam at 68 per cent since 2019. Why? Because the Minister for Water is unable to get to the Treasurer to fund upgrades to essential water. That is the problem. We have a water war raging.


We have a water minister who really is only responsible for one thing and that is water. In my next speech I will talk about why, with the other parts of his portfolio. Why? Because the Premier is refusing to listen to the water minister, the water minister obviously cannot talk to the Treasurer, and the rest of the cabinet have no idea what the heavens is going on because all they think about is, 'We will just turn on the tap and water is going to flow. If it is not going to flow, we will have a brain snap and we will build another Labor failure which is a desal plant.' How much did that desal plant cost to build? It was \$1.2 billion! What a massive Labor fail! That is all this Labor government—

Mr Saunders interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! Pause the clock. Member for Maryborough, you are warned.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: This is history repeating itself. We all know what happened. The Premier was actually a minister in the cabinet when we had the first desal plant. Goodness me! The Premier must have woken up and thought, 'Goodness, what can I do today? I am going to announce who knows how many billion dollar desal plants. We are not going to consult with the local community. We are not going to talk to the people of Caloundra. We are not going to talk to the people of the Sunny Coast and find out what they want, just like the Caloundra jail.' Honestly, the member for Caloundra needs to start listening to his community and he needs to do a bit more than send an email to the minister. He perhaps needs to talk to the Premier and say, 'Whoa, back. Hang on. Who is going to pay for it, where is the money and when is the community going to be consulted?'

Redlands Electorate; Williams, Mayor K

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (2.32 pm): Can I start by saying that the hearts of our community were broken on Australia Day in 2021 when we lost Matt, Kate and baby Miles. I do not think there was anybody in the Redlands who did not feel absolutely shattered that day. I will table the same set of documents that the member for Capalaba tabled.

Tabled paper: Bundle of papers concerning right to information release regarding 'Our fight for justice' ePetition [\[1143\]](#).

I know the member for Oodgeroo took a point of order before. I would ask him to deeply reflect on that text message that is contained in that RTI. I ask him to deeply reflect because that is not legacy. That is absolutely not legacy.

Dr Robinson: I think you are out of context.

Ms RICHARDS: I am not out of context. Talk about integrity! When you see the transactions in that document, when you see the communications and they have the audacity to talk about integrity—moral compass! My goodness gracious me! It is so off course—it is not funny—off course. Playing politics with tragedy is not okay. Playing politics is not okay.

I want to read to you the mayor's media release to launch the petition that was tabled in the House today. It was constructed with the assistance of the LNP. You really need to let these words sink in and then juxtapose those against the mayor's actions only 13 days after putting out this media release. It states—

We were all shocked when Matt, Kate and Miles lost their lives. But that shock turned to anger this week when we learned of the grossly inadequate sentence given to their killer.

The member for Capalaba and I got straight on the phone that day and took—

Mrs McMahon: He was a kid.

Ms RICHARDS: Yes. We took the appropriate course. We did not politic it with a dirty big petition. Let the hypocrisy of this sink in. The next statement in the media release says—

For our justice system to suggest three lives are worth as little as six years is astonishing and I am calling for this grossly inadequate sentence to be appealed and for the State Government to change the legislation so another family doesn't have to go through what Russell and Ann have been through.

The mayor goes on to say—

Last night I kissed my grandkids good night; but the driver of that car robbed Russell and Ann of being able to do that and there needs to be consequences.

Through the good grace of God nobody was killed that night when she was 0.177 behind the wheel of a council vehicle. By the good grace of God nobody was injured in that accident. That is sheer luck—absolute luck.

Councillor Williams went on to say that the death of Kate, Matthew and Miles had been felt across the Redlands and people were quite rightly upset, and that is absolutely the case. She said—

As a community we all grieve with Russell, Ann and the rest of their family and we will walk beside them each and every step to ensure the loss of Kate, Matt and Miles is not in vain. As Mayor I hear and see the pain in my community and I can't stand by and do nothing; now is the time for leadership, now is the time for action.

Please, think about those words and think about her actions just 13 days after that media release. There is not anybody that does not think that that moral compass is so off course. It is perverse.

Putting that into context with what the member for Capalaba just said, to actually think that you could do a Zoom phone call, at six o'clock, after you have delivered a budget, fairly and squarely intoxicated—

Ms Camm: Don't look at us!

Ms RICHARDS: You have a look at the RTI documents, member for Whitsunday.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Put your comments through the chair, please.

Ms RICHARDS: To think she did a Zoom meeting with those families, with their loved ones, who had lost their families to drink-drivers and then jumped into the car—you cannot even reconcile that. That is absolutely unfathomable.

I will table this letter from the mayor directly to me, again 13 days after the incident. Talk about leadership. As elected representatives, it is so critical that we lead by example and demonstrate the highest regard for our community. Our community should expect nothing less. In her letter, the mayor says—

As local leaders we need to do all we can to protect our community and I ask you to join me in supporting this petition so together we can send a strong message.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 10 June 2022, from the Mayor, Redland City Council, Ms Karen Williams, to the member for Redlands, Ms Kim Richards MP, regarding launch of parliamentary petition [\[1144\]](#).

Well, the hypocrisy! Deadset! It is unbelievable to use this tragedy as a way to politic. It beggars belief. Words are really cheap.

(Time expired)

Sexual Assault Statistics



Ms CAMM (Whitsunday—LNP) (2.37 pm): Unfortunately, I rise in the House this afternoon not with good news but with the latest ABS data that was released on the victims of recorded crime which paints a very bleak picture for Queensland women. While the number of victims of sexual assault rose around the country by an average of 13 per cent—which I think we all agree is unacceptable—the numbers of victims of sexual assault in Queensland increased by 35 per cent. In New South Wales, there was an increase of two per cent, and in Victoria there was an increase of 12 per cent. To put that into context, an increase of 35 per cent is outrageous. It is disgraceful.

In *Hear her voice* report 2, it lays bare the massive gaps in this government's response to sexual assault. Victim survivors told the taskforce that their experiences with police were so traumatising that they voluntarily withdrew their complaint. I have since met with women across this state who have considered doing so.

The recording equipment of the QPS is of a low quality with feedback from the DPP that they are losing cases because of the low standard of quality. In relation to rape kits, women and girls in Queensland do not have consistent access to timely forensic medical examinations when they have been sexually assaulted. I do recall members across the House, including the health minister, accusing me of politicking when rape victims were coming forward to me with complaints about the forensic lab in this state. Problems have been identified. I quote from page 168 of the report—

With Queensland's ability to provide women and girls with timely access to high quality forensic medical care since 2019.

While I note the LNP did hold office for three years, this government has certainly held office for a lot longer.

Women have travelled up to 1,300 kilometres for an examination only to be turned back due to miscommunication. That is 1,300 kilometres after being traumatised through a sexual assault. Others are waiting for nine hours in a dusty room next to a COVID ward in the clothes they wore during an attack. They were just left to sit in their trauma.

Dr Cathy Lincoln, the deputy director of the Gold Coast forensic medical unit, confirmed that there are simply not enough trained forensic medical physicians in Queensland at present. It was also confirmed that the take-up of the training by the clinical forensic medical unit had been very slow. With

a 35 per cent increase in the number of victims and the fact that in communities such as Gladstone you can turn up at the hospital and there is no-one qualified to undertake a rape kit, women victims across our state are left without access to justice.

Not only do we have issues with the examination of DNA evidence in our forensic lab—and thank you to the advocacy of journalists, victims and the opposition—but this report has also found that the kits themselves that are used in Queensland are of an inferior quality to those used in other states. In New South Wales sealed DNA-free kits contain DNA decontamination kits and a large number of swabs and related apparatus. The kits in Queensland that are used come in an open bag with only six swabs, and this is half the swabs generally required to fulfil a forensic examination. Worse still, we have heard of vulnerable women without Medicare cards being charged for rape kits. It took the Leader of the Opposition and me to call it out in the media after it came to light in a tabled report. It was one week before the health minister acted, and the response from the Minister for Women was nothing short of appalling for abdicating her responsibility to the Minister for Health.

A commission of inquiry will be held into the quality of the Queensland Forensic and Scientific Services. This should not delay the development of interim agreements between Queensland Health, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General and the Queensland Police Service. It is about time that the Minister for Women took the job seriously and stopped abdicating her responsibility and instead advocated to her fellow ministers in the cabinet room.

This government talks about women's safety, but women are not safe under this government. That has been proven with the women who have come forward to speak with me from the Gold Coast to the Toowoomba region, from Gladstone and Far North Queensland—women who have no right to criminal justice because of the failings of not a system but of people, of those opposite, because of the lack of leadership, the lack of responsibility and the lack of a willingness to go forward, to work together and to make change. These are real women who need action now.

Bundaberg, NRL Event; Green, Mr P



Mr SMITH (Bundaberg—ALP) (2.42 pm): Let it be known that on 7 August 2022 Bundaberg hosted its first ever NRL premiership match at the iconic Salter Oval. That is right: the Doggies and the Cowboys ripped in with great spirit in front of more than 8,500 people. Those people came from all across Queensland—not just Bundaberg, Hervey Bay and Maryborough but Gladstone, Townsville and a few even made the trip all the way from Belmore and Bankstown to the iconic Salter Oval to watch their mighty Doggies play. It was capped off by the fact that Coen Hess ran onto his home field playing for the Cowboys. Yesterday I caught up with Coen's uncle Scott Shaw. I had not seen him for a little while. I know that he was so proud of his nephew running out on the home ground. I know that Coen's grandma might have shed a tear or two as well watching her grandson run around.

I think about what an amazing event that was for Bundaberg and the origins of it. In the back rooms of parliament, in some of the smaller and stuffier rooms, there was a meeting with the minister and the NRL talking about how we can bring an NRL premiership match to Bundaberg—not just a trial match but an actual game for competition points. Through good fortune Andrew Gifford, a director of the Canterbury Bulldogs, moved to Bundaberg last year with his wife, Julie, and his daughter Sam. That is when things really started to kick off. I want to pay great respect to Andrew, who is an amazing gentleman, along with CEO Aaron Warburton and chairman John Khoury for what they did to ensure this game could happen. The best thing is that it is going to happen for the next two seasons in Bundaberg. The Bulldogs will be back year on year, which is absolutely fantastic.

Of course, I have to mention the enthusiasm and the passion of Mayor Dempsey. Without Mayor Dempsey and his leadership as well as that of the council, the partnership between the NRL, the Doggies, the state government and the council just would not have been there. I want to acknowledge all of the councillors as well as Mayor Dempsey.

When we talk about people who played an important role, of course we need to speak about Minister Hinchliffe and the great work he did in making sure that we could get this game, as well as the Treasurer and the Deputy Premier. I thank them, as do all of Bundaberg, for what was such an amazing event. I also want to thank Dave Field from the council and Gavin Steele, Mike Ireland and all of the boys at the BRL. Next week is the finals. I am sure we will have a beer and celebrate how good a day it was. They have done such amazing work.

Rugby League is more than just a game. This is an investment into the region. It is an investment into Bundaberg. It is an investment into local sport, into our schools and into our local economy because it drives tourism into the region. That is how important this game is. That is why it is so important that we achieved a multi-year deal, because it boosts the economy.

One of my favourite events was the all abilities Rugby League. This is a fantastic initiative started by two ladies to ensure that children who have some intellectual or physical impairments get to play Rugby League with their mates. It was wonderful to have the Bulldogs out there. Considering my family history, it was pretty important to me to see young kids with ASD running around with a big smile on their face. It was absolutely fantastic. That is the power of sport. That is the power of Rugby League.

With the minute and a half I have remaining I want to touch on Paul Green as well, and I note the member for Nanango's earlier heartfelt comments. I knew Paul Green towards the end of the late 2000s. He was the coaching director at Carina Leagues Club, the footy club where I was coaching. My place in Paul Green's life is obviously very miniscule compared to everything he has achieved. However, he was a gentleman who set down small stepping stones for me. He got me my apprenticeship in the Australian Rugby League Development. He connected me with different people throughout Rugby League who then became my friends.

Without that early intervention from a gentleman like Paul Green, my life would have looked very different and I would have had very different friends and experiences. Even though I have been only a small blip on the radar of his life, I wanted to reflect on how much it means to me that for someone like Paul Green you did not have to be a first grade footballer; you did not have to be anyone more than just a 15- or 16-year-old kid. He took the time to invest in you and he gave you confidence. I want to pass on my condolences. Hearing about what happened to Paul has rattled my mind a little bit. Maybe this is not the right forum to talk about this, but I felt the need to get that off my chest. Vale Paul Green.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Environment Legislation



Mr PERRETT (Gympie—LNP) (2.47 pm): I rise to speak about the government's secret plan to change environmental legislation, as revealed in the *Australian* today. It follows revelations industry stakeholders were forced to sign an unprecedented confidentiality deed to view secret legislation drafted by the Queensland environment department. That is correct; this government knew the backlash from their proposed legislation would be so severe that they made Queensland stakeholders sign a confidentiality deed before they could review it. Let that sink in. Requiring confidentiality deeds for proposed legislation is unprecedented and unheard of. It is not just me saying that. It is the barrage of stakeholders who are deeply concerned about the practices of this government.

The Premier talks big when it comes to integrity, accountability and transparency. If only the Premier practised what she preaches. This proposed legislation is a huge threat to our agriculture and mining industries. This bill as reported would give a bureaucrat like the environment department's director-general the power to wind back retrospectively existing environmental approvals, licences and permits to slash production capacity. It would allow an unelected bureaucrat free rein to unilaterally and retrospectively close businesses. As the *Australian* has published, it is a sovereign risk of the highest order.

Let's be clear: the government's secret plan will force farmers to cut the number of livestock they own. It will see the government dictate what graziers and landholders can do with their land. It will wreak havoc on our rural and regional communities. It will drive up the cost of living through the high cost of beef. This will impact all Queenslanders regardless of postcode. Even more concerning, and as reported, by the *Australian*, this draft legislation has the fingerprints of Tim Seelig, the environment department's strategic policy head, all over it. Who could forget Mr Seelig's past as the Wilderness Society's campaign manager and a well-known anti-mining activist? If that is not a red flag, I do not know what is.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Australian*, dated 16 August 2022, titled 'Red tape threat to miners, farmers' [\[1145\]](#).

Today in question time I asked the Premier to rule out these secret changes. The Premier did not even know about the news article, so to assist the Premier I tabled a copy of the front-page article from the *Australian*. Instead of answering the question, the Premier waffled for three minutes and refused to rule out graziers being forced to limit the number of cattle they can run. That is right: the Premier refused to rule out dictating the amount of cattle graziers can run on their land. The Premier's response to my question should be concerning for each and every Queenslanders. We know that the fish rots from the head. It is up to the Premier to put a stop to this destructive legislation. This legislation would severely impact the rural and regional communities that I proudly represent as the member for Gympie and as the shadow minister for agriculture.

Today's admission by the Premier proves that Labor is continuing its attack on farmers and on our rural and regional communities. The Premier's comments come at a time of heightened uncertainty for agriculture in Queensland. Queensland's rural and regional communities have for too long been starved of a genuine voice in the government and in the cabinet. We know that the agriculture minister

struggles to have his voice heard around the cabinet table. You need to look no further than at the department's budget papers to prove that. As every other department increases in staffing, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries is literally going backwards. The threat of outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease, lumpy skin disease and Japanese encephalitis should be front and centre for all governments. We must be ready to respond.

Queensland's agriculture community still face other challenges. Labour shortages continue to be one of the biggest constraints for industry. This government's only solution has been to run into the ground, close down and sell off Queensland's premier agricultural training colleges. We need a solution to the labour crisis, and we need it now. Who can forget the photo of Minister Furner proudly shutting and locking the gates of the former Longreach agricultural training college?

The effect of years of drought is still current and real for many landholders. Cattle numbers have decreased. We know that grazing is a key economic driver that underpins the success of our rural and regional communities. It is a key export that sees Queensland on centre stage of beef production in the world. I call on Minister Furner to oppose this bureaucratic and government absurdity. Minister Furner must brief the Premier so that she understands the actual importance of grazing and how the livestock industries of this state operate. Certainty is critical to graziers, and underhanded approaches must not become the norm for this Premier.

Renewable Energy



Mr McCALLUM (Bundamba—ALP) (2.52 pm): We are laying down a job-creating pathway for Queensland homes and businesses to shine, thanks to our abundant, clean, cheap power. I cannot help but make a remark after the member for Gympie's contribution, because his community will benefit from the job-creating pathway we are laying down in the energy system. Infrastructure for pumped hydro storage out at Borumba is being investigated. You are welcome, member for Gympie. Thanks to the Palaszczuk government there will likely be thousands of jobs associated with clean, cheap power in Gympie. We are using more and more renewable energy, which is keeping strong downward pressure on power prices. It is laying a foundation for economic growth that has already delivered over 8,000 jobs in construction alone and over \$10 billion in investment directly in the energy sector while enabling jobs and investment across many others.

We now have 50 large-scale renewable projects operating, under construction or financially committed since the election of the Palaszczuk government in 2015. This represents over 5.7 megawatts of clean energy and over 13.8 million tonnes of avoided emissions each year. Combined with rooftop solar, the state has over 7.6 megawatts of renewable energy capacity and 21.4 per cent of electricity used in Queensland is produced from renewables.

We are growing a local manufacturing sector using Queensland know-how to construct and supply components alongside and in the renewables supply chain, and we are developing a growing supply chain for renewable hydrogen. Of course, all of this is underpinned by high levels of content from Queensland small businesses.

We are supporting our regions with more good, highly skilled jobs and services. Increasingly, local workers have strong career pathways in renewables, manufacturing, hydrogen, transport and new economy resources. Our renewable energy zones are driving investment and supporting good local jobs. Only last week we fast-tracked the biggest renewable energy zone in Australia to help power 700,000 Queensland homes and create hundreds of local jobs in the Southern Downs. Connecting the massive wind farm project to the national grid will unlock around \$2 billion worth of investment while boosting reliability across three east Australian states with clean Queensland-made energy. It means that more Queenslanders will have increased access to clean and affordable energy proudly produced in Queensland and owned by Queenslanders. This is reducing our reliance on overseas oil and gas and increasing our energy independence.

A record number of households have been generating their electricity from solar panels and using the energy stored in batteries to power their electric cars and appliances. Households are saving more money with lower power bills, giving them the ability to enjoy more of the great lifestyle Queensland has to offer. Through continued public ownership, Queenslanders proudly own state-of-the-art generation power networks, increasing energy storage and increasing hydrogen assets that are not only producing clean, cheap power into homes and businesses but also putting money back into the pockets of Queenslanders. This is going to continue from the 31st of this month, when our next cost-of-living rebate is applied to power bills across the state. Of course, this is not the first rebate we have been able to provide. Over the past four years, Queenslanders have been paid \$575 because they kept their electricity networks in their own hands. This includes our local Swanbank E power station.

We have also led the way nationally. I acknowledge the work of the member for Springwood, the energy minister. Queensland has led from the front to have emissions reductions included in the national energy objectives of the NEM. This is a huge step forward. More has already been achieved under a federal Labor government than was achieved under nine years of the LNP government.

(Time expired)

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

State Development and Regional Industries Committee, Report

Resumed from p. 1970.



Mrs FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (2.57 pm), continuing: I only have a short time left to speak. I wish that we had more time to speak on this report. At estimates the water minister was unable to tell us why there was no more money to restore Paradise Dam. This is an issue that came to light from a question on notice. I asked the minister a question on notice in relation to the restoration of Cooby, Cressbrook and Gordonbrook dams. I asked why there was no funding for either the Toowoomba or the South Burnett regional councils to restore those dams and make significant upgrades. The minister responded—

The Toowoomba Regional Council and the South Burnett Regional Council are responsible for the Cooby, Cressbrook Creek and Gordonbrook Dams—

Tick. I agree with that. He went on to say—

My department, to date, has not received any requests for support or funding for the spillway projects for these dams.

Goodness me! I sent that answer to the mayors of Toowoomba and South Burnett councils, and guess what has happened? They have both come back and asked, 'What is the minister talking about? Our councils are always asking the minister for funding, and obviously none is forthcoming.' I will be considering that answer and, once I get that correspondence from the regional councils, I will be writing to Mr Speaker. I would hate to think that the poor embattled water minister has misled this House. If it is proven that he has, I will be writing to the Speaker to ensure the minister clarifies the record and clears that matter up.

I also want to talk about the failures of the water and manufacturing minister when it comes to Manufacturing Skills Queensland. We saw the big, shiny brochure from the Palaszczuk government during the last election which was great to see. I note that the Premier is in the chamber, so the Premier might be able to get this thing moving. We know that the minister for skills apparently has the responsibility to oversee Manufacturing Skills Queensland. It still has not been set up. When I asked the water and manufacturing minister what is happening with that, he said, 'I don't have any responsibility for that. That goes to the skills minister.' The skills minister obviously has not done anything either, so I again ask—and it is great to see the skills minister in the House: what is happening with Manufacturing Skills Queensland? Even the Premier today eventually acknowledged that we have a skills shortage in Queensland.

Debate, on motion of Ms Farmer, adjourned.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Path to Treaty



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (3.00 pm): We have just hosted a very important moment in Queensland's history, taking a giant leap towards a new way of working in partnership with Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples, including a real and genuine commitment to progressing a treaty or treaties with First Nation Queenslanders. Hundreds of

people gathered here at parliament to witness First Nation leaders sign a statement of commitment as we released our government's response to the Treaty Advancement Committee report. I am delighted to table that report and the government's response in this House today.

Tabled paper: Treaty Advancement Committee report, dated October 2021, titled 'Treaty Advancement Committee Report' [1146].

Tabled paper: Queensland government report, dated 2022, titled 'Queensland Government Response to the Treaty Advancement Committee Report' [1147].

We have accepted in full or in principle all 22 of its recommendations. We have committed to passing legislation to establish an independent First Nations Treaty Institute and a truth-telling and healing inquiry. We have guaranteed funding of at least \$10 million per year for the institute for the duration of the treaty process, ensuring support for First Nations groups to take their place at the table in negotiating treaties with government. Similarly, the Path to Treaty office, the Government Treaty Readiness Committee and Path to Treaty Ministerial Consultative Committee will ensure government is ready to negotiate.

First Nations people must be at the forefront of the treaty process. An independent interim body will co-design the legislation with government and kick off important actions we can start now such as local truths telling. This is the next step in a challenging but exciting journey for Queensland. This next stage will not be easy. Indeed, it may be very uncomfortable and difficult to face some of the truths that uncovering our colonial past may reveal. I am confident that Queensland will embrace this historic opportunity to heal the past and set Queensland on a new pathway, grounded in respect for and in partnership with First Nation Queenslanders. I look forward to walking the path with every Queensland.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

State Development and Regional Industries Committee, Report

Resumed from p. 1981.



Mr MADDEN (Ipswich West—ALP) (3.03 pm): The estimates process aids parliament in the scrutiny of the government's proposed expenditure. Since 1994 committees of parliament have undertaken the estimates process by examining and reporting on the proposed expenditures contained in the Appropriation Bill and the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill. From 26 July to 4 August 2022 each of the seven portfolio committees held a public hearing at which the Speaker, ministers and certain senior public servants and officers were questioned regarding the proposed expenditure for the relevant portfolio areas. I serve on the state parliament's State Development and Regional Industries Committee which deals with portfolios that include state development, local government, agriculture and water, with the respective ministers being Steven Miles, Mark Furner and Glenn Butcher. On 27 July these ministers presented themselves to my committee.


I was pleased that the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development was able to provide an update as to the state government's response to the recent floods that so severely affected my great city of Ipswich. He advised that an independent Deloitte's report into this year's floods estimates that across South-East Queensland more than 500,000 people were affected by the floods in some way, with an estimated health and social cost of \$4.5 billion. The same report estimated that the total cost to Queenslanders was \$7.7 billion. As of 1 July 2022, more than \$30.84 million in financial assistance has already been provided to impacted Queensland residents, benefiting more than 106,200 people affected by the severe weather and flooding across South-East Queensland.

The Deputy Premier also advised that the state government has secured more than \$2 billion in extraordinary assistance packages jointly funded by the Commonwealth and Queensland governments under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements to provide support to communities in need. Grants are available to primary producers, small businesses, not-for-profit organisations and sporting and community clubs to help flood-affected communities get back on their feet. To date, 3,817 grants valued

at more than \$55.95 million have been approved to assist primary producers, small businesses and not-for-profit agencies as well as \$3.84 billion in low-interest loans to affected primary producers and small businesses.

Critical to ensuring that Queenslanders are protected in future floods is the \$741 million Resilient Homes Fund, which is the largest home resilience program of its kind ever to be delivered in Australia. While we cannot stop floods, we can take steps to reduce their impact by giving home owners the choice to rebuild to a more resilient standard, raise their home or have their home bought back if it is at high risk. As of 26 July 2022, more than 4,200 registrations of interest have been lodged. This includes 1,257 people requesting house raising and 1,501 people to retrofit their houses. He also advised that he has fought so hard to ensure that we can provide as much support as possible for flood-affected Queenslanders. Following his significant advocacy, the Commonwealth government agreed to match Queensland's \$370 million commitment to deliver the full extent of the package.

In my electorate of Ipswich West, the suburbs of Karalee and Chuwar were significantly affected, as were the neighbouring Brisbane suburbs of Karana Downs and Mount Crosby in the electorate of Moggill just across the river. The primary connection between these two areas is Colleges Crossing, which is impassable in times of flood. Unfortunately, the alternative route across the Brisbane River is the Mount Crosby Weir Bridge, but it has been out of commission since February 2022. I was pleased to hear from the Minister for Water that it is proposed that a new high-level bridge be built across the Brisbane River at Mount Crosby. This will make the area much more flood resilient, sitting more than three metres higher than the existing bridge. BDM Construction crews are already on site and the new bridge is due to be completed in 2023. Work is also underway to reopen the Mount Crosby Weir Bridge.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (3.08 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the 2022-23 budget estimates report from the State Development and Regional Industries Committee. The LNP has expressed its concerns about the estimates process, with the committee chairs running protection rackets for ministers. It was the former Labor Speaker of the Legislative Assembly John Mickel who once called the estimates process a protection racket. He was not wrong, and this year it was no different.


Turning to the issues raised in the hearing, councils have called for the Works for Queensland program to be raised to \$100 million per year. Councils have been short-changed by this government's wasteful spending. The LNP exposed during the estimates process that more than \$3 billion of taxpayers' money has been wasted. This included over \$220 million on a mothballed quarantine facility. If the Queensland government had not built the 'Wastecamp' whilst playing politics with the former federal government, councils may well have their \$100 million per year for Works for Queensland.

The Deputy Premier again failed to rule out stopping the proposed boundary realignment process between the Rockhampton and Livingstone councils. The boundary proposals should only proceed when both councils agree. The Deputy Premier and his predecessor ignored this point. The recent change commission survey proved how incensed the residents of the Livingstone Shire Council are with this proposal. Ninety-five per cent of the Livingstone shire residents who responded did not support the proposal, leading to 54 per cent of all respondents voting against the boundary change. This is no surprise. The government's own report said the proposed change would result in only a marginal benefit for Rockhampton residents yet a significant rate rise for those Livingstone residents. The councils do not agree, the residents do not agree and future financial sustainability is not assured. It is disappointing that the Deputy Premier is allowing this to drag on, but even more disappointing is the silence from the local member for Keppel. Her constituents are facing rates hikes of up to \$250 in the middle of a full-blown cost-of-living crisis and she is silent. The member for Keppel needs to take a stand on behalf of the people in her electorate because so far she has completely let them down.

The Deputy Premier also failed to rule out changing the voting system for the Brisbane City Council elections in March 2024. The Brisbane Labor council opposition cannot come up with policies that people want so they rely on their state Labor colleagues to change the voting system for their political advantage. Local government stakeholders are against the rigging of the local government voting system, as are the LNP. Such a move only stands to benefit two groups: Labor and the Greens. I say to those backbenchers and those ministers in the House, think long and hard about where your government is going with this. In the last term local governments resoundingly rejected the rigging of the voting system. However, given Labor's shameful record in tipping the electoral scales in their favour, I suspect we will have a two-minutes-to-midnight, sneaky electoral change.

Ms Pease interjected.

Ms LEAHY: Eighteen minutes notice! Finally, the state Labor government needs to stop dragging its feet on the Resilient Homes Fund. Constituents are suffering in unlivable conditions following the floods earlier this year and still the money is not getting out the door. The public works minister confirmed in a later hearing that less than three quarters of the assessments are underway. Only one of the three companies invited to do the assessments accepted the work and people will be waiting until next year for their funding. People's homes are uninhabitable now. They are going through the stress of what it is like after a natural disaster. The state and the federal governments need to accelerate this program. Overall, I would have to say I agree with one statement the Treasurer made during budget week: that this is, indeed, a typical Labor budget. It is a budget of broken promises, failed service delivery, increased taxes and complete indifference towards local government. Councils across Queensland deserve better and Queenslanders deserve better.

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (3.12 pm): I thought with nine seconds left the LNP would have more to say, but clearly not. What does one say about the LNP? Today I say I believe them. I believe them because they come in here and they say that the estimates process is broken and members are being gagged—and they are. When I look at the speaking list for this debate, an LNP member of the committee has not even spoken yet. This is a committee report. Maybe they have to ask a question in estimates to then be allowed to speak in the debate. Maybe that is what needs to happen.

I sympathise with Comrade McDonald and Comrade Hart who have not had a chance to speak on this committee report. I am sure that when they do they will talk about how great this Palaszczuk Labor government budget is, another strong budget for the people of Queensland, another strong budget that delivers in health: \$23.6 billion. There will be new hospitals built. I know how hard the member for Hervey Bay worked for the investment in health in Hervey Bay. Well done! The people of Hervey Bay tell me how good it is to have some young blood—compared to the last member at least. This is a budget that delivers for manufacturing. One just has to look at how well Maryborough has gone over the last seven years with the member for Maryborough and a Palaszczuk Labor government delivering Labor budgets. It is the same for the whole of the Wide Bay.

This is a budget that delivers for renewable energy, water security and for regional Queensland. What is more, it delivers a plan and vision for the state. The Deputy Premier said in estimates that this is a budget that creates more good jobs in more industries and protects our unique Queensland lifestyle. This is a budget that delivers for a Queensland that has a strong, focused government with a plan and a vision for the state. We can see that in my electorate of Bundaberg. I am sure that all the members can see it in their own electorates.

In Bundaberg we are delivering the brand new \$1.2 billion hospital, a major piece of infrastructure that will create more jobs in the future and look after our health. As well as that we have committed to restoring Paradise Dam. I see that the Minister for Water is here. What a great job the minister has done to make sure that we are working with the agriculture and horticulture industries to create more jobs, sustainability and confidence in the industries. The new ITD building at Kepnock will enable young people to get into industrial design and technology so that they can live and work in Bundaberg. They will be able to study agriculture and horticulture through the new TAFE agriculture hub.

Turning to the statement of reservation from the LNP, it is wafer thin. I did read it. The work experience kid must have run out of things to say. There is no plan or vision. The statement is full of misleading comments. One misleading comment is, 'Following strong and consistent questioning by the opposition'. That is more misleading than the career of Milli Vanilli. However, there is one thing that we can agree on. Members of the LNP state opposition fought for our Labor budget at their state council meeting. When the federal members of the LNP tried to move a motion against coal royalties, it was the LNP state party room who stood up and—I hear passionately—debated for the coal royalties in the Labor budget. Well done, comrades! I note that even though there is a statement of reservation, Comrade Hart and Comrade McDonald do actually say that the bill should be passed. They have seen the light. They are backing in a strong Labor government that has delivered another strong budget.

In relation to this budget delivering for Bundaberg in particular, I heard the member for Nanango talk about there being only \$30 million. This is a financial year budget. When the member for Broadwater, who knows more about Paradise Point than he does about Paradise Dam, said there is no money for Paradise Dam, I said in the media that I do not know how he goes shopping, but when I go shopping I put the groceries in the shopping trolley and I pay for the groceries in the trolley, not the groceries for the next three years. He used to live in a nice gated community in Broadwater but now he is in Brisbane doing online shopping. There are comrades on all sides of the House. I know those opposite are true believers. This is a wonderful budget.



Mr PERRETT (Gympie—LNP) (3.17 pm): I rise to speak on the estimates report of the State Development and Regional Industries Committee with a focus on agriculture, fisheries and forestry. Queenslanders deserve answers about DAF's work culture, biosecurity threats, staffing levels and its impact on the capacity of the department to deliver, the war against fire ants, drought assistance, skills and labour shortages, asset sales from the agricultural colleges, AgTech, industry best practice, feral pests initiatives and registered biosecurity entities. They deserve answers about grants and criteria for specific organisations, QRIDA, disaster recovery funding and Rural Economic Development Grants programs. They deserve answers about the value of name-changing exercises, fisheries reforms, vessel monitoring, marine pests, shark control, timber supply shortages caused by successive policy failures, the ag visa and labour shortages.

As other departmental budgets boast record spends and staff numbers, DAF is going backwards. Budget and staff cuts are not just numbers on a spreadsheet; they impact service delivery. The budget and service delivery cuts make it clear that the agriculture minister is not heard around the cabinet table.

At a time when biosecurity issues pose a significant risk, it is concerning that DAF's biosecurity department has no additional staffing. It has been going backwards. Since 2015, animal welfare and biosecurity inspector positions have reduced by 13, from 64 to 51. In May we learned that the government had also failed to fill five vacant departmental positions. The budget was another missed opportunity to address biosecurity threats from Japanese encephalitis, lumpy skin disease and foot-and-mouth disease or FMD. Following questioning, the minister assured us that the government can handle an outbreak despite staff cuts. When pressed on the issue, especially on the threat of FMD, the minister boasted that 'Queensland is well prepared in terms of biosecurity'.

However, less than two weeks later the Premier announced on Twitter an extra 10 biosecurity officers. Those 10 positions would not even match the staffing levels of 2015 and within a few hours it became 15. The Premier's announcement made the minister's boast a hollow one, designed to avoid addressing the substance of being prepared for biosecurity threats. The minister is notorious for being slow to act on biosecurity issues and fails to plan. The minister provided no real answers on whether DAF has undertaken any modelling on the impact of foot-and-mouth disease. Given that all cloven-hoofed animals are susceptible to FMD, the government does not even know how many feral pigs are in Queensland or their geographic spread.

That provides some insight into why the war on fire ants is being lost and why the government's solution is to simply change the narrative from fire ant 'eradication' to 'suppression'. While the government has changed to a watered-down narrative, DAF's website has just announced that another 60 suburbs have been added to biosecurity zones. Two days before estimates, the minister answered a question from me by saying that fire ants had not spread because of this year's floods and that the floods 'would have reduced the likelihood that fire ants have been successful in rafting to new areas.' Again, DAF's website contradicts the minister, stating—

Fire ants are also known to spread during flood-like conditions ... They have the ability to survive flood waters by linking their bodies together to form rafts.

Ignorance is dangerous and expensive. DAF is still spending millions to finalise the future of formerly held agricultural college assets.

The government still refuses to conduct a regulatory impact statement on the fisheries reform process. Industry concerns with the reform process are widely known and include the significant mental health effects on many small and family businesses and operators. Despite government claims of concern about mental health issues, it refuses to acknowledge the adverse mental health effects of its fisheries reform process. Peter Coaldrake's report raised concerns about the culture of this government and an integrity system that, from the top down, is not meeting public expectations. Concerns remain about an ongoing culture of cover-ups and obstruction in DAF, with the latest ones raised by the east coast Spanish mackerel fishery working group.

Construction is being impacted by a serious timber shortage. The long-term supply chain implications are the culmination of failed forestry policy. Successive Labor governments have significantly reduced native timber plantations. The Premier announced a two-year study to identify future sustainable actions. It is almost a year overdue and the minister is not taking any action. Again it reflects a culture of announcements based on how things look and not how they are. Estimates reconfirm that the government is slow to act because it cannot properly plan and that, for it, governing is a cynical exercise in massaging announcements that take precedence over delivery.



Hon. ML FURNER (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (3.22 pm): It gives me great pleasure to respond to the estimates report of the State Development and Regional Industries Committee. I thank the chair, the member for Bancroft, and all of the members of the committee for their considered questions on agriculture, fisheries and forestry in the state.

In June the Palaszczuk government delivered a \$608 million investment in Queensland's agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries to maintain their position as a major employer and world leader. Drought support and preparedness, research and extension services, and tackling major pests featured prominently in this budget. It included \$79.6 million over four years to continue the drought assistance programs and \$150 million over three years to be set aside for drought preparedness and emergency drought assistance loans. It included over \$140 million of the government's partnership funds in 2022-23 to drive productivity and innovation in Queensland's livestock, aquaculture, cropping, horticulture, forestry, timber and food processing industries through world-class research, development and extension.

We have committed \$37.1 million to invest over five years to open a vital new front in the war on red imported fire ants with a Fire Ant Suppression Taskforce. That is new money to complement the ongoing National Fire Ant Eradication Program, to which we have continued our commitment. Also in the biosecurity space, we have invested a further \$1 million to deliver round 7 in the Queensland Feral Pest Initiative. There is up to \$2.6 million in 2022-23 for the implementation of the Australian government's Pacific Australia Labour Mobility scheme. Of course, at estimates we announced more than \$4 million to continue the magnificent work of the rural jobs initiative, which includes the Queensland Agriculture Workforce Network to keep finding good workers and good jobs in agriculture and related industries. That announcement has been well received right across the horticultural sector, which understands the importance of that particular initiative. Overall, it is a budget that supports good jobs and better services in the agricultural industry and the great lifestyle of rural and regional Queensland.

It would be remiss of me not to comment on the opposition's dissenting statements of reservation contained within the committee's report. In fact, this was more painful than watching Peter Dutton eat a dagwood dog at the Ekka. It is clear that the only thing that the opposition learnt from the Ekka was 'all bag, no show'. They claimed that there are cuts to the agriculture budget, but our 2022-23 budget is \$608 million. Conversely, when we look at the previous LNP government they allocated \$522.6 million so I beg to differ with their comments on cuts when we look at that contrast. For the record, there are now more staff in DAF than when we came into government. In fact, when the last LNP government was in power they sacked more than 600 agriculture workers from DAF. That is the figure that they are responsible for. That is their legacy. I am not saying that the LNP needs to buy the Sesame Street show bag for next year, but they really do need to learn how to count.

Biosecurity should be a bipartisan measure. Once again I will reassure the House that we are prepared when it comes to biosecurity and we will continue to work with the industry on this crucial issue. When it comes to the fire ant program, the LNP cannot get their head around the fact that there is an eradication program as well as a suppression program prior to eradication. That is all new money—\$37.1 million. The LNP claimed that we renamed the eradication program a suppression program and that we have given up the fight. Far from it. It is hard to tell if the LNP is genuinely not that bright or just ignorant of the facts when it comes to an SDS and how to read one.

Another line that the LNP cast on fisheries was that a closure to Spanish mackerel was ruled out at estimates when, in fact, the decision was already published on the website and open for consultation. From wood chop to not much chop, the LNP still cannot understand how forestry works in this state. It is no wonder that the LNP has not been a main-ring attraction for the punters for the last few years: can't count, can't read and a leadership that is a cross between the dodgem cars and the Vomitron. I am asked better questions at the Ekka, and I was there just about every day. You could try to find a member of the LNP there. I know some of them fronted up for a free breakfast at the Rural Press Club, but other than that you would barely see them in the crowd. They are hardly ever seen there. They are missing in action all of the time.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Walker): Order, member for Buderim.

Mr FURNER: The big mouth from Buderim was missing in action.

(Time expired)

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, take your seat.

Mr Furner: He could not be heard over the crowds.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is no longer necessary. Member for Buderim, you are warned under the standing orders.



Mr McDONALD (Lockyer—LNP) (3.28 pm): I am proud to be able to rise to speak to the State Development and Regional Industries Committee report on the estimates hearing. I am pleased to be the LNP's deputy chair on that committee. Together with my colleagues the member for Burleigh and the member for Traeger, we try to hold the government to account on every occasion. Whether it be on publishing minutes or other things, we make sure that the government is held to account. This estimates was no different.

It was during the estimates hearing of the State Development and Regional Industries Committee that we discovered the truth about 'Wastecamp' or the Wellcamp facility. I understand that it was built as a quarantine facility, but the fact that Queenslanders do not own it is unbelievable. Whilst ours is the State Development and Regional Industries Committee, we cover state development, infrastructure, planning, local government, agriculture, regional communities, fisheries, forestry, water, regional development and manufacturing. It is a very large portfolio.

I return to the 'Wastecamp' facility and the \$237 million that we discovered during the committee process. My community of Lockyer is aghast at that figure. In fact, that \$237 million could flood-proof Lockyer, a community that has been so badly affected by floods in recent times and where many people have lost their lives. That \$237 million would see upgrades to the Warrego Highway at Glenore Grove with crossroads to see no flooding between Toowoomba and Brisbane. There would be mitigation projects across Laidley, Withcott, Helidon, Gatton, Grantham and all the communities. Not only that, we could see some of the money spent from the Resilient Homes Fund out in the Lockyer—or some of the wasted \$237 million—to assist our community members whose lives are on hold—76 families in Lockyer and 37 families in the Somerset Regional Council area—from the effects of the floods. These people are in a quandary over what to do with their insurance? Should they repair their home when in another few months the government will come and give some assistance after all that money is wasted? Of course, they cannot do that. These are communities which have been very badly affected in the past.

The community of Grantham was badly affected in 2011 and was very fortunate to have a land swap program. It was actually an award-winning program. Every community member in Grantham who was inundated was offered the opportunity to go to higher ground. For many reasons—financial or emotional—some of those families chose to stay down in their old homes. We can understand why they did that for certain reasons. One reason was that they were told it was a one-in-100-year flood event. We know that it was not a one-in-100-year flood event; those communities have been affected again and again. The vast majority of community members in that town have now put up their hands to say, 'We now want to take that opportunity.'

I challenge the Deputy Premier and minister responsible for the QRA to give Lockyer an opportunity to see those community members assisted with that program. These are community members who have been through the financial, logistical and emotional turmoil of floods in the past and have now put up their hands. These are easy wins for this government, a government that needs wins. I offer the minister an opportunity to bring that money to Lockyer to assist those 76 families—and also the 37 families in Somerset—who have applied for assistance under the Resilient Homes Fund. Please give them an opportunity.

While I am talking about opportunities—the minister for agriculture just mentioned the QRIDA program—I am pleased that we have been able finally to get category D approval for the May event, but it took nearly 10 weeks to see that happen. We need to see the QRIDA process changed and streamlined so that when an event happens those moneys are activated and we see the money flow to the community so it can recover straight from the start. Vulnerable members of the community affected by floods then face a bureaucratic process where regularly they hear, 'No, no, no' before they hear a yes. That creates emotional turmoil that they do not need.



Hon. GJ BUTCHER (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (3.33 pm): It is great to stand here tonight to speak in response to the estimates process. Today we heard from the shadow minister for water, manufacturing and the construction of dams. Talk about an 'embattled minister'! She is the most embattled shadow minister in the history of this parliament. The member for Nanango is an absolute disgrace when it comes to her portfolios. She comes in here like a headless chicken, screaming and squirming all over the place. She has no idea about anything to do with water.


When you start to prepare for estimates, the one thing you do is try to work out what questions will be asked. It is pretty hard to work out what members opposite will ask on estimates day when in 12 months the shadow minister does not ask me even one question in relation to my portfolio. If I were a shadow minister, I would be hammering my minister every day of the week. The member refuses to do it because she is silenced by the party she is a part of, led by one of the worst opposition leaders in Queensland's history. They booted her, like they continue to boot their members every day of the week. It is always sad when another female is booted from the opposition—an absolute failure.

Let's talk about Paradise Dam. I know the member for Bundaberg was very passionate about it in his speech. The member for Nanango pointed out that there is only \$30 million in this year's budget. Let's look back. For \$25 million the member for Nanango said that she would fix Paradise Dam. That is \$5 million less than what we have in the interim budget to get early works started on Paradise Dam. She continually tells people that we tore it down, but she will never respond to the comments concerning this being a safety issue for the constituents of Bundaberg. This government is fixing it and I am fixing it. For those opposite who do not know, the dam build is a three-year process. The money will continue to flow, as it is now.

Let's talk about current the Leader of the Opposition. In his budget reply speech, not once did he mention the word 'water'. For the shadow minister and the opposition leader to continually have a go at this government and at me as minister is an absolute embarrassment. As recently as yesterday the shadow minister was on radio complaining about the south-east corner water security plan. The announcer asked, 'What's your plan?' She said, 'We don't have a plan, but we're going to get one.' I let the member know today that there is a south-east corner water security plan. I will teach members how to find it: if they go to Google and type 'water security plan Seqwater', they will see exactly what is in there. It is a 30-year plan that is revised every five years.

The announcer went on to ask, 'What are your thoughts on a new dam? Where will you put it?' The member did not know; she had no idea. She just says that we need a new dam but she has no idea where it will go or what it will look like. Then he asked her whether she supported a desalinisation plant. The member had no idea and did not answer the question. She fluffed around and did not even want to answer. Then the announcer asked her whether she supports recycled water in Queensland. She did not answer. She did not know what she was talking about. She has no plan.

At estimates the shadow minister had the opportunity to ask a few decent questions but just rolled out absolute rubbish. There was no substance; she had no idea what she was doing. To be honest, I look forward to coming into the chamber at question time. Most times we get a bit nervous, thinking there might be a question, but I am pretty comfortable because I know for a fact that the shadow minister will never ask me a question. I have been in this job for just over 2½ years and I have received only one question. I think I had a minute to answer it. I urge the member for Nanango to get her facts straight, stop lying to the people of Queensland and stop leading everyone in this state astray.

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (3.38 pm): One of the first points I raised in the budget estimates hearing concerned the gas reserve policy, an issue I think I raised in the very first budget estimates hearing I was involved in as a member of this House. At that time I was given reports that for every dollar earned from LNG exports it costs industrial output \$21. Still we have deathly silence from the government about how this will be addressed. Now the impacts of this are staring us in the face—nationally, not just statewide. It is within the state government's power to address it, yet there is a complete lack of acknowledgement of this issue or its solution.

It is extremely frustrating, especially when the area that I represent is 100 per cent gas-fired power and before COVID disruptions boasted the most expensive industrial power in not just the country but the world—and it is still not being addressed; we are turning a blind eye. Government members should not give me this nonsense about this Mickey Mouse gas reserve policy in the Surat Basin. It is nonsense. It is what you tell people when you do not want to really deliver it. It is insulting to the public to say that. Either agree with it or do not, but do not pretend you have a policy when you do not. I was very disappointed by the response I got on that issue.

The next issue is one I roll out every year and never get a decent response to. We hear so much about asset sales. The government says that they are not going to sell assets. That is good. I agree with them. They like throwing rocks at the previous government, but here is the point on this. With the impetus for asset sales and privatisation, accounting standards were changed. Returns were based on asset values. Asset values can be written down at any time based on the accounting standard. Prices are a reflection of the accounting standards used.

My question then is: if the government is not going to privatise or sell assets why is it still adopting the methodology and standards to get a revenue from them that relates to their private ownership? If we do not need to lend money at a commercial rate why are we still agreeing to do that under a national accord because that bumps up the price of power? If ideologically the government refuses to sell assets then they do not need to adopt these accounting models. They are obsolete or irrelevant. That is an issue I have and it directly impacts the infrastructure in the area I represent.

The next issue I would like to discuss is the Olympic Games. I do not believe the nonsense. The response I received was that because the federal government is going to invest in infrastructure that it otherwise would not have invested in because we have the Olympic Games that will represent savings for us that will give us more money to build infrastructure in the north-west, in the electorate of Traeger and in other areas. I am sorry, but I do not buy that. I am sure a lot of Queenslanders who live in regional areas do not buy that either. If the government is going to try to make me believe that there is going to be a \$15 billion to \$20 billion sink hole in the budget, both federally and state, because I am an Australian just as much as I am a Queenslander, and there is not going to be an impact on the ability to deliver critically needed infrastructure in the regions—and I am talking about health infrastructure as well—then they are having a lend of me. I will never accept that. That beggars belief.

Whilst we have only 10 renal chairs in the Mount Isa Hospital when Alice Springs has over 60 for a similar footprint and we are treating the Olympic Games as a priority, I will not agree with it. That would never be right. We should never prioritise spending on something like the Olympic Games before we provide the most basic health services in remote areas. That is something I took issue with.

I raised CopperString again. It seems to be used more as headline rather than something to be delivered. It is all there ready for delivery. We are having power disruptions. They are talking about using the old Mica Creek Power Station in one of the most extreme circumstances of high gas prices to fill a hole when we just need to announce CopperString. It is waiting for cabinet to agree to it. Do it now. Stop talking about it, stop announcing it and get it built.

HIPCo is a water project in North-West Queensland. The government has the opportunity to be the leader in providing a sustainable water supply to the driest parts of our state. That would be a wonderful thing to do. It would empower a lot of battlers out there who are trying to make ends meet. There would be better land condition outcomes if they had water reliability through water storage. Millions of megalitres are flowing out to sea. We are not even taking two or three per cent of it. How about we take four, five or 10 per cent of it. That would be nice. The government's policies and attitude have blocked that. They are the things that we should have been talking about more and we did not get answers on.

Report adopted.

Education, Employment and Training Committee, Report

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): The question is—

That the report of the Education, Employment and Training Committee be adopted.



Ms RICHARDS (Redlands—ALP) (3.43 pm): The committee has recommended the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2022, be agreed to. On behalf of the committee, I thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker Lister, as deputy chair of the committee. We had an excellent day that was rigorous and robust but also respectful. I thank you as deputy chair, committee members and the substitute members for that. When talking about being fair and balanced, I note that 61 per cent of time for questions went to non-government members with 39 per cent of time going to government members. The member for Kawana brought his usual colour, character and flair to the day so I thank him for that.

Education is a substantial part of the budget at \$16.907 billion. I think it speaks to our government's investment in education and that was certainly interrogated on the day. There is a lot of great work going on in terms of programs and services. There is also a lot of capital works investment. I do not think there is a member in this place who has not seen their schools provided with uplifts. We now have the tuckshop grants being provided and I know that that has been the talk amongst all of my P&Cs.

There has been some fantastic work done in terms of infrastructure. Of course, it would be remiss of me not to mention air conditioning. I know it was a huge thing for the schools in the Redlands to get air conditioning. On top of that we have the ACES program providing solar panels to create and generate the energy to power the air conditioning to keep our kids cool in school. There is a lot of work being done there.

There has also been a lot of work done around student wellbeing and mental health and providing GPs in our schools. The committee looked at the Share the Dignity program in Queensland schools. I know that the young ladies in all of my schools are extraordinarily grateful to have access to that program.


The committee also talked about asbestos in schools and on school grounds. We know that there are many schools across Queensland that have asbestos. I commend our P&Cs, school principals and school communities for the effort they put into making sure everyone is informed about where asbestos exists and the processes involved through the AMPs. I sat through the Thornlands State School P&C's asbestos training. It was highly informative. Well done to the department in getting that program out to schools.

The committee also looked at the boost to broadband. That will be important. It is a substantial uplift and was a recommendation in the Auditor-General's report. Investing in the technology and providing that bandwidth for our students is very important.

In terms of the portfolio area of the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development, this is another big budget at \$1.3 billion. There are an awful lot of programs to support small businesses right across Queensland. It is good to see the investment in the office of the Queensland Small Business Commissioner. She is doing great work for our small businesses and came to the fore throughout COVID. I know that she has helped a lot of businesses in my area and I am certain she has helped many others right across Queensland. The Mentoring for Growth program is a terrific program that we are investing in. The Business Basics grants are excellent in terms of supporting one of our biggest employer groups, that being small businesses.

It is fantastic to see the investment in TAFE and TAFE infrastructure. As a committee we went and visited the Mount Gravatt TAFE. It was fantastic to see the investment in the Fashion Centre of Excellence, in the horticulture program and other programs there. There is a lot of good work being done in terms of investing in skills and training. We know that that will continue to be a challenge as go forward. I look forward to seeing the federal government, under Anthony Albanese, deliver the workforce summit. That should be excellent and dovetail nicely with the work we are doing in Queensland under Minister Farmer.

I thank all of the ministers' staff, their directors-general and the departmental officers. An awful lot of work goes into pulling together estimates. They did a fantastic job. I commend everybody on what I thought was a robust, rigorous and informative estimates process.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (3.49 pm): It is becoming more frequent in the estimates process under the Labor Party that not only ministers but also senior public servants are refusing to answer questions from committee members. The chairs are saying, 'You may not like the answer but that is the answer.' I expect in budget estimates that when senior public servants who know the information are asked the information they should actually provide that information because that is what budget estimates is all about.

We had so many occasions when senior public servants knew the information but did not give the information. When I asked the minister to take certain questions on notice they would not take them on notice and, therefore, we would not get a response. It again shows how the estimates system under the Palaszczuk government is broken. The Palaszczuk government does not believe in transparency and integrity anymore. It is completely broken. When chairs continually say, 'No. You have asked the question and you got the answer,' no, I am sorry but when senior public servants do not give the answer you should be able to keep going until you get the answer you require.

It would not be an education and industrial relations estimates without the good old CFMEU involved again, showing how much power they wield over the Labor Party when you have members in the Labor Party who are members of the CFMEU who owe their jobs and their livelihoods to the CFMEU. I made a complaint 12 months ago to the CCC with respect to bullying and intimidation on a construction site at a business in Queensland—a non-unionised site—and the CCC referred it back to the department for investigation. Extraordinarily the Office of Industrial Relations confirmed that the department received the report and the completed investigation in January this year. It is now August and it is not public. Every time I ask the department, 'Where is this report?' the ethical standards unit in the department reply, 'It is with the deputy director-general who is still considering the report.' They have had the report for eight months.

Again, we do not have the Jackie Trad CCC report. We do not have the report into the CFMEU. We do not know whether there were any adverse outcomes in the report. The public servant, the deputy director-general, said that they are consulting and giving procedural fairness to public servants. The public ought to know what is in the report. I am the complainant. I deserve to know what is in the report

because it was my complaint on behalf of a Queensland business—but, of course, we just see the protection racket for the CFMEU continue. I say to the deputy director-general of the Office of Industrial Relations, who has had this report sitting on his desk for eight months: please finish reading it and release it. Put it on the website so the public can know the influence of the CFMEU.

When we look at the CFMEU and the influence it has over this government, it is no secret that in the last 12 months 14 Workplace Health and Safety inspectors have resigned. These Workplace Health and Safety inspectors should be independent. They are the ones who go on to construction sites and look at safety issues, but they are being bullied out of their job because of the fear, bullying and intimidation of the CFMEU—14 Workplace Health and Safety inspectors in the last 12 months. Minister Grace sat there at estimates not caring about that, not even thinking it was an issue.


If I were the minister—and I have been the industrial relations minister—and 14 of my Workplace Health and Safety inspectors resigned in a year, I would think, ‘Geez, we have a problem here.’ What is the problem? They are going out on sick leave and they are resigning because they do not have the support of the government and they do not have the support of the minister. When they put complaints in against the CFMEU they then get taken off construction sites and other people are put on construction sites who will do the work of the CFMEU. That is the system of industrial relations now in the state of Queensland. We have people out on sick leave, we have people being bullied out of their job and we have people resigning from the Workplace Health and Safety inspectorate because of the bullying of the CFMEU, and this government turns a blind eye to it.

Not all Labor premiers turn a blind eye to it. Not all Labor premiers have their head stuck in the sand like Premier Palaszczuk. An article stated, ‘South Australian Premier ... has severed ties with the ... CFMEU, ordering Labor to repay a \$125,000 donation from the union ...’ I table that article.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Australian*, undated, titled ‘Labor will repay CFMEU donation after vandalism’ [\[1148\]](#).

The Queensland Labor Party have received hundreds of thousands of dollars from the CFMEU. They are sycophants to the CFMEU. It is no wonder they are not putting the interests of their Workplace Health and Safety inspectors ahead of the interests of the CFMEU because the CFMEU pay the bills for the Labor Party. It is about time Minister Grace put the interests of her public servants first. It is about time she put the interests of Workplace Health and Safety inspectors first. After all, they should be independent of the government and of the minister, but they never will be when the CFMEU runs the show as it does.

(Time expired)

 **Mr O’ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (3.55 pm): The estimates hearing process allowed questions to be asked of Minister Grace and Minister Di Farmer. I congratulate the ministers, their staff and the government employees from the various departments. They were all very well prepared. I appreciate the large amount of work that takes place in preparation. Being an ex-public servant I know how much work goes on behind the scenes.

Minister Grace gave an opening statement regarding her portfolio areas. Throughout the year we all read about different investment in education but when the highlights are included in one opening statement we know that it is a good Labor government that invests in education outcomes, and this estimates hearing demonstrated just that.

Some of the highlights include the following: \$2 billion this year alone supporting 420 jobs to maintain, renew and build new schools and facilities; nearly \$220 million over two years for additional classrooms to existing schools to address growth; and \$650 million over the next five years for school halls, playgrounds, tuckshops, performing art centres and major specialist classroom renovations. Since the Palaszczuk government was elected, we have seen 6,000 new teachers employed, as well as 1,600 teacher aides; \$80.6 million to transition schools to the disability support resourcing model; \$15.5 million for Respectful Relationships; \$34.5 million for Share the Dignity; and we are investing more than a billion dollars in our kindergartens over the next five years.

In the industrial relations area, Minister Grace spoke about the nation-leading reforms supporting Queensland workers and the area of her responsibility that I enjoy the most—the racing portfolio. It is great to see investment particularly in the country racing circuit.

Minister Farmer spoke of the importance of the employment and small business and training and skills development portfolio areas as they are at the heart of the current and future success of our state’s economy and, in turn, the opportunities and wellbeing of each and every Queenslanders. In Queensland we are investing in almost half a million small businesses, and this will always be front and centre of our \$15.2 billion economic recovery plan. There is an almost \$250 million commitment to small

businesses in this year's budget as we value and understand the importance of our small businesses. We have increased the ceiling for payroll tax deductions to \$10.4 million, creating a saving of up to \$26,000 a year for around 12,000 small businesses.

We have a full suite of grants in place permanently, with \$31.9 million committed over the next four years. This includes the just recently announced 262 regional businesses receiving a \$5,000 Business Basics grant. Twenty-one of those businesses were in my local area. There will also be a \$2.5 million Business Boost grant program, which will open on 12 August.

Our government's commitment to skills and training is evidenced in our record investment of \$1.2 billion in this year's budget. Initiatives such as Free TAFE for under 25s and the shared commitment to JobTrainer have meant that we have seen a 64.6 per cent increase in apprenticeship and traineeship commencements. It is especially pleasing to see this in Central Queensland.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work continues to have some of the best outcomes for the lives of disadvantaged jobseekers around the state, with more than 76 per cent of former participants in employment or training, or both, a year after finishing the program. I truly enjoy going to the graduation events and hearing about how these changes have improved these people's lives.

Overall, the estimates hearing was well managed. I congratulate the member for Redlands. It should be noted that throughout the day 61 per cent of the time allowed went to questions from non-government members in comparison to 39 per cent to government members. Finally, I thank the committee, the secretariat and all the staff involved. Congratulations and well done to all involved.



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (3.59 pm): As the Liberal National Party's shadow minister for education, I rise to address the Appropriation Bill 2022-23 and specifically the proposed expenditure of the Palaszczuk state Labor government as examined by the Queensland parliament's Education, Employment and Training Committee during the recent budget estimates hearing. In the 2022-23 state budget the Queensland Labor government has allocated \$16.5 billion for the provision of education and early childhood education in Queensland. This is a significant financial allocation and one that demands absolute diligence, care and oversight to ensure not only the best value for taxpayers' dollars but also that key educational outcomes are met. Unfortunately, this year's budget estimates hearings demonstrated the full extent to which the state Labor government has lost control of education and Labor's ongoing failure to live up to its obligations to Queensland students, parents, teachers and staff and Queensland taxpayers.

Under the Palaszczuk state Labor government a raft of integrity, accountability and transparency issues continue to grow and plague the Department of Education. It was disappointing to learn during the committee hearing that the new director-general, who formally commenced his role in December of last year, had not read the Crime and Corruption Commission's report and investigation into allegations relating to the appointment of a school principal which involved former deputy premier Jackie Trad and former deputy director-general of education Jeff Hunt. When this report was handed down in July 2020 the former chair of the Crime and Corruption Commission, Alan MacSporran, stated—

All Queensland public servants and elected officials should read this report to see how a straightforward recruitment process went off the rails. This type of conduct should never occur again.

The Crime and Corruption Commission also stated—


... it is important for any person interested in these matters to read the entirety of the investigation report and the submissions from relevant parties to understand the basis of the CCC's conclusions following our extensive investigation.

There can be no excuse for the Labor Minister for Education to not have ensured that a new director-general of education had read the report in full and familiarised himself with the full contents, findings and associated recommendations. This failure of the Labor Minister for Education underscores the contempt with which the Labor state government treats serious matters of integrity and accountability. Such contempt also comes with a financial cost, as it was revealed in these hearings that Queensland taxpayers have had to pay close to \$631,000 in net payments to Mr Hunt during the more than two years of his suspension whilst those matters remained unresolved.

These estimates hearings also revealed the extent to which Queenslanders have been let down by the state Labor government's failure to adequately manage teacher workforce planning. When Labor gave an election commitment in 2020 that it would be hiring more than 6,100 teachers over four years, Queenslanders rightly expected that Labor would be delivering a net increase in teachers. Indeed, Queenslanders have been presented with rubbery figures complete with rubbery explanations and excuses from the Palaszczuk state Labor government. The Palaszczuk state Labor government has not even come close to meeting its targets, and as a consequence student outcomes are suffering. This is despite a \$1 million five-month recruitment campaign to ensure teacher workforce growth meets demand.

Finally, despite testimony provided during these hearings, Queensland parents and teachers remain incredibly concerned about the safety crisis that is engulfing our schools. The figures speak for themselves: WorkCover claims lodged by teachers and staff which have been accepted have skyrocketed by 78 per cent in the last five years. WorkCover claims paid to teachers and staff over the last five years has increased by over 86 per cent. As revealed in a prehearing question on notice, between 2017 and 2021 there were over 23,800 combined drugs and weapons incidents in our Queensland schools. This equates on average to 25 drugs and weapons incidents each and every day in our schools. With a \$39 million security announcement made by Labor recently, parents and teachers are saying to me that this Labor government is placing a more important value on protecting school buildings from attack than protecting our teachers, students and staff.

After years of failed priorities and failed education service delivery, the Palaszczuk state Labor government must finally regain control of our education system in order to improve student outcomes, enhance teacher safety and deliver a world-class education system. This is something that all Queensland students, parents, teachers and staff deserve. There is no doubt that Queenslanders deserve better than what has been provided by this Labor government with respect to education here in Queensland.

 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—ALP) (4.04 pm): I rise to speak on the estimates report of the Education, Employment and Training Committee. I want to thank the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing and the Minister for Training and Skills Development and Minister for Employment and Small Business for their contribution to the estimates process. I thank them for their roles in delivering fantastic outcomes for education, training, skills and employment for Queenslanders. I extend that thanks to the Treasurer, Premier and cabinet for delivering this great budget across the board.

The hearings themselves demonstrated what a significant investment this Palaszczuk government is making in education and training to give Queenslanders a good start in life. We are delivering the skills and experience needed for Queenslanders to get into the workforce and build careers. Unfortunately, most of those opposite were not interested in the budget, but the ministers still delivered. It was great to hear about the investment in schools right across state, including in the wonderful electorate of Stafford.

This year's budget saw significant investment over this year and next, including \$8 million for the Wilston State School hall—a brilliant investment for the large and hardworking school community of Wilston. It also saw investment and upgrades across the electorate. This is on top of what we have already delivered as a government in Kedron Wavell, Somerset Hills and Stafford Heights. We have new roofing for the hall and accessibility access for Stafford State School, and this is an example of investing in one of those character buildings that we should celebrate in some of our more established suburbs. It is great to work with local school communities, school leaders, teachers, P&Cs and P&Fs. We can work so productively together because those school communities know that this government has their back. The education minister reminded the committee that she joined us at Wavell State High School to announce the government delivered its commitment to air condition every teaching space and staffroom in the state ahead of time.


Speaking of Wavell State High School, I want to congratulate Kaia Skeen, the student who gave the opening address at the Path to Treaty event this afternoon. I thought that her reflection at the beginning of the ceremony was brilliant. Well done to Kaia, her family and the school. We are all really proud of you.

Another issue those opposite did not want to talk about during the estimates hearing was Skilling Queenslanders for Work. We know why: because they cut it. When we reintroduced it while in government, they went to an election promising to cut it again. Thankfully, the minister was able to explain the government's continued commitment to training and skills, including the fantastic Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. Some of those opposite are happy to show up at ribbon cuttings and graduation ceremonies to praise SQW trainees with no self-reflection that it is they who cut this very program. There are examples at Kedron Lions AFL and Chermside Bowls Club where, in partnership with the government, they put on trainees so that girls and guys who are not quite ready for an apprenticeship are given the skills and experience they need to get jobs.

In the meantime, our local community clubs get upgrades to their change rooms, and the Lions showed a couple of weeks ago the fantastic work they have done at their Super Saturday event. When it comes to catching up with some of the participants in SQW it is often difficult, because it is such a successful program that many of them go on to further training or full-time employment. It is wonderful to see.

Sadly, I do need to reflect on the fact that not all of the day was as managed or genuine as what I have described so far. In terms of the industrial relations section of the hearing, the continued abusive style from the member for Kawana in attacking public servants astounds me. He has learned nothing from his time in government. We heard from the member for Logan this morning about the LNP leadership's disgraceful attack on senior and respected independent public servants. It is shameful that that continued with the member for Kawana. His obsession with unions continues to amuse me. His bullying and disdain for public servants is particularly ironic considering that he was attacking public servants who served in his portfolio when he was a minister. It is shameful.

I want to quickly thank the chair. I know how much work goes into estimates on both sides of the table. Thank you to the ministers, their staff and the many public servants who work so hard, the parliamentary staff, Hansard and of course our fantastic chair.

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (4.09 pm): \$2 million for two tradies. Let that sink in. It is no wonder many of our public services are failing, when taxpayers' money is being wasted instead of funding what is really needed here in Queensland. During estimates it was revealed that the Tradies in Paradise scheme has been an abject failure. What was even more concerning were the dismissive answers provided by the Minister for Employment and Small Business when she was questioned about this failed program. According to the minister, wasting \$2 million to attract two tradies to Queensland is a good use of public money because it promoted Queensland to residents in other states. Never mind that the purpose was to attract tradies to ease the burden on those Queenslanders whose homes were inundated as a result of recent flooding and that it only delivered two tradies.

The government has failed to outline any measures that will be used to assess the success or otherwise of that program. This Labor state government is all about the photo-op but forgets about the follow-up. The fact is that \$1,750 was never going to be enough to entice qualified tradespeople to uproot their whole life and move to a new state—\$1,750 would barely cover the cost of petrol, let alone moving costs and accommodation. The almost \$2 million spent on glossy pamphlets and websites promoting the state government could have been used to help flood affected small businesses recover or even to rebuild a number of damaged homes. Spending \$2 million on two tradies is a wasteful use of taxpayer funds and it certainly does not pass the pub test.

If Queenslanders needed any further reasons this tired third-term Palaszczuk Labor government does not deserve their support in 2024, then Labor's reckless indifference wasting hard-earned taxpayer dollars on harebrained ideas like spending \$2 million on two tradies or \$220 million on a redundant camp at 'Wastecamp' should seal the deal. Labor do not care about everyday Queenslanders. Instead, through their actions and failure to plan, this Labor state government show that they are only interested in how things look and not how they are.

The failed Tradies in Paradise scheme was implemented to fill a hole in the skilled worker shortage gripping Queensland. This skilled worker shortage is more than just the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic; it is seven years in the making, from when this Labor government first came to power. The state government last year had a target of 11,500 apprenticeship completions but delivered only 10,300. In fact they have failed to meet their target for the last seven years straight, and that equates to a whopping 14,400 apprenticeship completions. That means that right now Queensland should have 14,400 more qualified tradies than we do. It is no wonder that we are experiencing a skilled worker shortage and that the best this state government can offer to solve the problem are ridiculous thought bubbles like spending \$2 million to attract two tradies.


The waste continues. As the Auditor-General revealed in his report, the state government will write-off about \$4 million of fraudulent claims made by businesses seeking COVID-19 support funding. Around 400 businesses received both payroll tax relief and COVID adaptation grants but most if not all were not eligible for both. When questioned about this obvious and costly error, it was revealed that the state government would not be pursuing any measures to recover the \$4 million lost from double dipping.

It is a tough pill to swallow for the thousands of Queensland small business owners who did not receive a cent of COVID adaptation grant funding, with many of them being eligible but not making the cut. The fact that the state government are not investigating this waste of millions of dollars shows they simply do not care. Well, Queensland small businesses care, especially the ones that closed or barely hung on through those tough times when the borders were shut and local lockdowns were always a possibility. I could go on with examples of waste but I have limited time.

What this year's budget estimates did reveal is a Minister for Employment and Small Business who is out of her depth. Every single portfolio that the member for Bulimba touches ends up a mess. Last term as the minister for youth justice she presided over a regime that put 10-year-old kids in adult

watch houses. Who can forget her underwhelming performance on *Four Corners* when questioned about that issue? Now as the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development she is presiding over issues with every single small business grant round she has announced, including the Business Basics Grant which she managed to muck up twice in two weeks. We had \$2 million for two tradies and COVID restrictions that ignored small businesses. Queensland's small businesses deserve better.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (4.14 pm): I would like to thank the Education, Employment and Training Committee for their consideration of the employment, small business, training and skills portfolio and their recommendation that the proposed expenditure be agreed by the Legislative Assembly. I appreciate the participation of all members in the hearing and the committee secretariat.

I was so pleased to be able to speak of the Palaszczuk government's achievements in my portfolio and how we continue to deliver good jobs and better services and protect our great lifestyle for all Queenslanders. It was great to talk about the focus we place on small business as a key part of our \$15.2 billion COVID economic recovery plan, with around \$2.5 billion to support small businesses. In the last budget, that included nearly \$250 million for small businesses, with our lifting of the payroll tax threshold for deductions and our commitment to permanent funding for our grants programs.

It was so good to talk about our annual commitment of \$1.2 billion for skills and training. We are seeing the results of that investment. Last year alone I opened or inspected new or upgraded facilities at 13 different TAFE sites. I was able to report to the committee on initiatives like our free TAFE for under-25s and our shared commitment to JobTrainer, which have meant a 64 per cent increase in apprenticeship and traineeship commencements with a further 18.6 per cent projected for the next 12 months. Queensland completions are up by 16.4 per cent against a backdrop nationally of a 35 per cent decline. In school based apprenticeships and traineeships, we have more than 55 per cent of the nation's total.

I also spoke about our flagship Skilling Queenslanders for Work program which everyone in this House loves. It has a 76 per cent success rate, which is the best in the country. The LNP got rid of that as soon as it got into government. I spoke about our workforce strategy, which is addressing what is probably one of the biggest issues facing businesses of any size anywhere in Queensland.


The opposition showed their true colours during estimates and in their statement of reservations. We have always known that they hate TAFE, and that is even clearer after reading their report. They did their best to annihilate TAFE when they were in government. They sacked 2,100 teachers, they closed campuses, they ripped \$170 million out of the TAFE budget, and overnight they increased prices so much that tens of thousands of Queenslanders were literally forced out of the system. The only remotely relevant election commitment they made was to set up the skilling task force, which was the very thing they had set up to get rid of TAFE in the first place. We knew that if they were re-elected TAFE would have it coming to them. It has taken years for the system to recover. It is a credit to TAFE and the training system as a whole that we are now starting to see such fantastic commencement figures and really promising completion figures.

They were at TAFE again this time around. Just to be mean, in his statement of reservations the member for Buderim literally made up a story based on no evidence whatsoever. He just absolutely made it up—never let the facts get in the way of a good story! He said that TAFE provides no services in regional Queensland and that it is only private providers. I would love the member for Buderim to actually say that to any of their regional members—each of whom would probably have a couple of TAFE campuses in their electorates. Meanwhile, TAFE delivered training at over 600 locations across the state, including at 68 locations beyond the cities or towns where TAFE facilities are located.

We all know that the Leader of the Opposition does not really think skills and training are a priority. He did not even mention skills and training in his budget reply speech. The member for Buderim was whingeing at me, saying, 'Why don't we give Skills Assure status to training providers which are outside Queensland? Why do we have to give it to Queensland businesses?' Say what? Really?

What is one of the biggest issues facing small business? It is labour shortages. As for any constructive discussion about labour shortages—which is one of the biggest issues facing businesses—there was not a skerrick. After the really bizarre and only contribution of the Leader of the Opposition in his budget reply speech on the issue of workforce shortages when he said that traffic congestion makes it harder for a plumber to get to your home to fix a burst pipe—so traffic congestion is causing our skill shortages, because that is all we hear—I guess we should not be surprised.

Meanwhile, as the Premier said this morning, we are very pleased to be releasing our workforce strategy in the coming weeks leading up to the national jobs summit. We recognise that as a priority. I want to thank Parliament House staff, department staff and ministerial staff for their magnificent work.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (4.19 pm): I, too, want to contribute to the debate on the Education, Employment and Training Committee report on estimates this year. I would like to follow on from some of the things that my honourable friend the member for Kawana mentioned before. He made some observations which are very serious indeed and I think were not properly addressed in estimates.

We had a case where he has made a complaint about allegations he has received that industrial inspectors have been colluding with the CFMEU to disadvantage businesses which do not operate a union site. The response that we got from one of the departmental officers at estimates leads us to suspect quite strongly that there have been adverse findings in the report which we have not seen yet. The question is: where is this report? Why is it taking so long for it to be released? Why is it that the minister and the departmental officer who was at the table at the time would not answer the question about when we are going to see this report and what the findings are? It was a discourtesy to the committee, to put it mildly, that those at the table refused repeatedly to answer the question.

I know the member for Kawana tried, without avail, several times to get a straight answer to the question. I reflect on what the member of Stafford had just said in criticising the member for Kawana. I think he misses the point here. It is our job as members of parliament to scrutinise the administration, and officers of departments are bound to offer a straight, reasonable and truthful answer to questions being asked. It gives me no hope that the politicisation of the public service is not continuing under the Palaszczuk government when we see what appeared very much to me to be the refusal by a departmental officer to answer a straight question because they felt that perhaps the straight answer would not be appreciated by the minister.

Ms Grace: He has been updated personally twice.

Mr LISTER: I take the interjection from the minister.

Ms Grace: Yes, take it, thank you. He has been updated personally twice. Take the interjection.


Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Order, Minister!

Mr LISTER: It does not change my concerns for the deeper issue. I would like to also raise the question of education. I put a question on notice to the minister today about what protections and what impetus have been given to give teachers and staff at state schools the powers necessary to intervene in the cases of fights and to do something about weapons, unlawful conduct, vaping and so forth.

I know from my conversations with the Queensland Teachers' Union that this is a matter of great concern to staff in state schools. I get it, and I am sure many of us members here get complaints from constituents, either parents or perhaps teachers or those who are friends and relatives of them, that it is difficult to stick your neck out to ensure proper conduct and enforce reasonable standards and discipline at schools. There is a perception there that they will not be necessarily backed if they have to make the decision to intervene. I think that is a disappointing situation. I hope that that is not the case, but since it has come to me through the Queensland Teachers' Union and through constituents—parents and so forth—I fear that it may be.

Lastly, we heard with great gusto the member for Buderim talk about the Tradies in Paradise program and the \$2 million which was expended on a campaign to recruit tradies to Queensland on the promise of a \$1,750 bonus. Obviously we would all commend the intent there, but the honest truth is that that campaign was a dismal failure and it blew away \$2 million. The state of Queensland cannot afford to throw away \$2 million. I wonder how it is that the department or the minister responsible thought through this campaign and researched what might be possible and the best way to do it. Certainly it was a failure.

It occurs to me that the \$2 million which was spent would build 181 kilometres of wild dog exclusion fencing in my electorate to protect the very hardworking graziers from wild dog attacks, it would do a lot for the roads in our electorates, it would help with providing grants to organisations in my electorate that do really good things, and it would also recruit more teachers. It would provide a better standard of service to anybody in Queensland who depends upon the state government.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (4.24 pm): I commend the Education, Employment and Training Committee for its budget estimates report. I acknowledge the work of the chair, the member for Redlands, who always does an excellent job; the members of the committee on both sides; the committee secretariat, along with the Clerk and the parliamentary staff—a big heartfelt thank you.

I am proud the Palaszczuk government has continued to give Queenslanders a great start in life with yet another record school and early childhood education budget of \$16.5 billion. When we say 'a record', it is not just the CPI increase; this is real increases in that which is why we use the word 'record'. There will be around \$2 billion this year alone to maintain, renew and build new schools and facilities that is supporting 4,200 jobs. It is another example of the Palaszczuk government creating good jobs and delivering even better services right across Queensland to maintain our wonderful lifestyle. It is an example of the government doing all it can with an election plan and delivering it.

As with our air conditioning program and as with our ACES program, we are delivering in spades. It is not just any alternative programs that were not coming from those opposite, but we have a \$3 billion Future Schools program, delivering new schools and in our fastest growing areas. Further to that, the budget maintains some excellent moneys in there for the \$220 million over two years for additional classrooms at existing schools experiencing in-catchment enrolment growth. It is not in itself just about new buildings; there is \$650 million over the next five years for renewal projects—playgrounds, tuckshops, halls, classrooms—and there is the \$43.2 million for our discrete Indigenous communities. I am really looking forward to rolling that out.

These are obviously big projects and we have a lot of pressures on at the moment; we are not immune to that either. We are working at a national level for the new teachers that we will be employing and I am glad to see we are on target. We have employed 2,186 teachers as of 30 June 2022, and 1,152 teacher aides, so we are well on target to meet our election commitments. This is even an increase in the net number of teachers when the student numbers, because of COVID, have remained relatively stable. It has been an incredible turnaround on what we have been able to deliver.

The member for Moggill raised issues in relation to these numbers of teachers; this from a government who previously sacked 14,000 public servants and, when we needed to employ 500 teachers, did not employ one extra government—

Mr Watts: You are just making it up now.

Ms GRACE: What, the previous LNP government didn't sack 14,000 public servants?

Opposition members interjected.

Ms GRACE: I would like to know exactly what rock you have all been under because that is what the previous Campbell Newman government did—sacked 14,000. If I were the member for Kawana, worrying about 14 members that resigned in the last seven years—that is two per year, I might add—I would be worried about the 14,000 who were sacked when he sat around the cabinet table. It is really quite amazing when you think about it.

There were issues that were raised here about CCC referrals of the OIR. This has almost been a badgering of public servants by the member for Kawana. These reports have all been fully investigated and a report has yet to be finalised. When it is finalised, then we will know the outcome and not one minute before.

In respect of the time frames in relation to CCC investigations, they are in the control of the CCC. When we go to the QIRC, the time frames are in control of the QIRC. When decisions are made, those decisions are taken and they are acted upon. No-one in this House can control those independent bodies on their time frames, and it is ridiculous to even suggest the question about why the time.

WorkCover claims were also raised by the member for Moggill. That is because we have made it easier for people to get compensation with beneficial legislation, not like those opposite who put barriers in to stop people making claims. I commend this report and I commend our budget for education. It is world-class.



Mr DAMETTO (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (4.29 pm): I rise to make my contribution to the debate as a member of the Education, Employment and Training Committee. At the outset, I would like to thank and congratulate our committee chair, the member for Redlands, and also our deputy chair, the member for Southern Downs, for doing their best to run a very good estimates hearing. It was great for both ministers from the portfolios to come and answer some of the questions. It is always entertaining to have the member for Kawana there as well to add a little bit of spice to the event; it keeps everyone awake. It is always entertaining even if sometimes members do not agree.

I turn to some of the budget highlights I was able to find as I pulled the budget apart as a member of the Education, Employment and Training Committee. An amount of \$19 billion was allocated for education and training including TAFE services across Queensland. Regional Queensland needs a boost—a shot in the arm—when it comes to TAFE services. As we saw the rise of the private RTOs

back in the day, we saw TAFE whittled away to what we see now, which is not acceptable in regional Queensland. We are seeing that turning around. I was able to secure a ministerial meeting this afternoon to see what we can do better in the Hinchinbrook electorate to deliver TAFE services.


An amount of \$30 million will be spent on the Share the Dignity program across schools to ensure that period products are available to young women in our public schools across the whole of the state, which I think is an important step forward. We have also seen a number of windfalls for the Hinchinbrook electorate. There is \$5 million in maintenance budgets across the schools in my area including Toobanna State School for a retrim and repaint. It is good to see that school will be receiving a refresh knowing its anniversary weekend is coming up for soon.

When I attended the estimates hearing this year I was able to ask some important questions around teachers and teacher numbers. It is great to hear that there is going to be 675 new teachers in the mix. However, I asked a question—and this is concerning—about the number of teachers who were actually stood down during the COVID pandemic because they did not feel it was right to conform to the COVID vaccine mandate. There were 549 teachers who were suspended through that process, and I think those people needed to be represented during the estimates hearing. The fact is it cost the department—they are out of pocket—\$21 million in terms of staffing allocations to cover the people who were not able to work during that time.

Another thing that has arisen is the fact that some of those teachers who have been accepted back at school now that the mandate has been dropped have been issued with show cause letters asking why they should not drop a pay scale over the next 21 weeks because of their noncompliance. I do not think that is good form from the department. I have raised this with the minister's office on behalf of those constituents who have raised it with my office.

We also got to hear about country racing, which is something I am very passionate about. We asked questions of the minister because the country racing support program is going to cease in 2023. We wanted to know exactly what funding model would be in place to ensure that country racing events are supported into the future. The Ingham Gold Cup is one of the biggest events in my small electorate of Hinchinbrook. I know that most of the regional MPs would agree that racing day or weekend is one of the biggest social events that brings people together. It was great to hear that in the 2023-24 budget there will be funding through country racing to ensure those events can continue.

We heard about the \$2 million for the Tradies in Paradise scheme which did not work very well or deliver too many jobs. Often when I am talking in estimates hearings I am concerned about the number of people making fraudulent claims when it comes to workers compensation in Queensland. Unfortunately, we are still seeing that across Queensland: 11 workers and one employer were prosecuted this round and a total of \$550,000 was recovered. This is a scheme to support workers. When it comes to supporting workers or government grants, we want to ensure there is scrutiny so we know not only that taxpayers' money is being procured properly but also we can have faith in the schemes that protect workers.

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (4.34 pm): I rise to speak to the committee report on the Appropriation Bill and the estimates process. In doing so, I thank the committee for their oversight throughout the estimates process. In particular I thank the committee chair, the member for Redlands, Kim Richards, for her work throughout the estimates process. I also thank the committee secretariat and also the Department of Education for their support throughout the process and for providing a robust and detailed response to all of the questions that were asked throughout the estimates process.

Reading through the transcript of the education committee's estimates report I think it is pretty clear that those opposite really had no interest in some of the big ticket issues for education across Queensland. We on this side believe in giving every child a great start. It is pretty clear that those opposite are not focused on the issues related to how we give every child a great start in this state.

There was nothing asked by those opposite about the national curriculum. There was nothing asked about solar panels, a massive program of work that we have delivered right across Queensland. There was nothing about teacher training and how we can improve the quality of teachers and teacher graduates. There was nothing about the federal government funding and the lack of support by the federal Morrison government over the years. There was nothing about outside school hours care, a critical part of our schooling system and a critical topic for working parents right across Queensland. There was nothing about new classrooms or halls or tuckshops. Those opposite did not ask anything about the new Dignity First rollout to all state schools and there were no questions asked about the GPs and psychologists we are recruiting in Queensland schools. There were plenty of questions and plenty of opportunities for questions to be asked by those opposite, but they were wasted on issues that are not relevant to providing a great start to Queensland children across our state.


I am enormously proud of the education budget and the manner in which it is being spent to deliver a great start for all students across Queensland no matter where they live. As the Assistant Minister for Education for the past two terms serving under education minister Grace Grace, I have been proud to be part of a government that has now delivered eight record education budgets with important spending on new infrastructure such as classrooms, learning spaces, tuckshops and playgrounds as well as improving the needs of staff and students. In Central Queensland alone, more than \$75 million is being invested in the 2022-23 budget to maintain, improve and upgrade schools as part of the record-breaking \$16.5 billion education budget.

Just recently education minister Grace Grace visited Rockhampton Special School and Keppel Sands State School where in these two schools alone nearly \$12 million will be invested. Rockhampton Special School will receive new classrooms and refurbished learning spaces and half a million dollars will be spent on new specialist classrooms at Keppel Sands State School. I know these upgrades are going to make a huge difference for the teachers and students at those schools. It was wonderful to hear from Principal Sam Conway about how needed those additional classrooms are at the Keppel Sands State School.

It is not just the big ticket projects that will make a difference though. For example, we are investing \$165,000 at Glenmore State High School and \$110,000 at Waraburra State School for access and amenities for people with a disability, which is going to have a big impact. Further west there is nearly \$10 million for new classrooms at Emerald State High School and \$1.7 million for new classrooms and upgrades at Springsure State School, \$600,000 for new shade structures at Emerald North State School and \$440,000 for new covered multipurpose courts at Denison State School.

I am proud that we are delivering 675 extra teachers and nearly 200 extra teacher aides in this budget as part of an ongoing commitment to employ more than 6,100 new teachers and 1,100 teacher aides right across the state. We are investing \$20 million in playground and tuckshop upgrades. There is the \$100 million four-year Go for Gold Fund for new and upgraded sports infrastructure for schools across the state. I know that my colleagues on this side are very excited about that program. There is also \$15.5 million for Respectful Relationships education, which I know is going to go a long way and will make a big difference to the way in which we work in our schools.

It is a great budget for Queensland and it is a great budget for Queensland schools. I commend the committee report to the House.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (4.39 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate of the report on budget estimates by the Education, Employment and Training Committee. Unfortunately, I was not able to be present on the hearing day due to the flu, but I looked on with great interest at what transpired during the day. I appreciated the questioning by the shadow ministers drilling down into the budget estimates. It was far better than sitting there listening to the continual Dorothy Dixers from government members!

I want to highlight one of the comments the Minister for Education made in relation to hiring 6,000 teachers over four years. We have a statewide teacher shortage, and I note that the minister recently met with other ministers to discuss this issue. While we talk about hiring additional teachers, one issue that concerns my schools and P&Cs is that, due to the number of teachers who are away due to flu and COVID, a lot of schools are forced to hire temporary teachers to fill the gaps. This is an expense borne by the school.

A recent Auditor-General's report found that school internet speeds were sadly lacking. The government has gone out of its way to fix this, but I am concerned about the cost to my local schools of upgrading their internal networks. Along with the additional cost of the hiring temporary teachers whilst still paying current teachers, this is a major financial burden for schools that needs to be addressed.

The minister did speak about the future schools program. I highlight the fact that I have one of the oldest schools on the Gold Coast in Coomera State School, which next year celebrates 150 years. It desperately needs funding for some tender loving care for its school facilities. Down the road, new schools are being built. A lot of families want to send their children to the new school, because it looks brand new and flashy. That bleeds population from the existing schools. This is an issue that I have raised in this chamber many times and that the department and the minister need to address. We need to give money to older schools to ensure they are able to compete with newer schools.

I refer again to teacher numbers. An ABC article, dated 24 June 2022, titled 'Sharp increase in Queensland teacher vacancies as non-teaching staff front classes to stay open' states—

More than 300 ... state schools are plugging critical teacher vacancies with non-classroom-based educators to keep schools operating ...

In May this year there were 1,050 vacancies in Queensland schools. Last year at around the same time that number was 760, so the number has increased. Therefore, what the department is doing is not working.

I want to be brutally honest about what some of my teachers are saying about their work environment. They are dealing with high-needs students in classrooms and they desperately need support. They are using a lot of their time to deal with high-needs students and, therefore, other students are missing out on education outcomes. The department desperately needs to address this.


There is also fighting in schools, putting teachers in harm's way. The department needs to address this issue. This is why teachers are leaving the occupation after three to four years. Nothing in the estimates process does anything to address that. The government needs to get off its backside and do something about it, because our teachers are fantastic and they deserve a better working environment.

Report adopted.

Health and Environment Committee, Report

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): The question is—

That the report of the Health and Environment Committee be adopted.

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (4.45 pm): I rise to speak on the Health and Environment Committee report into budget estimates, as examined by members of the opposition, government and crossbench. The committee had the opportunity to hear ministers respond to a range of questions put to them by all those who attended. I thank members for their contributions. I also thank the ministers and the chief executives for the way they articulated their responses during estimates. I say to the member for Mudgeeraba that we saw an improvement in the way some members conducted themselves, with only a few warnings required. Let us hope that standard is maintained for the rest of this term at least. It was just lovely!

I want to touch on the statements of reservation. I think there was some generic cutting and pasting. I will start with the statement from the deputy chair. Straight out of the LNP crisis playbook, there were mentions of a housing crisis, youth crisis, cost-of-living crisis, integrity crisis, health crisis—it is a bit lazy. Can members opposite talk about something with regard to health? It is a 'chair crisis'; it is a 'cloud crisis'. If it was the member for Kawana it would be a 'hair crisis'! Everything is a crisis, according to those opposite. They have no plans and did not take the opportunity to address what we are doing as members of the government.

I have heard members of the opposition talk about protection rackets and so on. I am advised that in our 6½-hour estimates hearing government members got not quite two hours while non-government members and crossbenchers got four hours. Some 180 questions were asked; only 29 were asked by government members while 151 were from the opposition. I think I was pretty generous in terms of sharing time on the day.

I want to start by talking about the health session. The Minister for Health, the director-general and many of the CEOs from the HHSs provided responses, as did the commissioner of the QAS. They spoke of the total budget expenditure, which includes a record \$22 billion funding for Health and Ambulance. Both received an increase. There was an increase of \$1.5 billion in the 2022-23 budget. According to the SDS, increased expenditure for controlled items reflects the workforce requirements to meet the ongoing growth in demand for frontline health services. This is something our government is very proud to have delivered. This includes, of course, the ongoing response to the management of COVID-19. It would be remiss of me not to recognise every health worker in this state for their incredible work over the last couple of years in managing the health pandemic.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr HARPER: We do not want to talk about opening borders, though, do we?

There is record funding for the Townsville HHS, with an increased allocation of 6.53 per cent. This is fantastic, because it means \$40 million is allocated to the Kirwan health precinct. I am working with the health minister and all of the relevant stakeholders to see that new facility delivered for our health workers in Townsville.

I thank Minister Scanlon for the afternoon session in which the areas of her portfolio were examined, including budget highlights for the Department of Environment and Science—over \$964 million over five years as part of the 10-year, \$2.1 billion waste package to support councils. I know how much our council in Townsville appreciates that. There was significant funding with regard to the Queensland koala conservation strategy. Everyone loves koalas.

Mr O'Connor interjected.

Mr HARPER: Thank you for your time, Sam!

(Time expired)



Ms BATES (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (4.50 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Health and Environment Committee report No. 22. It has been nearly two months since the Treasurer handed down his budget and let me tell the House that that budget is looking more flimsy, more shambolic and more hopeless with every day that has gone by since. The Treasurer has a glass jaw—that is a well-known fact—but as his budget has unravelled over the past week we also know his castle is made of sand too. There is no more evidence than in the health and ambulance services portfolio, which is now of course shackled with an incompetent and embattled minister at its helm.

We all heard them crow about the \$9.785 billion capacity expansion program which apparently will be the panacea to the crisis gripping our hospitals each and every day, but do members know how much money was budgeted this financial year for that program? Just \$80 million. That is less than one per cent of the total which has been promised. It is a ruse; it is a joke. What is more, nearly 40 per cent of that capacity expansion program is beyond the forwards. The money is not there. Anyone can look for it in the budget papers, but they will not find it.

Let us move on from that shambolic announcement to another which was a fixture of this budget. The Satellite Hospitals Program was the government's flagship health announcement at the 2020 election. It has very quickly become an albatross around the neck of those opposite. These facilities are \$15 million over budget and nobody knows when they are going to be finished. They were meant to be finished in early 2023. Then the Premier gave a deadline of 19 May 2023. That has been blown out of the water now too. We heard that the government is now hoping that they will be finished by the end of next year. It seems like there is a lot of that in this budget—close your eyes, hold on and hope.

Let me say that Queenslanders do not like to be taken for a ride. These satellite facilities have been derided by clinicians and community members alike—not a single overnight bed, not a single emergency department and not a single operating theatre. The AMAQ remains concerned about investments in so-called satellite hospitals. In fact, it says that 'they are only hospitals by name and certainly not by nature'.


Clearly nobody told the member for Pumicestone these were going to be fake hospitals. The photos of the member on the side of the road with a sign saying 'Labor will build a Bribie hospital' still sit on her Facebook page. Those photos have not aged well, member for Pumicestone. We heard from locals on Bribie who told us exactly how they feel about not being told the truth. The member was not honest with the residents of Bribie Island in October 2020 and the estimates process has proven just that.

The estimates hearing uncovered the true depths of the Queensland Health crisis, and when I say 'Queensland Health crisis' those are not just words; it is real. To the grandfather waiting years to see a specialist and then years for surgery, the crisis is real; to the mother frantically calling back triple 0 because the ambulance still has not arrived after an hour, the crisis is real; to the nurse who knows that the parents with their ill child at the triage window will not be seen for hours on hours, the crisis is real; to the doctor scrambling to find a bed on an already overcrowded ward, the crisis is real.

The Queensland Health crisis is real and the estimates process has shone a light on it. Across the state 45 per cent of all ambulances arriving at public hospitals will wait longer than the 30 minutes to offload their patients. We know many wait for hours and hours and some will wait as long as eight hours, and that is shameful. The estimates hearing also uncovered that last financial year more than 12,000 people waited longer than 24 hours in our EDs. That number is so large it boggles the mind. For the record, Queensland Health's target is four hours.

The minister has made it a habitual practice to conceal information about the performance of our health system. Only under the glare of estimates did we find out that there are now 12 ongoing investigations into alleged malpractice at the Caboolture Hospital. Let me repeat that—not one but 12. We also learnt that a death due to malpractice occurred sometime prior to 2020 at that hospital. That is deeply concerning and no stone should be left unturned in how and why that occurred. Those opposite have had seven years and three terms in office. In that time they have run Queensland Health into the ground and Labor is losing control of Queensland Health.

(Time expired)

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (4.54 pm): I have to agree with the member for Mudgeeraba—I know that is a shock to everyone—because Queenslanders definitely do not like being taken for a ride. Is it too soon to perhaps remind you of the very fact that in 2015 your LNP government was completely annihilated because you were found out—

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Lytton, you will direct your comments through the chair.

Ms PEASE: Perhaps the member for Mudgeeraba and all of the LNP opposite—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left.

Ms PEASE: I rise today to speak in support of report No. 22 of the Health and Environment Committee. The committee has recommended that the proposed expenditure as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2022 for the committee's areas of responsibility be agreed to without amendment. Firstly, I wish to begin by acknowledging the amazing work of all of our public servants. I would like to thank them for their hard work delivering services to Queenslanders from Coolangatta to Cooktown and everything to the west and in-between because, unlike those opposite, we actually value the work of our public servants. Each and every year, day in, day out, they look after our communities and all Queenslanders. They are the backbone of all of our communities during a pandemic, during a natural disaster and during all the good times. I thank them.

To our Premier, Annastacia Palaszczuk, thank you for staying strong, standing up for Queenslanders and working to ensure that we have a strong health and economic recovery and thanks also to the Treasurer, the Hon. Cameron Dick, who has delivered a great Labor budget.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PEASE: I might add that I am just reiterating the words of the members opposite, so I thank them for admitting that. I appreciate that and I will back them in that.

This budget delivers good jobs, better services and a great lifestyle, because that is what Labor does. We care about each other. Yes, we do: we care about each other, we listen to each other and we deliver for Queenslanders. We know how important it is to deliver for Queenslanders. I also acknowledge and congratulate the Hon. Yvette D'Ath, Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, and the Hon. Meaghan Scanlon MP, Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs. Both of them never cease to amaze me with their thorough knowledge of their portfolio areas. After listening to all of the estimates hearings, the same can be said for the Premier and all of our ministers from this side of the House. No wonder Queensland is the place to be, with tens of thousands of people moving to Queensland, and our economy is thriving.


Our record investment in health is yet again an example of our Labor values, delivering a record \$23.6 billion in the 2022-23 health budget which will address pressures in the short term and deliver long-term improvement and include infrastructure, more beds, a larger workforce, a focus on mental health and further innovative reforms on our health system. This budget and the record investment will transform our health system to meet the demands of tomorrow. Those of my fellow committee members who participated in the review of the health system would be well aware of the many pressures that are on our health system at the moment due to the crisis in primary health care and the delivery of services in our communities, the extra presentations in our hospitals due to a lack of GP clinics and the NDIS not supporting people in the community either.

The Palaszczuk government has continued to make significant strides in protecting and delivering for our environment. We have announced a \$2.1 billion package for our war on waste to increase recycling and create more jobs in resource recovery. We have returned more than 160,000 hectares of land, including the Daintree National Park, back to traditional owners, which is particularly important on a day like today with our Path to Treaty. We have acquired the largest parcel of land for conservation in more than a decade. We gave a number of single-use plastics the flick, banning plastics like straws, cutlery, plates and polystyrene food containers, and we have released a five-year road map to phase out even more. I am so proud to be part of this government.

Predictably, the LNP members did their usual during estimates. The Leader of the Opposition and shadow minister for health showed their true colours. They were argumentative, misleading, questioning the integrity of our hardworking public servants and, of course, delivered a ridiculous dissenting report. There was not one question—perhaps the deputy chair did have one question. His bosses decided that they wanted to win some more 'gotcha' moments. They failed, of course.

We did get to hear from the member for Bonney and sometimes from the member for Broadwater in the environment space. Again, it was a verballing of our hardworking public servants. It was a member trying his best to be grown up. By his manner of questioning he came across as a petulant little boy and I am pleased he is not my son.

(Time expired)

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (5.00 pm): We have just heard ageist comments from the member for Lytton when very soon the youngest member of parliament will be giving his first speech. It is completely ridiculous.

Mr Mander: Who is the second youngest?

Mr O'CONNOR: It is not me, actually.

Ms PEASE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence at the reference to ageist comments. It was not an ageist comment. I ask him to withdraw it.

Mr SPEAKER: The member has taken offence. Will you withdraw?

Mr O'CONNOR: As a good little boy, I withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: I will ask you to do it unconditionally.

Mr O'CONNOR: I withdraw unreservedly. Estimates again saw a disappointingly short time frame for questions about our environment, leaving many topics unable to be properly canvassed so I will put some of those on record today.

Firstly, we were not able to ask why the state government is failing on its diversion rate targets for municipal solid waste. MSW diversion from landfill is moving in the opposite direction to the targets they have set of themselves. Despite efforts in our pre hearing questions on notice, we failed to get any breakdown of resource recovery funding. I was not able to ask for more specifics about the single-use plastics ban and why the five-year road map has everything as a possibility and no real information or new plans from what we already knew. We would have liked to ask more about the Land Restoration Fund particularly because it relies heavily on the federal government's Emissions Reduction Fund. All LRF projects must register with the ERF and they must follow an ERF method so I want to ask if there was a chance that LRF projects will be caught up in the issues that that ERF has faced, especially with a review now underway. Of course, we found out that just \$4.77 million of the \$500 million LRF has actually been spent despite the Premier describing this fund as being delivered.

We also were not able to ask questions on bushfire mitigation efforts, on heritage protection and on the efforts of the department to monitor our conservation areas. What we did find out is the slow pace of environmental action versus environmental announcements from this government. The biggest environmental announcement of the budget, \$250 million allocated for expanding Queensland's conservation estate, half of which will not be spent until the last year of the program, which will be about 2025, 2026. That means it will have taken the state government a decade and three state elections to deliver tangible progress on a conservation target that they set of themselves. Their progress is currently barely noticeable, with the percentage of Queensland's land area protected being the same as it was five years ago—8.21 per cent—the lowest of any jurisdiction in Australia.


We also learnt that private protected areas are massively underfunded, with just \$1.6 million in management in the latest round of funding, which is no incentive for a landholder to take part in this program. It is no wonder that only 16 applied to join it in the last year, which is 12 from across the state proactively approaching the department to take part.

In terms of the millions of dollars in koala research lab funding that was approved by the state government to be redirected into building a roller-coaster, at the time the now minister gave a glowing endorsement of the project, but now it seems there is very little desire to see whether what could have been Queensland's first animal genomics lab will be delivered with money that has already been given to Dreamworld. Disappointingly as well at the hearing we were not able to find out how many koalas had actually ridden the roller-coaster. Again it goes to announcements versus outcomes for this government. Koalas have been classified as endangered and I would have thought the government might want to look into projects like this.

The minister disappointingly did not provide support for the Great Barrier Reef Foundation's federal funding which federal Labor have committed to cut, instead raising media concerns with this organisation despite the environment department being involved with them on many, many projects. The government also confirmed that it provides on average around \$1.4 million to the Smart Cane Best Management Practice program to help improve the farming practices of growers in reef catchments.

No confirmation was given though about whether this support would continue beyond the scheduled end date of March 2023 and there certainly was no commitment from this government to increase the support provided to canegrowers. This is a successful industry-led best practice program that meets and beats the reef regulations. The LNP firmly believes funding should be increased substantially to help more canefarmers join this program and be supported to reduce their environmental impact and therefore their operating costs whilst increasing their yields.

Finally, as it is something that I called for in my budget reply speech, the LNP welcomes the environment department's commitment to make their operations net zero by 2030 at the latest. We questioned the director-general about this in previous hearings and as at last year's estimates it had not been considered. This is the arm of government responsible for tracking Queensland's progress on emissions reduction and our action on climate change. They must lead by example. We would welcome any work DES is undertaking to help the broader operations of the Queensland government become net zero.

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (5.05 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the 2022 Health and Environment Committee's estimates report. I thank Minister D'Ath and Minister Scanlon for their dedication to making sure that Queenslanders have the best possible health care and the best possible natural environment to enjoy. Estimates this year absolutely confirmed that our government has delivered on our commitment to Queenslanders to give them more jobs, better services and protect our great Queensland lifestyle. The contrast with those opposite could not be clearer.

There was plenty of opportunity for questions by those opposite digging into all of our budget investments in health, all of the innovative measures we are embarking on to address the issues we face as an ageing population with decreasing private health and increasing acuity and the impressive infrastructure program. In fact, non-government members, as we have heard, got four hours of questions versus government members who got 1.5 hours of questions.

Sadly, LNP committee members asked not one question when it came to health—although I note the comments of the member for Lytton that there may have been one from the deputy chair. The entire process was handed over to the member for Broadwater and the member for Mudgeeraba as a political sideshow. That is because when it comes to health the LNP are not interested in Queenslanders having good health care; they are only interested in shabby, political pointscoreing. The LNP are not interested in Queenslanders except insofar as they can try to manipulate the narrative for political gain. They did not want to talk about the biggest health budget in Queensland's history, \$22.2 billion last year—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

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

Ms KING:—and \$23.6 billion in 2022-23. The member for Broadwater was not interested in our commitment to building a new Queensland cancer centre of excellence that will save thousands of lives and improve the quality of life of thousands more. Personally, I am so proud of our half a billion dollar investment in health infrastructure in and around my Pumicestone communities, whatever the member for Mudgeeraba may say in her and the member for Broadwater's dodgy health town halls or whatever they like to call them.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms KING: Dodgy as! We have not one but two world-leading satellite hospitals, as well as a \$450 million upgrade to our world-class Caboolture Hospital.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms KING: Mr Speaker, I will ask for your assistance. I am having trouble hearing.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. The member for Theodore is warned under the standing orders. The member for Thuringowa is also warned under the standing orders. The member for Bonney had an opportunity to make a contribution and he still had more to say. You are warned under the standing orders as well.

Ms KING: Members opposite were not interested in the 9,475 additional health workers our government will be bringing on board by 2024 or the very welcome announcement on estimates day by our minister of an extra 770 new graduate nurses to be employed each year. It is going to make a profound difference to our healthcare system. It is no wonder, because this is the member who sat around the cabinet table and sacked over 4,000 health workers. Queenslanders will never, ever forget that. This was the mob that planned not one new hospital for Queensland, but they never hesitate to talk down our health system and the dedicated men and women who kept it running during a global pandemic.

Most of all, the Leader of the Opposition did not want to talk about COVID. We are in a global pandemic where up to eight per cent of healthcare workers are off work at any given time. We have had up to 1,000 people in our hospitals with COVID at any given time, but the LNP did not see fit to ask a single question. It is shameful.

Over the next two years we will get to see even more clearly what the LNP would do if they got a chance at the reins of government because they have already told us: they would run down our healthcare system, they would attack our healthcare workers, they would cut services and they would sack workers. That is their record. That is what they stand for.

Turning to Caboolture Hospital, I remind those opposite that when our Labor government sought to build the Caboolture Hospital in the first place they said it was not needed. When we announced the \$450 million upgrade to make Caboolture Hospital twice the size and bigger and better than ever, they said it was a political stunt and that it was not needed. Shame on them!

The LNP deny the reality of delivering health care to Queenslanders during a global pandemic and they do that while failing utterly to follow the health advice. I join the federal member for Kooyong in asking, 'Where are your masks?' Shame!

Mr SPEAKER: Through the chair.

Ms KING: We in this place are meant to be leaders. The LNP health circus rolls into town, they talk down our healthcare system, they talk down our healthcare workers and they refer to people as butchers.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock.

Ms KING: They are a disgrace. They have always been a disgrace.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! When members to my left are finished. I was trying to call the House to order for some time. I could not be heard, even with the big microphone. Members to my left, once the clock has expired I will be affording the member for Pumicestone some additional time, as is my prerogative as Speaker. The House will come to order. Member for Pumicestone, please continue.

Ms KING: When the LNP health circus rolls into town in communities like mine, it has a profoundly negative effect on the morale of our healthcare workers and the sense of safety and wellbeing of our community, and I say shame on them! We see the LNP approach to health every single day. They show up to chat to doctors and nurses, and then they roll the cameras and call people butchers. They are disgraceful.

Mr SPEAKER: The member's time has expired.

Ms KING: This was a strong health budget and I congratulate the minister.

(Time expired)


Mr SPEAKER: I will not have liberties taken, either.

Debate, on motion of Ms King, adjourned.

ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF CALLIDE

First Speech

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the honourable member for Callide, I ask that members please listen to this speech with the dignity that is reserved for such occasions, it being the member's first speech in this place.

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (5.12 pm): What powers Queensland and what keeps Queensland moving forward? If you are looking for the answer then look no further than Callide. After all, Callide is the true powerhouse of Queensland and I am lucky enough to call it home. It is a large and diverse electorate. It covers almost 75,000 square kilometres, which for context is bigger than the state of Tasmania and bigger than 79 countries.

There are close to 15,000 kilometres of roads in Callide, which is about the same as a full lap of Australia. It intersects eight river catchments, including those of the Fitzroy, Burnett and Condamine-Balonne rivers. There are two major coal-fired power stations, seven major coalmines, five major dams, several hard-rock mines and numerous quarries. We also have 60 schools, which provides a challenge should I attempt to attend even one P&C meeting at each school in a year.

We have many towns dispersed throughout the electorate that all have their own economies, their own issues and their own qualities that make them both terrific and unique. They have one thing in common and that is the fact that they are all built on agriculture, forestry, mining and heavy industry. You could say that primary industry is Callide's bread and butter. If you take this away then there is not a whole lot left.

I was born and raised on my family farm north of Brigalow, not too far from Chinchilla and, yes, I do mean to say I was born there. My school holidays were spent working for local melon growers. I went to Queensland's University of Technology here in Brisbane and studied a Bachelor of Science, majoring in earth science. I have worked in the oilfields of Canada and the coalfields of the Bowen Basin and Hunter Valley.

When I lived overseas many asked me if I was going to stay. I would have loved to but, at the end of the day, the Darling Downs and Queensland are always home. The Australian bush is something special. It calls you. It fills a place in your soul that simply cannot be described. Whether it is the Darling Downs, the hills of the North Burnett or the distant horizons in the Channel Country, this vast land of droughts and flooding rains speaks to you. The connection to this country is real for anyone who wishes to take a moment to appreciate its beauty.

When I lived here in the big smoke I would start to go mad if I was not able to get away briefly every couple of months. I would head bush to clear my head and reset so I could come back and focus on the task at hand. If any of you ever find the concrete jungle a little overwhelming, I offer you an invite to come to Callide and clear your head.

I count my blessings for the fact that I grew up in a household with a loving family. I had a full stomach, a warm bed and a roof over my head. I have siblings who kept me on my toes and, for the most part, we got on. We did not have as many gadgets and gizmos as some kids who grew up in the early 2000s, much to my dismay at the time, but in reality, as much as I thought I needed them, 'want' was about as close to 'need' as it got. Mum and Dad always lived within their means. They were frugal and worked hard to manage their budget. This served us well and got my family to where they are today. Mum is also a great cook and can turn basic ingredients into a terrific meal by anyone's standards.

Growing up I was taught the basics of hard work and how far you can go in a world where you are rewarded for your effort. I was taught that life was not going to be given to me on a platter. If I wanted to make something of myself, I had to work for it. All of this has got me to where I am today. I do not put my hand up for a task and not give it my all. A job worth doing is a job done well.

There are many things I question in this world and many things I believe we are far from getting right. We tell a generation of kids that they will never succeed in life because of man who came before them. We install intergenerational hatred towards all things that made our country what it is today. We should instead focus on the opportunities that this great nation presents. You can achieve anything that is on par with how hard you are willing to work.

People scream down stereotypes and yet those very same people are some of the most prejudiced of all. Two people can say the exact same sentence with the exact same intent. One of those people may be cheered on by their fellow associates while the other is screamed down as a raging bigot. The truth in words and their intent are no longer what makes or breaks someone in the modern day but it is the perception of their political persuasions and whether they might come from a position of perceived privilege, regardless of how hard they worked to get themselves there.

This is something that has well and truly been on my mind as a new member of parliament and public life. A significant portion of society has already written me off as no good thanks to who I am and where I come from and thanks to me being a proud member of the LNP. I hope that in the years to come I can be one of many who help show a modern society that the intent of what someone says is more important than how another individual chooses to interpret it.

A functioning society is not one where we are at each other's throats. It is one where we can have a respectful conversation and talk about all options and solutions, and not just those decided by a core group of the elite. It is one where we can talk about facts without the need to tiptoe around important points that are the fundamental cause of the whole problem. We love saying, 'I take advice from the experts,' but then we pick and choose not only what experts we listen to but also the statements, facts and figures from those very same cherry-picked experts.

When I was at university my lecturers drilled into me the basic principles of good science. One day in class I gave a presentation. To reach my hypothesis I relied upon what was very much an accepted geological theory at the time. At the end my lecturer asked me, 'And what makes you think that the geological community has the first theory correct?'

His point was that if scientists always assumed that the person who walked before them was right then we would be living in a world where science is nothing but a sham and the earth is still flat. Question and be questioned. Do not be insulted by the fact that someone is sceptical of your theory, for they themselves are only living up to the fundamentals of good science by testing every angle.

Data and science can be used and manipulated to show many various points of view. When those opposite were running around trying to justify their draconian vegetation management legislation, they were relying on data from the Statewide Landcover and Trees Study suggesting that tree clearing in Queensland was at an all-time high. What they failed to mention was that that very same report indicated that total tree cover had increased across the state for years on end. Of course, this bit of information did not fit an agenda or win votes from a public who are removed from our reality in the bush. I say 'our reality' because I do not mean to insult those of the metropolitan regions who, by no fault of their own, have never lived in the bush to understand the intricacies of our landscapes. They view life through a different lens than I. We now live in a state where we have a one-size-fits-all rule for an area that would rank as the 17th largest country if it were on its own. Queensland has 13 bioregions, all with unique soils, vegetation, ecosystems and waterways. I ask: do you treat your tomatoes and your roses the same way you treat your lawn? This is what the Queensland government and these laws are enforcing upon rural Australia.

Our state forests were once well managed by volunteer fire crews, recreational pest controllers and private grader operators. These men and women just so happened to work at the many local sawmills. Over time we have regulated our logging industry to a shadow of its former self. In doing so, we have not only lost our royalties from a valuable and renewable resource but have added a cost to the taxpayer. The state now pays to do a job that not only was once done for us but funnelled money into our coffers at the same time.

Just this week it has been reported that Monash University in Melbourne is not letting students graduate unless they undertake mandatory cultural training modules. I am sure that a number of people may be cheering at such prospect, given the modules are promoting nothing other than sheer wokeism, but to those who are cheering at such an insult to our education system: firstly, remember what these students signed up for and remember what they are paying for when they go to university; and, secondly, consider the precedent this sets and the ramifications into the future. Heaven forbid if someone else took this idea and wanted to teach the principles of biology and the realities of Mother Nature. I am sure you would not be cheering if you were forced to watch a feral pig eat a screaming lamb alive just so you can graduate from your political science and gender studies degree. Forcing something down someone's throat does not make them listen and learn. If what you are promoting is really so righteous, force would not be necessary.

Australia is a smart nation—a nation of inventors, a nation of doers. Over the decades we have always managed to tackle the task at hand and soldier on through a bit of ingenuity and problem-solving. We also seem to love our red tape. When it comes to politics, we often manage to miss the mark. A number of years ago, the first fast-food chain opened in Chinchilla at around seven o'clock one morning. By around 11 am that very same day up the road from our house was garbage from that very same outlet—within four hours of its opening. For context, we live 25 minutes from town. The next closest outlet is over an hour away. This, ladies and gentlemen, is not a material problem or a plastic problem; it is a human problem. In principle I do not like taxes, including the Containers for Change tax that the average punter may not yet realise is another new and fancy tax. We now have people out risking their lives picking up cans and bottles from the side of highways and roads, all to reclaim 10 cents thanks to the many grubs who left them there.

When plastics first started being widely used, remember they were meant to save the trees? Now we have forgotten about the trees for the turtles need saving instead! For the record, I find the amount of waste and litter that ends up in our natural environment absolutely appalling. I am merely mocking the irony of the situation we have found ourselves in, all because we did not want to consider both the pros and cons of the innovation of the time. This was not any one person's fault but the collective fault of the consumer, the politician and enterprise. The latest clean and green technology might seem fashionable, just as the plastic bag did at the time.

I want to take a moment to thank the people of Callide who have instilled their faith in me and given me this opportunity to represent them as the sixth member for Callide in the Queensland parliament. I want to thank the membership, the staff and the executive of the LNP. To the many who backed up after a long federal campaign to help me on my by-election, who wrote letters, made phone calls and manned booths: thank you. To the state parliamentary team and the member for Broadwater: thank you for your efforts and for welcoming me to this House.

I thank the former member for Callide, Colin Boyce, for his service to the electorate and wish him well as the new federal member for Flynn. I also thank two great men who are no longer with us today—Scott Sargood and Jaimie Varcoe. I did not have the privilege of knowing these men for long. They were both taken from us too soon. To Adma, Mitch and Bonnie: Scott was a true champion of the bush. He was true to his word and did not sit back when there was work to be done. To Deb, Lilly and Ella: Jaimie was a bloke who wore his heart on his sleeve and fought hard for what he believed in. If there was a rabbit to chase up a hole, he would be there with bells and whistles on. Without these two men and their influence on my life in the short time I knew them, I doubt I would be standing here today.

I also thank the current and former politicians and community leaders who have always been a sounding ear. To my good mates from school and university, some of whom are in the gallery today: thanks for always being there for me and always having my back. To everyone else who has been an influence on my life and helped me along the way: I thank you. To my late granddad Len and grandma Maggie: I hope I am doing you proud. To grandma Fay and to Pop: thank you for everything you have taught me. To my siblings for offering me their fashion advice and for putting me in my place every once in a while: I thank you. To Mum and Dad: thank you for everything you have done for me over my life so far and for all the sacrifices you have made to get me here today.

I want to take a moment to highlight some of the issues for me to consider into the future to help guide me in serving the people of Callide. I will never please everyone. There is always someone on the wrong side of every decision. I can only help so many at a time. If I am nervous about asking a question, maybe that is because it is a question that needs to be asked. Never forget the fundamentals and the founding principles of science. An individual is and can only be responsible for their own actions. Governments should foster independence and personal freedoms. Dependence does not serve anyone well. If I have not stopped for a moment to consider if I may be wrong, then I have not yet earned the right to be right. Most importantly, never take myself too seriously. A big head does not serve anyone well.

To those in positions of power, who think they know what is best for my community, I offer them some warning. Do not ever turn up and pretend you care about my electorate and my people if your very next breath is about shutting down our towns. Do not claim that there will be alternate jobs for them into the future unless they are real and exist today. Do not insult us by offering us jobs that fall well short on skill and even shorter on pay. I will not accept a raw deal for my electorate. Remember the wealth that my community has created for you and your own backyard. Remember the taxation and the royalties that built your schools, your roads and your hospitals. Do not think you can take us for granted for there is only so much we will take.

My community is a proud one and we have earned that right through blood, sweat, tears and sheer hard work. Do not think you can take that away from us. Do not treat my community with disdain for they grow the cotton on your back, they grow the food on your plate and they produce the energy, both through renewables and fossil fuels, that keep your lights on. For this we do not need thanks. We simply want you to consider this before you skin us for everything we have. If you fail to keep this in mind, you have made an enemy of me and my people. If you think you can take my community for fools then more fool you.

I am not naive enough to think that I have signed up for an easy task. I came here to work hard in serving my community and to fight for a better future not only for myself, my family and my generation but also for all of my people and all of Queensland.

CRIMINAL LAW (RAISING THE AGE OF RESPONSIBILITY) AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 15 September 2021 (see p. 2689).

Second Reading



Mr BERKMAN (Maiwar—Grn) (5.34 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I am proud today to rise to move the second reading of this bill, but I am equally saddened that it is still, in 2022, necessary for me to do so. It is a bill with a very simple objective: to get 10- to 13-year-old children out of prisons and the criminal legal system by raising the minimum age for criminal responsibility to 14 years old. It is a bill that I urge every member here to support.

The bill amends section 29 of the Criminal Code to raise the minimum age at which a person is criminally responsible for any act or omission from 10 years old to 14 years old. It also includes transitional amendments to the Youth Justice Act to: transition children who committed an offence

before they were 14 out of prisons and watch houses within no more than one month and three days respectively; expunge those offences from their record; and destroy identifying particulars collected as a result of their criminalisation at such an unacceptably young age.

Since I introduced this bill last year, thousands of children aged 10 to 13 have had formal contact with the police. Around 130 have ended up in prison. Dozens of children under the age of 14 have been held in a police watch house. While those children were sitting in police stations, taken from their families and locked up alongside much older offenders, politicians were debating their fate.

Maybe those kids would have felt hopeful knowing how many Queenslanders agree that they do not belong in prison and that they deserve a real chance to learn and grow. Not a single one of the 300-plus written submissions on this bill oppose raising the age to at least 14. This includes lawyers, doctors, social workers, academics, carers, First Nations leaders, human rights experts, organisations from the Red Cross Australia to the Uniting Church, the Australian Association of Social Workers, the Public Health Association of Australia, QCOS, the Queensland Bar Association and AFL Queensland.

It was apparently too embarrassing for the government to have no stakeholders opposed to the bill so the committee went out of its way to invite the police to give their two cents worth. We should not be surprised that the only opposition to raising the age to 14 years came from the police union and a former police commissioner—those whose work and careers depend on the breadth of criminal sanctions created by the government. That is not necessarily an attack on individual police officers at all, but I have never seen a more appropriate context for the old saying ‘when the only tool you have is a hammer, everything looks like a nail’.

If any members here have not yet made up their minds on how they will vote on this bill—and I will allow myself that flight of fancy until we hear from others—I ask them to start by exercising a little common sense. Does it make sense to give a 12-year-old child the same criminal legal responsibility as a 32-year-old? Does it make sense that in the same year a child might still be losing baby teeth or receiving a symbolic pen licence from their teacher for reliably legible handwriting that they can receive a jail sentence?

Our laws recognise the vulnerability of children and their reduced decision-making capacity in a variety of ways. We have laws prohibiting child exploitation material that includes children up to the age of 15. Aggravating circumstances provisions apply where a child is under 12. It is a criminal offence for a parent or guardian to leave a child under the age of 12 years unsupervised for an unreasonable time. Yet in our Criminal Code, these vulnerable children suddenly become wilful criminals.

The fact is that it does not make sense to assign criminal responsibility to 10- to 13-year-old children when we consider the basic medical evidence. At this age a child’s brain is not fully developed. The submission from Life Without Barriers included Harvard research that helpfully spells out exactly what we mean by that. Adolescents are more reactive in emotionally charged situations, they are more impulsive, they make relatively poor assessments of the trade-off between risk and anticipated reward, they undervalue delayed gratification, they are unlikely to have a fully developed capacity for empathy, they have a stronger drive towards sensation seeking. This is all relevant when we consider whether a child should be held criminally responsible like an adult.

The Office of the Public Guardian said in its submission that in its experience—

Beyond offending itself ... young children lack the capacity to properly engage with the criminal justice system, resulting in a propensity to accept a plea bargain, give false confessions, fail to keep track of court proceedings, or to properly comprehend criminal proceedings.

Frontline workers like Adam from Anglicare spoke about 12-year-olds arriving at court ‘wide eyed and scared’, experiencing the system with little more nuance than a place where they were ‘told they were “bad” with little opportunity to participate’. This is why *doli incapax* is inadequate. The Queensland Law Society points out that it does not protect 10 and 11-year-old children from the criminal process, including being kept on remand in a detention centre. *Doli incapax* engages with the capacity to tell right from wrong but has no regard for whether a child can understand the legal process, the court system or sentencing principles.

We also need to consider the medical evidence about what happens when you put a child through the criminal legal system. Neuroscientist Zoltan Sarnai explained at the hearings that the years between 10 and 17 are crucial for a neurodevelopment process call ‘synaptic pruning’. Anything that affects the brain during this period—including, as he puts it, the trauma of incarceration—will have a particularly significant effect. If children do not have a secure environment in which to learn behaviour and emotional regulation, they may never fully develop those capacities. Simply put, locking up a child at 10, 12 or 13 can ruin their lives.

There are plenty of children younger than 14 who are facing that possibility right now in Queensland. The vast majority of them are First Nations children. Many of them have neurocognitive disorders and other disabilities. Many of them have been in the child protection system. They are in adult police watch houses. They are in overcrowded prisons. They are locked down in their rooms without access to fresh air or education for days on end. They can, under our current laws, have a 'spit hood' tied over their head or be strapped to a restraint chair.

The government's new bail laws, as they proudly proclaim, led to more children being held in custody on remand. The Queensland Human Rights Commissioner raised concerns about this happening even where they are unlikely to get a custodial sentence and so they are just serving 'dead time'. This is an untenable situation. I join the calls in a number of submissions, particularly from the Coöee Indigenous Family and Community Education Centre, for the state government to seriously consider the duty-of-care implications arising from its current approach.


Amnesty International recommends that additional legislation be introduced to prohibit holding a child in a watch house overnight. Although it is outside the scope of this bill, I completely agree that a watch house is no place for a child. Raising the age of criminal responsibility would be one step towards a better approach to youth justice, starting with the youngest and most vulnerable in the system. Our current laws are out of line with international jurisdictions. They breach our human rights obligations and, despite what we will no doubt hear from members who are obsessed with punishment and want to lock up all the naughty kids, our current laws make our community less safe.

The medical evidence is clear that 10- to 13-year-olds' brains are not fully developed. The criminological evidence is clear that early contact with the criminal legal system increases a child's likelihood of reoffending, so our current law directly undermines any efforts to close the shameful gap in First Nations incarceration rates. Our laws disproportionately impact the most vulnerable children in our state and set them up for a lifetime of offending and incarceration.

From all the evidence offered by submissions on the bill, it is clear that the best way to keep the community safe is to invest in prevention, early intervention and diversion. It works and it is far cheaper than the \$1,600 a day it costs to keep one child in prison. I am well aware that the committee recommended that the bill not be passed but, if the committee and particularly the government members treated the inquiry process as anything more than a political fig leaf, to obscure or justify the government's ineffective, politicised and harmful pre-existing policy position, it would have unequivocally supported raising the age to at least 14.

The experts who work with these kids know what the solutions are: they are trauma informed, child centred and place based, but programs like that must be fully funded by the state, and the communities most affected by discrimination, marginalisation and overpolicing must be involved in planning, designing and implementing this alternative model.

Politicians who choose to vote against this bill should know that they are among the last ones left clinging to an outdated and ineffective system that locks primary school children in prison. At some point in the future when this reform is many years behind us we will reflect on how inconceivable it is that children as young as 10 were once held criminally responsible for their actions and locked up as a result. We can only hope that this government has the common sense and compassion to take these steps now before any more young children are unnecessarily harmed. As World Vision said in its submission on the bill, the world is watching.

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (5.44 pm): I rise to speak against the Criminal Law (Raising the Age of Responsibility) Amendment Bill 2021. Simply changing the criminal law does not reflect the complexity underlying youth offending and why children as young as 10 years old commit these offences. This bill seeks to put the cart before the horse both in the sense that it lacks the necessary alternative framework to respond to children aged between 10 and 14 years who exhibit harmful behaviour and in that it pre-empts a national approach to a fundamental criminal justice issue.

In its consideration of the bill, the Community Support and Services Committee made five recommendations. The first recommendation was that the bill not be passed. There were also four recommendations directed at government for action. I now table the government response to those four recommendations and will speak to them shortly.

Tabled paper: Community Support and Services Committee: Report No. 16, 57th Parliament—Criminal Law (Raising the Age of Responsibility) Amendment Bill 2021, government response [\[1149\]](#).

I thank the Community Support and Services Committee for its consideration of the bill. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the stakeholders who made submissions and appeared before the committee.

The safety of Queenslanders is the government's No. 1 priority. We know that 46 per cent of youth crime is committed by a small group of recidivist offenders. Last year we amended the Youth Justice Act to strengthen our youth justice bail laws. In our recent budget we increased funding by \$78.8 million over four years to be invested in reforms under the Youth Justice Strategy to continue to support these young people in breaking the cycle of offending and keep our communities safe.

Any increase in the minimum age of criminal responsibility must be underpinned by an alternative response to those children who exhibit harmful behaviour, particularly those who pose an immediate risk to the community, to ensure the safety of the community. Developing such an appropriate alternative is complex, particularly given Queensland's decentralised geography. For example, there would need to be arrangements in place to ensure that children who are currently subject to supervision continue to receive the support they need to facilitate their rehabilitation and therefore reduce the risk of any reoffending; first responders would need to be able to safely and appropriately respond to children exhibiting harmful behaviour; and supports and services would need to be in place to adequately address a child's harmful behaviour thereby reducing the likelihood of repeat behaviour and enhancing community safety. These complexities were acknowledged by the committee in their report when they stated—

Considering all evidence before the committee and noting the importance of appropriately balancing the welfare of children with community safety, as well as the need to address the complex problems that give rise to children entering the justice system, the committee considers there is more work to be done before the minimum age of criminal responsibility is raised in Queensland.

The government is currently undertaking this work to contribute to national discussions on the issue. I note that the member for Maiwar has been unable to say what support systems would be in place if this bill were to become law.

As noted by the committee in its report, the minimum age of criminal responsibility has been on the national agenda at the Meeting of Attorneys-General. This is because criminal liability is a fundamental criminal justice issue and there is strong interest in a nationally consistent approach.

The importance of national consistency was recognised in 1997 when the Australian Law Reform Commission considered that a child should not be criminally liable, and therefore exposed to criminal sanction, for an offence in one jurisdiction but not another simply because of the child's age. The unfairness was also illustrated by former police commissioner Bob Atkinson during the committee's public hearing when he stated—

It would seem very unfair that a 10-year-old might do something in Tweed Heads that is not an offence but if they stepped over the border into Coolangatta it would be. I think that is a quite unfair. I think that is why it is so important to have a national approach.

In line with this recommendation, in November 2021 at the Meeting of Attorneys-General, state attorneys-general supported the development of a proposal to increase the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12 including with regard to carve-outs, timing and discussion of implementation.

Under the guidance of a new Commonwealth Government, at the meeting of Attorneys-General last Friday, attorneys-general agreed to the Age of Criminal Responsibility Working Group continuing its review to continue to bring forward a proposal to increase the minimum age, paying particular attention to eliminating the over-representation of First Nations children in the criminal justice system.

This national working group is the appropriate forum to consider complex policy considerations relating to the minimum age of criminal responsibility such as an appropriate alternative service system, possible carve-outs and timing for implementation. This also closely aligns with the work the Palaszczuk government is doing to continue to address our Closing the Gap targets. The recent budget announcement of funding of bodies like the Criminal Justice Innovation Office and a First Nations justice office within my department will continue to enhance the work we are doing to address the over-representation of First Nations people within custodial settings.

The government supports the four recommendations for government action made by the committee. Ensuring that the training provided to our workers in residential care settings is current and reflects contemporary approaches and interventions is an important recommendation.


In relation to recommendation 2, the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs will continue to review the mandatory training given to residential workers in trauma-informed therapeutic practice to maintain currency and reflect contemporary approaches in interventions. This includes ensuring sufficient training in diversionary tactics, de-escalation techniques and other available

supports. In relation to recommendations 3 and 5, Queensland will continue to participate in the ongoing work of the national Age of Criminal Responsibility Working Group in its review of the minimum age of criminal responsibility, with further national discussions to continue next year.

Any consideration of an alternative response under a raised minimum age as part of this work will include consideration of the principles identified by the committee; namely, that there would be adequate and effective diversion programs and services, including place-based and culturally appropriate practices, to support young people and their families to address factors which led to the offending behaviour. This government acknowledges the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the youth justice system and appreciates the need to work with local communities to ensure children and their families are supported in culturally appropriate ways.

In relation to recommendation 4, following the tabling of the committee's report earlier this year my department has consulted with stakeholders on targeted training accreditation processes and a clear practice direction. My department is considering the results of this consultation and will continue to work with stakeholders to further consider the practical operation of *doli incapax*.

It is clear there is significant work which needs to be done before the minimum age of criminal responsibility could be raised in Queensland. Proceeding to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility without the necessary framework for responding to children who exhibit harmful behaviour is irresponsible. National discussions should be allowed to take their course to facilitate consistency and fairness. These discussions will also ensure that any reform in this area is done with consideration of the welfare of children and community safety in mind. Community safety is key.

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (5.52 pm): The issue of youth justice, youth crime and youth offending is complex, it is confronting, and it is probably one of the most studied areas of jurisprudence and criminal law in Queensland. A flick through any of the reports, whether done by the Attorney-General's Department or Treasury, is indicative of the amount of work that is being done to try and address causes and outcomes for youth justice.

In terms of this debate, the LNP's position is that the first priority must be the protection of the community—the protection of those who are innocent as they go about their daily lives and carry out their daily activities. They need to be protected from home invasion. They need to be protected from their cars being stolen. They need to be protected from the terrible events that we saw occur in the Redlands only last year. The member for Maiwar's bill does not address all of the issues relevant to protecting the community.

In this regard I refer, as I have in the past on many occasions, to the comments of former police commissioner Bob Atkinson. In doing so, I completely reject the allegation made by the member for Maiwar that former commissioner Bob Atkinson has a vested or fixed interest in ensuring police can continue to charge and prosecute children under the age of 14. Mr Atkinson said that for the youth justice system and four pillars of reform he talked about to work they must be framed or bookended by two fundamental principles: that public safety is paramount and community confidence is essential.

I have spoken on these matters on a number of occasions. The community must be protected and the community must have confidence that the laws support and protect them and that they will deliver a better outcome than is currently the case. Quite frankly, the member for Maiwar's proposition in this legislation does not pass that test. It does not provide the community with confidence in the youth justice system, which in Queensland—as the member for Burdekin will highlight—is already falling far short of the mark. The member for Maiwar has not, as has been identified by the Attorney-General and the report, put in any concrete proposal for an alternative.

If a young person commits an offence and comes into contact with the criminal justice system, there is already a process in place. It is very rare for someone between the ages of 10 and 14 to end up in prison. In fact, it is almost unheard of. There is already a process in place, as referred to in the report, regarding restorative justice. There is already a process in the report in relation to conferencing, and there are already a number of services provided through various government agencies and departments to divert that young person from further offending. In fact, in many instances that is working. We know that because almost 50 per cent of the offences are committed by fewer than 10 per cent of young offenders. In the absence of any alternative, the member for Maiwar is putting forward a proposition that will not have the confidence of the community, will not act to protect the community, and provides no alternative method of dealing with young offenders under the age of 14.

It is all fine and well to stand up as the member for Maiwar has and proclaim how wonderful he and his policy prescription are without providing an alternative. In fact, that is the hallmark of the Greens: they can provide you with what should be but cannot tell you how it is going to be. They want to turn off

coal and gas but they are not able to tell you how to turn on your stove, kettle and toaster. In this instance the member for Maiwar is telling us how we can deal with 14-year-olds but he is not going to tell us how it is going to happen, the structures that are going to be put in place and the funding that is going to be necessary for that to occur.

Mr Berkman: I can't allocate funding. You know that as well as anyone.

Mr NICHOLLS: I take that interjection. The member for Maiwar says he cannot allocate funding. What the member for Maiwar can do is tell the House how much it is likely to cost, because we already know the current government is spending \$560 million and it cannot get it right. The member for Maiwar wants to throw out an established system and replace it with something—we know not what. The recommendations of the committee and the investigation by the committee were very fair and very thorough. There was no light-hearted dismissal of any of the propositions. The member for Maiwar was able to give evidence and provide it. Representatives of the many organisations interested in this matter—and there are many and their concerns are justified—were able to make submissions. The committee considered them seriously, but in the end the committee recommended against the passage of this legislation.

As the Attorney-General has said, there is a process currently underway by which attorneys-general nationwide are considering the issue of the age of criminal responsibility. That is the appropriate forum and that is the appropriate manner for taking this most vexing and difficult of questions forward.

In the meantime, the obligation falls on the government now to explain what it is doing to address the issue, because on Sunday we read that Queensland is the car theft capital of Australia. The number of vehicles being stolen has increased, notwithstanding that the number of offenders is decreasing. If you speak to people in Cairns, Townsville, Goondiwindi or any of the myriad towns and cities in Queensland—

Mr Janetzki interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: Yes, including Toowoomba, as the member for Toowoomba South reminds me, or even in the seat of Clayfield, the government is already failing to deliver with respect to the youth justice reforms. I note we are still awaiting the report from Mr Atkinson in relation to the first six months operation of the government's youth justice laws that were introduced in April last year—a report that should have been completed and handed to the government in October, and that the government has said it has received but has so far failed to table.

In conclusion, the member for Maiwar's proposal lacks all of the necessary components to make it a proposal that can be supported. It lacks an alternative view, vision and regime for dealing with offenders under the age of 14. It lacks the ability to instil in the community the confidence they need to go down the path the member for Maiwar suggests. It flies in the face of the concerns of the Queensland police union. It flies in the face of what former commissioner Bob Atkinson put into his report. It pre-empted the outcome of the attorneys-general across all the states and the Commonwealth in coming to a resolution on this matter. For that reason, the LNP will not be supporting this legislation.



Dr MacMAHON (South Brisbane—Grn) (6.01 pm): The case for raising the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14—for not locking kids up in jail—is so clear. The chorus of credible voices calling for an end to this shameful practice has been growing louder. Instead of investing in housing, instead of fully funding our schools, instead of investing in support services for families, this government continues to send kids to jail.

It is really hard to ignore the juxtaposition today between the joy and the hope and the coming together around the Path to Treaty announcement with the government's refusal to take practical steps to eliminate racism from our legal system. It is staggering that Queensland allows children as young as 10 to be locked up. There is no question about who is going to jail under these laws. First Nations children aged 10 to 17 are 29 times more likely than non-Indigenous kids to be sentenced to detention in Queensland. On average, 84 per cent of kids aged 10 to 13 in a Queensland detention centre on any given day are Indigenous. We know that early contact with the criminal justice system has been shown to increase a child's likelihood of reoffending. Putting First Nations kids in jail directly ensures there is an overrepresentation of First Nations adults in jail.

Maggie Munn, a Gunggari gambi person who works for Amnesty, said at this morning's rally that the majority of kids who are locked up all around the country are black kids. They went on to say, 'I as a black person am pretty sick of going into institutions like this that are built on the oppression of my people and pleading for the humanity of my kids.'

If the Queensland government are genuinely committed to closing the gap, they need to raise the age. If the Queensland government are genuinely committed to stopping black deaths in custody, they need to raise the age. If the Queensland government are genuinely committed to justice for First Nations people, they need to raise the age. They need to redirect the money that is currently going towards criminalising children into housing, into schools, into health care and into frontline services.

Our current laws—which make 10 years the minimum age for criminal responsibility—are completely out of step with Australia’s human rights obligations and out of step with what other countries around the world are doing. Despite the cheap political pointscoring around law and order that both of the major parties in here want to perpetuate, these laws are not working. We all want to keep communities safe. These laws do not do that.

Medical evidence shows that 10- to 13-year-olds do not have the developmental capacity needed to control impulses or foresee and understand consequences. Criminalising them like adults does not work, but there are things that work. We need to give kids the support that they need, rather than criminalising them. We need to guarantee that every child and their family has a safe place to call home. We need to lift families out of poverty with genuinely free state schools, free health care, free public transport and free child care and by raising JobSeeker. We need to invest in direct support for families before they get to crisis. Putting a 10- or 12-year-old child in a prison with older teenagers will not set them on a hopeful path. It is a criminogenic, dangerous environment.

As the Australian Association for Restorative Justice said in its submission, ‘Keeping people out of jail keeps people out of jail.’ Sexual abuse advocacy organisation knowmore in their submission noted that jail is an environment where young children are particularly vulnerable to abuse. They spoke about a case study from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse where an Aboriginal man from Queensland who grew up being bounced around the care system was first sent to detention at 11 years old for break and enter and stealing a car with a group of kids.

Mr Dametto interjected.

Dr MacMAHON: He was abused multiple times in detention.

Mr Dametto: Good reason not to go to jail.

Dr MacMAHON: I am sorry? Are you justifying his abuse in jail?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Pause the clock. Member for South Brisbane and member for Hinchinbrook, you will not argue across the chamber or I will warn you both.

Dr MacMAHON: I would like to take the member’s interjection and say that this child was abused multiple times in detention, and after his release he struggled with drug misuse and addiction. He was in and out of jail for years and said he lost his creativity and his connection to culture. It took him a long time to rebuild his identity and work on creating a stable life for himself. If he had not been criminalised so young, this might not have been the case. As Sisters Inside wrote in their submission—

Imprisoning children is neither necessary for community safety, nor effective in stopping behaviours that are deemed criminal by the State.

Prisons do not stop criminal “offending”, on the contrary, evidence suggests that prisons are themselves criminogenic.

If your focus is on protecting the community, locking up kids does not work.

I want to turn now to how this bill actually impacts kids at risk of detention. I want to start by talking about Brandon who is nine. This is not his real name, but Youth Off the Streets gave details about what Brandon is going through in their submission to the inquiry on this bill. Brandon at nine is already on the radar at the Logan Central Police Station. He is the youngest of seven children. His parents and some of his siblings have spent time in jail. He has an extremely unstable home life and is no stranger to domestic and family violence and problematic alcohol and other drug use. His normal is a chaotic environment shaped by trauma, poverty and neglect. Brandon’s school could not manage his unpredictable behaviour and he is now completely disengaged from education. He is hanging around with older kids who are known to the police for shoplifting. As Youth Off the Streets said—

If the criminal age of responsibility is not raised in Queensland, there is little doubt that Brandon will spend his next birthday in juvenile detention.

They went on to say—

If the criminal age of responsibility is raised to 14, community services will have an additional four years to support Brandon and his family, assisting them to build a strong and positive future and break Brandon’s cycle of offending.

All we’re asking for is an opportunity to go in and heal our own. If we raise the criminal age, it allows extra time for Aboriginal communities to heal our children so that they can be strong, so that they can dream.

Youth Off the Streets also said—

Instead of spending money on Aboriginal children in the justice system, use that money wisely and allow it to be put back into Aboriginal services, to allow us to go back into our community and repair what broke on that child's journey. Allow us to be the subject matter experts in our own community.

This bill sets out a framework for the kind of support that would actually help kids and their families. Most importantly, the bill raises the minimum age at which a person is criminally responsible for their actions from 10 to 14. It proposes an alternative staged model to replace the criminal system for kids under 14, including early intervention and prevention, therapeutic responses to antisocial behaviour and intensive case management for serious problematic behaviour.

A multidisciplinary expert panel would be established outside the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs to work with children and their families and refer them to support services, culturally appropriate community-led programs and restorative justice. Children's hearings, similar to a model that has been successfully used in Scotland, could be used to determine whether small-scale therapeutic supervision is necessary in rare cases.

I want to also say how shameful it is that just one member from the government is speaking on this bill—just one member—and I can only assume that the rest of you are struggling with your hypocrisy—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Through the chair, please, member for South Brisbane.

Dr MacMAHON:—but I am not particularly surprised. This is a government criminalising poverty, trauma and disadvantage. One member—

Mr Harper interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock! Member for Thuringowa, no more chances. You are on a warning.

Dr MacMAHON: This is a government criminalising poverty, trauma and disadvantage. This is a government condemning kids to a future of further criminalisation, incarceration and violence. This is a government ignoring over 300 submissions that supported raising the age of criminal responsibility—the same government overseeing an epidemic of child removals, a government now investing more money in building new prisons than in building new housing, the same government that refused to implement an affirmative model of consent despite overwhelming evidence and other states moving ahead of Queensland. We often do not have a problem being out of step with other states here in Queensland when we are on the back foot. This is a government that is systematically underfunding our state schools. This is a government that is prepared to spend billions of dollars to knock down and rebuild a stadium and threaten the local state primary school. This is a government that is shamefully underfunding our healthcare system.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I ask that the member be brought back to the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, I bring you back to the long title of the bill, please.

Dr MacMAHON: And this is a government that today will continue to lock up kids as young as 10 in the name of being tough on crime. In the next few years a bill will come back to this place raising the age of criminal responsibility, and all of you will get up and say, 'What a great job we have done.' My heart breaks for the children between now and then who will be in jail.

A government member interjected.

Dr MacMAHON: You have a choice today—


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for South Brisbane.

Dr MacMAHON:—and you are making that choice to condemn children to incarceration.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock!

Dr MacMAHON: I am finished.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for South Brisbane, you will direct your comments through the chair. Have you completed your contribution? You have.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (6.11 pm): I say at the outset that I oppose this bill. I oppose this bill on behalf of all the victims of crime in Queensland who have been the subject of an offence committed by juvenile offenders—people who live in communities like Townsville, Cairns, Toowoomba, Rockhampton and the Gold Coast.

'People are literally paying for therapy to manage their fear of Townsville's crime.' Those are the words of Dr Emma Black, psychologist from Townsville. She goes on to say that her most common patients are women and that they are 'really petrified'. Just yesterday we found out that Queensland had secured the title of Australia's car crime capital, with over 15,800 vehicles stolen in Queensland during 2021—more than New South Wales, the ACT and South Australia combined—with Brisbane listed as the most dangerous city for motor vehicle theft, with 3,623 crimes reported. In fact, the five cities with the highest number of vehicle thefts are all in Queensland.

Vehicle theft is impacting Queenslanders across the state. What is often missed is the size of the problem in regional centres. What will truly send a shiver up the spine of Queenslanders is that if the rate of car thefts seen in Townsville were repeated here in Brisbane, the number would increase more than four times, and if Brisbane saw the same rate as seen in Cairns, over 15,400 vehicles would have been stolen. When it comes to juvenile offenders, statistics from the Queensland Police Service show that for the year ending 30 June 2022 unlawful use of a motor vehicle charges against juveniles increased by 27 per cent, and more charges were laid against juveniles than adults.

Let me put into perspective what will happen if this bill is passed here today. The government constantly talks about the group of hardcore recidivist offenders, or serious repeat offenders. Of course, embedded in this group are the 11- to 13-year-olds. The serious repeat offender measure takes into account the seriousness of offences, offending frequency and recency, age and nights in custody. In total, there are 372 young offenders who meet this criteria. Fifty-four of those are aged 11 to 13. There are no 10-year-olds in custody. If the existing 11- to 13-year-olds were excluded, the total number of serious repeat offenders would reduce by approximately 15 per cent overnight. Does that mean a 15 per cent reduction in youth crime? Clearly, the answer is no. Does that guarantee those offenders would not commit crimes? No. All it does is make the statistics look better for the government at the expense of victims.

I note in the explanatory notes that the member for Maiwar claims to have undertaken 'extensive consultation with relevant stakeholders'. However, guess which stakeholders are not classed as relevant by the member for Maiwar—victims. There is not one mention of the rights of the elderly in Queensland who sit awake in fear every night. I was at a crime forum last week in Cairns, and I had elderly residents there telling me that they lock themselves in their bedroom every night for fear that they are going to be broken into. I had one lady who has been broken into four times in three years who sold her residence and moved for fear that she would be broken into again. Yet here we have not one mention of the victims who would join the queue for therapy from people like Dr Black.

While ministers of this government reply to a petition from thousands of Queenslanders by claiming victims are supported, Queenslanders know that support for victims is non-existent. What we also know is that, despite the best efforts by the minister to muddy the waters, the number of young offenders is increasing and the proportion of offenders in that group who are aged 11 to 13 is also increasing.

When interviewed on ABC Radio on 27 July this year, Detective Inspector Kevin Goan of Cairns police spoke about offenders 'scoping out houses' to find an easy target and furthermore, 'We have a group of young people who are intent on stealing cars.' Both statements imply quite a degree of planning and I, along with most Queenslanders, would put my faith in the detective inspector.

The explanatory notes for this bill refer to a presumption against bail for offenders charged with a prescribed indictable offence between apprehension and trial for another indictable offence. If we take a look at what those offences are, it will highlight even further why the member for Maiwar's bill should not be passed. Among those prescribed offences is unlawful use of a motor vehicle, but only if police can prove the offender was the driver; assault occasioning bodily harm; unlawful wounding or choking; suffocation or strangulation in a domestic setting. To portray any offender who harms, wounds or chokes a person as some poor misguided soul is an absolute insult to all victims of crime and especially victims of domestic or family violence.

The member for Maiwar's veiled swipes at police throughout the explanatory notes are as insulting to the victims who rely on police as it is to police officers themselves. I remind the member for Maiwar of the words of Senator Jacinta Price just a few short weeks ago: 'The police officer may be the only person that child can truly trust.' The explanatory notes imply that every child who comes into contact with police ends up in custody when nothing could be further from the truth. I remind the member for Maiwar, on behalf of police officers and police staff, that it is police officers who operate PCYC centres throughout the state, quite often in areas where support services are limited or non-existent.

Perhaps the member should look at the Queensland Police Service SDS, which shows that a sizable proportion of young offenders are diverted, or the member could take note of the words of former police officer Brett Geiszler, who appeared at a committee hearing in Townsville following the death of Jennifer Board, who lost her life as a victim of youth crime and who, as Brett said, 'may well have been the mother to my grandchildren'. He said—

We are not talking about kids who have not been given a chance. As a police officer, I cautioned kids time and time again before I went to a power of arrest. Once they go before the court, they are then admonished and discharged once, twice or maybe three or four times before even a conviction is recorded. Then we start the process of, 'Okay, now we have a conviction,' and some of the more serious matters like presumption against bail can even start to apply.


What we have seen is the member for Maiwar falling for this government's con job when it comes to youth justice. It is a fact that, despite the claims from the member and the government, the youth justice principles still refer to detention as a last resort—something that must be considered along with section 3(2) of the Youth Justice Act, which states that 'the principles underlie the operation of this Act'.

I also note that the reference to this bill supports early intervention. The one thing that I can agree with is that there is a need for early intervention, and it is something that I am sure the member for Maiwar has heard me speak about many times in this place. However, this bill does not clarify how not holding an offender accountable assists with early intervention.

No-one wants to see juveniles in detention, but we simply cannot ignore the fact that today there are people who will wake up to find their house has been broken into or their car stolen by juvenile offenders. We cannot ignore the fact that many of these young offenders, despite the claims of the member for Maiwar, know the law better than most. If we were to raise the age of criminal responsibility I have no doubt that we would see that cohort become involved in more crime because even if they were caught they would know there would be no consequences. Of course, the aspect of grooming and being used by older brothers, sisters, friends or colleagues to commit crimes should not be lost on all of us here tonight.

We already have a system where the consequences for actions are sadly lacking. To reduce the consequences even further is a recipe for disaster and would magnify the negative effects of this government's youth crime failures. To propose here today to give free rein to a group of young offenders who are currently ripping this state apart is not acceptable. This state is in the grip of the worst juvenile crime epidemic in history. Instead of coming into this place with a bill that proposes to raise the age of criminal responsibility, the member for Maiwar should be doing something to fix the broken youth justice system.

Professionals like Dr Black are already seeing too many people who are living in fear. Queensland has enough victims of crime already. I cannot support a bill in this House that seeks to downplay the effects that youth crime has on its victims and I urge all members to do likewise.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (6.21 pm): I rise to give my contribution to the Criminal Law (Raising the Age of Responsibility) Amendment Bill 2021. In short, the main aim of the bill is to raise the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14 years of age where a person under the age of 14 is not criminally responsible for any act or omission. Further to this, no procedures or punishment would take place if a person under the age of 14 were to commit a crime or act and police would not be able to hold or arrest anyone under the age of 14.

I do not support the passing of this bill. In fact, it is misguided that we are even debating this as it is a clear slap in the face to all Queenslanders, particularly those who are a victim of youth crime. I point out that for every crime there is a victim. It is alarming how this issue is politicised and the innocent victims of youth crime are constantly forgotten. Anyone who believes that youth who commit these crimes are innocent are living in an illusion. They know right from wrong and know exactly what their rights are under the law and the law is that you can get away with anything.


Based on the Queensland Childrens Court data cities that are under siege, many of these in North Queensland, have experienced a massive increase in theft related and violent crimes at the hands of young offenders under this state government. Youth theft related charges rose from 6,579 in 2014-15 to 12,903 in 2020-21, almost double. Break-in charges rose from 4,251 to 8,236 in the same period while robbery and extortion related crimes increased from 256 to 895. That has tripled. State government data also shows youth are becoming more violent with the number of acts intended to cause harm charges rising from 1,353 to 2,397. It is beyond belief that we are debating this bill that will effectively give youth a free pass. It would send a clear signal that they can get away with anything.

I guarantee that those figures I have just quoted would be nothing compared to what would follow if this bill were passed. If these kids are breaking the law now and the age of criminal responsibility is 10 years old, imagine how brilliant they would be by the time they reach 14. Rather than giving these youth a 'get out of jail free' card with a pat on the back, there needs to be penalties that actually deter youth from committing crime.

The state government's punishment regime is a dismal failure, so what hope would the Greens' grand plan of sending the child home with a good talking to and a warm cup of hot chocolate be after they have just taken out a whole neighbourhood? Even the Queensland Police Union have rejected this bill, and for very good reasons. Many of the support services implied by the Greens to be an alternative to holding an offender are simply non-existent in rural and regional Queensland. Often the only service available in rural and regional Queensland is the police. Police are not trained as social workers; they are there to uphold the law. Not only is this bill a kick in the teeth for the victims of youth crime around the state, it is also a slap in the face for all the men and women of the Queensland Police Service. This bill clearly does not meet community expectations on curbing youth crime other than satisfying the social conscience of a few—until their car is stolen and burnt.

Youth crime is a huge issue in North Queensland and we do not need to go softer on repeat offenders. Local police in most regional areas plagued by youth crime will tell honourable members that the majority of crimes are committed by a core group of repeat offenders. KAP's relocation sentencing policy should be seen as a real alternative to bringing this crime crisis to an end. Under our policy, youth repeat offenders would be given the opportunity to be reformed through hard work, discipline and skills building at remote properties. They would be given the opportunity to have a life and a purpose, not just to aspire to be the best criminal they can be by the time they reach 14.

Currently, the courts have two options. One is to lock them up, and then they come back out as professional criminals. The other is to release them, and then they go back out there and commit the same crimes. It is no good sending them to Cleveland Youth Detention Centre because that is a badge of honour for them. They get free boots and a good feed, which costs up to \$1,500 a day. Relocation sentencing would give magistrates the power to send them to remote area locations where they could be taught values and skills such as droving and how to build cattle yards and cattle troughs along with other proven workable programs. I completely oppose this bill.

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (6.26 pm): I rise to oppose the bill as put forward by the Greens which seeks to raise the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14. Firstly, I would like to apply a bit of perspective in the debate because I think the contributions will show how people are affected by the nature of crime. Perhaps some of those points that are made seem valid and rational and make a lot of sense. However, it is difficult to reconcile those with the intent to try to provide some sort of response to the terrible situation in which we find ourselves in places like Mount Isa, Townsville and Cairns. At the moment those things are acute and greatly impact everything we do.

I am going to go through a small manifest of some of the complaints I have received in the last month. There were six cars stolen last night from Discovery caravan park, Mount Isa and five cars were stolen from another caravan park in July. They were driven erratically around town, disturbing and frightening residents. One of my friends chased one of the cars because it was his friend's car and he thought the kids might have been inside. He got in trouble for that. That was during school hours.

There have been violent attacks on tourists in the caravan parks, resulting in loss of revenue and reputation to caravan park owners. This is in the middle of tourist season, too, thanks very much. A stolen car barely missed pedestrians crossing at the shopping village. There were two incidents in the middle of the day with a very young driver.

A customer at the local takeaway unlocked her car to leave. Three young girls got in the car, one in the back, and threatened to kill her if she did not hand over the keys. A month or two ago an 80-year-old in the shopping village was attacked and stabbed when he tried to stop two or three girls because he was sick of seeing them running through the shopping centre and stealing. Laura Johnson Home, our nursing home, is a popular target because there are a lot of elderly residents who cannot defend themselves. One bloke kicked in the security screen. When he was apprehended he said, 'I just want to go back to Cleveland'—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Pause the clock. Member for Traeger, with regard to some of those cases, are they before the courts at the moment? Can you give us a guarantee that they are not?

Mr KATTER: I cannot guarantee they are not.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I ask you to move on then.

Mr KATTER: I will try to be more discerning with some of the cases. One that I know is not before the courts is the case of two elderly residents who were belted to death about 12 or 15 years ago in Mount Isa. That has all been kept pretty quiet, but that was a home invasion by three youths. An elderly lady known to a friend of mine was attacked multiple times—she died in the last 12 months—but she was seen as a soft target because she could not defend herself in the house and often had cash lying around despite taking all of the security measures.

Businesses are being smashed up every night and there are increasing cases of what we call ‘vigilante justice’. Often it is just one of our friends saying, ‘Mate, I was just trying to stop the kids taking the car because no-one else is doing anything. I go and grab them and now the police are pointing the finger at me saying, “Mate, you’ll be in trouble.”’ Now we are thinking whether we should be addressing vigilante laws because now it is called vigilantism when you are tackling someone to stop them taking your car. I have a plethora of stories of people getting into trouble for trying to stop or reacting to this.

There have been a number of tragedies in Mount Isa over the last couple of weeks. There has been an increase in the frequency and the severity of these reports. I used to get one or maybe two complaints a year about youth crime when I first got this job. Now almost every day I am getting something. I am pulled up in the street about it and family members and friends are constantly in my ear saying, ‘Mate, I just can’t live with this anymore.’ Tripadvisor is now saying that people should not stop in Mount Isa because it is not safe. I have had people say, ‘I’m leaving town, Rob. It’s not safe to live here anymore.’ This is not a normal setting where we say, ‘What’s the best thing for these kids?’ That is what you say in a perfect world where you have a stabilised situation. This is a highly unstable, volatile situation that needs an acute arrest and at least some succour or some relief for the victims of the crime to say that there is a consequence. If we have true compassion for these kids, it is my belief that we want to send them a message to say, ‘Mate, it’s not right. You can’t do that.’ I think some of those kids are begging for some boundaries like that.

I admit that Cleveland is not working—we will agree on that—but we do need some consequences for the kids. I reacted well to it. I am no psychologist, but I have seen kids turned around. I live with these problems and am immersed in them daily and have seen these kids respond. When they are forced to go out to Urandangi they work well. I have seen them calm down and everything starts to work well. They did not go out there willingly; they were forced out there. You might stand there and say, ‘You can’t do that. That’s against his rights.’ I cared about the kid. That is why I made him go out there. I did not want to kiss and cuddle him in town and just hope he would get better. Some of them come from bad environments even if there are 10 carers looking after them. The reality of putting these programs in place to save them is that we need to hire someone to go knock on the door and say, ‘Is little Johnny going to turn up today?’, only to be told, ‘No, buggar off.’ The reality is it is very hard. There are some well-meaning officers in this space who do their best, but even they have come to me and said, ‘Rob, we just can’t get people to turn up for these programs.’

Joan Marshall, a First Australian lady of high regard in Mount Isa, pulled me over in the front of my office the other day and said, ‘Rob, all these programs are good, but you’ve got to force the kids to do it. The ones that’re supposed to be participating, we can’t get them.’ She works in that space. You could not get a higher qualified person and she is the one pulling me over telling me what I am already saying. You need to force those kids to get into these programs. That is how we are going to get them to participate. That is a nice notion.

I do in some way believe that the end game is to try and pull kids around at that early age and keep them out of detention, but that is not the situation that we are dealing with. It is a really volatile situation and pretty unpleasant when you are living with it in places like Mount Isa, Townsville and Cairns and we are begging for something a bit more acute that is going to deal with this problem the way it needs to be dealt with at the moment. Half the time for the government it is not even a problem or we are just trying to create some drama or talk it up. I would love not to talk about this. It hurts talking about this. I do not want to say that it is deterring people from living in Mount Isa—I am trying to attract people there—but we have to get some meaningful attention to this issue and try something different.

Coming back to relocation sentencing, as the member for Hill pointed out, we are after a couple of elements here. Firstly, it might not be the best alternative in the long run, academically or in theory, but the best practical alternative we have right now—because I would ask what else do we have—is to force them into a remote area. I have seen these kids in remote areas work well. They calm down with the right influences and, yes, that is when you can have your programs that, as we all agree, can work. However, how do you get them from A to B? I do not know, but you are not going to lure them out with a carrot and a torch at night. I do not know how that is going to work.

Mr Berkman: You don’t put them in prison.

Mr KATTER: I take the interjection that you do not put them in prison. You need to do something with these kids at the moment unless you can give an alternative of how you are going to deal with them; otherwise, you are going to have to explain to my friends in Mount Isa who are constantly being barraged and hit with this. They need some stopgap and some circuit-breaker and I am afraid what you have there now—

Mr Berkman interjected.

Mr KATTER: The member for Maiwar is laughing. This is not really funny when you are dealing with these people.

Mr Berkman interjected.


Mr KATTER: No, you think it is funny. I am trying to provide an alternative.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Through the chair.

Mr KATTER: We deal with these people firsthand. The member does not have the mortgage on compassion or the best way to deal with these people. We are trying to provide a real alternative to meet somewhere in the middle. The member for Maiwar might see this as an endorsement of what he is saying, and it is not, but the police are saying, 'We've got to try something different. We know we've got to get in front of this.' Again, I would still default back to him telling me how he is going to get those kids to participate in programs by knocking on the door with the officers from whatever department in Mount Isa, because I can tell him that that is failing. One of the mothers came to my office in Mount Isa and said, 'Don't send another one to my gate because they're doing nothing,' and that is what we have at the moment.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I call the next speaker, member for Traeger, you were pulled up by the video ref. There was some unparliamentary language. I would ask you to withdraw.

Mr KATTER: I withdraw.

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (6.37 pm): Thank you very much, Mr Deputy Speaker Kelly; I will take that as a warning for myself before I start. I rise to give my contribution on the Criminal Law (Raising the Age of Responsibility) Amendment Bill 2021. From the outset I must make it very clear that I and the KAP will be opposing this legislation before the House. This all became part of a conversation in July 2020 when the recommendation was made to raise the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14 in a Meeting of Attorneys-General. However, the decision was deferred to 2021.

Raising the age of criminal responsibility has been a campaign by a number of groups led by doctors, legal experts and human rights groups. These are the people who are calling for this, funnily enough. The Greens member for Maiwar then introduced the bill in 2021 and the Community Support and Services Committee had this bill referred to it and went through it in fine detail.

A number of people gave submissions—and we thank those people—but there has been some sense delivered by this parliament because the committee recommended that the bill not be passed. However, the committee did make some recommendations such as that residential care workers be taught tactics for de-escalation and that Queensland government workers in the state Attorney-General's office consider increasing the age of responsibility from 10 to 12, but we would not support that either. It is sad to see that that is still being floated around by Attorneys-General and is off the back of the Bob Atkinson report. That seems to be the blueprint of what we have right now which is not working, but I will get to that in a second.

The committee also recommended alternative youth justice systems, including programs and circuit-breaker style services, and culturally appropriate supports for reoffending youth. Before we go any further, the Greens and the member for Maiwar have suggested that these children that we are talking about, aged from 10 to 14, are kids who have maybe skipped school or stolen a pencil or a packet of lollies from the local supermarket. That is not the case. The Sentencing Council Queensland states that a child's age is a mitigating factor in deciding whether or not to impose a penalty in the nature of detention. A non-custodial order is usually imposed on children because of their age.

Right now there is a small number of kids between the ages of 10 and 14 incarcerated. Let us get to why they are incarcerated. When children are first picked up by the QPS they are given warnings. After four or five warnings, if they are cooperative, which they all are because they know the letter of the law, they will end up before a magistrate. Because detention as a last resort is enshrined in legislation the magistrate will let them back out on the streets a number of times before they finally end up at Cleveland Bay Detention Centre if they are close to Townsville. This means that this child has had a life of crime. This is not the first time they have crossed paths with the justice system. Before they have gotten to the detention centre there is a list of crimes committed as long as your arm.

Every time one of those children commits a crime they are creating another victim that has lost their car or had their house broken into, another victim that tries every day to run a small business and has had their windows kicked in and bits and pieces stolen from their counters or been held up at knifepoint. Do not think for a second a child between the ages of 10 and 14 does not know right from wrong. Everyone in this House has been a child at some stage. I imagine most people in this House would have been raised with boundaries. A lot of these kids are not raised with boundaries. A lot of these kids are not raised in loving families. The fact is these kids have not been parented. They go through the youth justice system and time and time again are given another chance. Their chances eventually run out. Kids who have been caught, prosecuted and found guilty of crimes like rape, break and enter and unlawful use of a motor vehicle end up at Cleveland Bay Detention Centre. These are kids who have been involved in serious assaults. These are not petty crimes.

If this bill were to pass there would be no proceedings of punishment that would take place for these kids. Could members imagine telling a rape victim, after a 13-year-old raped them, that there was going to be no repercussions? Shame on the Greens for introducing this bill. If there was DNA or other evidence gathered through an investigation that found that there was a rape, that evidence would have to be destroyed and therefore could not be used in future rape cases. We all know that kids who have been through some of the most traumatic and heinous crimes end up in the same cycle of offending. Would it not be best that we have that data and we are able to intervene with these children prior to the age of 14? That would be best for these kids.

This state needs repercussions for crimes that happen in our community. We also need alternative sentencing options. I will agree that what we are doing right now in Queensland is not working. If it was we would not have the high number of cars being set on fire in Townsville on a weekly basis. I would not be taking phone calls from radio stations in Cairns saying kids are driving up the street in cars almost running over pedestrians while they are joyriding and having fun out there. These kids need boundaries. The judicial system needs to be strengthened, not weakened, to make sure that these kids do have boundaries.

We need the Katter's Australian Party's relocation sentencing policy implemented and trialled by this state government. We keep being told there is no evidence to say this will work. I have empirical data and evidence to show that what is happening right now in youth justice is definitely not working. I love the fact that the Western Australian government is trialling something like we are suggesting in our policy.

Mr Katter: They will take a punt.


Mr DAMETTO: They will have a crack at this. I hope that there will be data created by a Labor government that says their program works so that we will be able to trial this in Queensland. We need to try something different. If we allow these children to have another three- to four-year hall pass, depending on their age, to be out there committing crimes, what message does that send to the victims of crime in Queensland?

We are not talking about people who have just had the roses in their garden trampled by these kids. These kids know right from wrong. They know how to get a set of Stillsons and turn your doorknob off. They know how to kick your screen in. In my own street in Townsville youth perpetrators entered a premises and took the poor lady's own mobile phone while she slept next to her husband, while her kids slept in the next room, and used facial recognition technology to open her bank account and drain it of \$10,000 before sunrise. Do not tell me these kids do not know right from wrong. They know right from wrong because they run from the police. They make sure they are quiet when they enter your home at night wearing no shoes.

The member for Maiwar and the member for South Brisbane have made submissions that there is an overrepresentation of Indigenous youth in our detention centres. We have fundamental problems to fix in our Indigenous communities, whether it is supporting the families or making sure these children are looked after, because right now their family units are not doing it. We need to make sure that child services are intervening. I am sorry if I have to say this once again in this House, but we have legislators in this House who are too scared of it being labelled 'stolen generation 2.0' by leaving these children in the care of families that do not raise them and who do not care about them. There are reports of children at Cleveland Bay Detention Centre who want to go to detention because there are two things that are there: three square meals a day and some structure in their lives. They are getting that in detention. Also the door locks behind them at night and they feel safe. Shame on us that we are allowing our children to grow up in some of these households. Detention should not be a safe refuge for these kids but unfortunately it is. Allowing these children to have four more years out there on the streets without any intervention will only be a negative for Queensland, not a positive.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Thank you, member. You should self-warn yourself more often. We got through that without me getting involved at all. Well done.

Mr DAMETTO: I did my best.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (6.47 pm), in reply: None of us who care about this reform and who have worked on it for a long time is surprised that the government will continue to do the wrong thing and lock up small children. We are just disgusted that they can continue to ignore the evidence and take the coward's path. We are disgusted that they will continue to politicise the lives and wellbeing of small children, predominantly First Nations children.

Just today I spoke to a lifelong Labor member, one with a history in corrections and an awarded lawyer. Out on the Speaker's Green, at the event recognising the government's progress on the treaty agenda, he told me just how disgusted he is with the Queensland Labor Party's position on this. How can we hope to make progress in righting historical wrongs committed against First Nations people here in Queensland while the government refuses to make a change like this, while we persist with laws that criminalise kids, the vast majority of whom are First Nations kids. This person told me of his disgust that his party continues to show no leadership on this issue and will instead trade off vulnerable children's lives as collateral for their political cowardice.

Even if the government does not listen to the experts and support my bill now, they cannot run away from it forever, though they have certainly tried. We heard the Attorney-General referring to the federal process and suggesting this pre-empts decisions coming out of the meeting of attorneys-general. For years they have hidden behind the COAG process. All the while, from what we know about what has gone on behind closed doors, this government has been blocking progress on raising the age. It has been almost four years since the meeting of attorneys-general established its age of criminal responsibility working group and it has achieved little more than burying a report that recommended all governments raise the age of criminal responsibility to 14. That was a recommendation made and buried.

The last we heard from the working group was a noncommittal statement of support for developing a proposal to raise the age to 12. Meanwhile, in the ACT, Labor and the Greens, working together in government, have been getting on with raising the age to 14. Other jurisdictions are raising the age to 14. How can the Attorney-General continue to hide behind this notion of national consistency when other states are leading the way with a change to 14?

Let us be really clear: raising the age to 12 is not good enough. It is another delay tactic. It achieves almost nothing in practical terms. In fact, I fear it could almost be worse than nothing if this government uses it to push the issue of real reform off its agenda indefinitely. A minimum age of 12 is not consistent with our national human rights obligations. It would have no impact on more than 90 per cent of the 10- to 13-year-old children in custody or under supervision in Queensland. To put it really simply, there is no medical or other evidentiary basis to raise the age to 12 rather than 14. It is pure politics.

A lot of the submissions on the bill specifically oppose raising the age to 12 instead of 14 including submissions from ANTaR, Change the Record, the Create Foundation and the Queensland Human Rights Commission. They labelled it as 'disappointing', 'inadequate', 'unacceptable' and a 'political stunt'. The government's response is so disappointing but so predictable. You could almost play bingo with some of the lines that were trotted out: putting the cart before the horse; before we raise the age more work has to be done. Whose job is it to do that work? The member for Clayfield raised this. We cannot put forward processes for the executive to implement this alternative. That is something that the government has to do. It is obscene that he claims there is no alternative model and goes on to list all of the alternatives that already exist. You cannot wax lyrical about the early intervention programs that you have and that are working so well whilst simultaneously pretending that the alternatives do not exist. The truth is that they are underfunded because in Queensland the vast majority of money is going towards building and expanding youth prisons.

We heard from Ian Leavers who, in the whole committee process, was the only opponent of raising the age at all. He said that it would be preferable to divert the vast majority of young people from the criminal system but that most of the time the police are the only service that is open and available around the clock. The member for Burdekin makes the same point: the police do the diversion work. If the diversion services are not available and it falls to police, to me that sounds like a problem and the police agree.

People such as Professor Boni Robertson, an Indigenous Elder, are already doing the work that they can in their communities. Aunty Boni illustrated the problem perfectly at the committee hearing when she said—

... I have said this ad nauseam: we cannot do it by ourselves. We know the answers, we have the solutions and we have faith that we can make a difference; we ask that you have faith in us that we do have the solutions. We just have to be funded appropriately to do that ...

She spoke a lot about waiting. She spoke a lot about decades of waiting. The advocates in this space are tired. Dr Terry Hutchinson said—

I think you need to make a stand and the rest will follow. There are services there, but we need to get them into position. Until we make a stand and make a change, nothing will happen.

The Queensland Human Rights Commissioner, Scott McDougall, also rejected the argument that this would be jumping ahead unwisely. In his words—

This reform must happen now to prevent the ongoing harm done while we continue to criminalise children under the age of 14 ... The answers are there. We know the science. What is lacking is the execution.

Contrary to what others have said in the debate, from the moment I introduced this bill I have been crystal clear that it must be accompanied by an alternative model and that must be the work of the government. The comprehensive service mapping that has been done recently by the ACT government, again where the Greens share power with Labor, is a good example of where to start. It was put to me: what does it cost? Sure, no-one is saying it is cheap, but neither is detaining children. It costs \$1,600 a day for one child, which is north of half a million dollars a year for a single child. Anyone who claims you cannot fund decent services with that kind of money frankly is not looking hard enough at the alternatives.

Prevention services are the foundation. Prevention acknowledges that the real drivers of offending are things such as poverty and trauma, undiagnosed and untreated disability and mental ill health. The Youth Affairs Network Queensland points out that any response from the state is useless unless it acknowledges class. When prison is the only place that some kids can get three square meals a day, a medical check-up, steady education and a door that locks behind them at night then, as the network says, that is a really sad indictment on our society. We need universal basic services and programs that lift Queensland families out of poverty. This year's budget provides for more capital spending on prisons than on social housing yet we know that secure affordable housing is one of the fundamental things missing from so many of those children's lives.

Beyond prevention, a number of submissions stress the importance of identifying opportunities for additional intervention as early as possible. Amnesty International recommended funding for psychologists to run neurocognitive testing for children displaying risk factors, particularly around FASD or fetal alcohol syndrome disorder, at school, at the GP or when coming into contact with police. The fact that many services are only made available once a child is charged or before the court represents an extraordinary policy failure. This was acknowledged by the Queensland Mental Health Commissioner, among others, in his submission on the bill. The communities most affected by discrimination, marginalisation and over policing must be involved in planning, designing and implementing these models. I have said this before. The concept of having community-led alternative responses is not new. Those responses have to be led by the community and they must be trauma informed, child centred and place based.

Alternatives will not work if they are not culturally appropriate. In a state where First Nations people have disproportionate levels of poverty and targeting from law enforcement, we need to fund Indigenous-led programs for young people. In their submission the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak spoke about how non-Indigenous responses can make things worse because they miss the crucial cultural context and wisdom.

In this debate much has been said about community safety and yet everyone forgets the blindingly clear evidence that criminalising children and putting them in prisons makes them—I hate this term—better criminals, if that is the way that we want to frame the debate. Countless submissions on the bill agree that the earlier a child has contact with the criminal legal system the more likely they are to offend or reoffend.

In their joint submission, Save the Children Australia and Childwise quoted a 19-year-old Aboriginal man who first had contact with the youth justice system at age 10. He said that in youth detention he learned 'tips on how to offend better ... but that was all really.' On finally getting more support from their research team he said, 'Having someone care about me taught me more than prison could.' That is the reality: kids need care and they need support, not cages and punishment.

Damian Bartholomew from the Law Society said something in the hearings that stuck with me. He said—

... we give the community a placebo by saying to them that we can take these young people to court and we will address the behaviour, but we do not.

The Queensland Family and Child Commissioner, Natalie Lewis, pointed out that a criminal response to children's behaviour 'gives the illusion of accountability'. Because of the delay between the event and the resolution after being dragged through the criminal system, for a 10- to 14-year-old the consequence means practically nothing of use to them. Punitive criminal responses do nothing to teach kids a lesson, as we hear some in the debate tell us they would.

I think what we are seeing here is both Labor and the LNP continuing to deny reality. They would like to frame this debate as one between community safety and raising the age but it is simply not. I have a personal experience of youth crime. We had a kid who could not have been any older than 12 break into our house at 3 am on the morning before the dawn service. He pinched the car keys and drove the car out. I saw him face to face as I tried to open the door to see what was going on. Maybe that was not a wise move at 3 am, but he was not a criminal. He was a terrified kid. All he could repeat was, 'I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm sorry.' He was petrified as he ran away. I do not know why that kid was in Bardon at 3 am but I know he should not have been. I also know that if he had a safe place to sleep and a stable, caring environment then he probably would not have been. This bill is not about turning a blind eye; it is about age-appropriate, evidence based solutions to problematic behaviour. This reform will happen at some point.


In closing, I want to echo the member for South Brisbane's sentiment and express my sadness for all those children who will be locked up and whose lives will be ruined between now and when we actually make that change.

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

Resolved in the negative in accordance with special sessional orders.

ADJOURNMENT

Coomera Electorate

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (7.05 pm): I have a number of topics to discuss tonight. First, among the gold medal haul at the Commonwealth Games—according to Judy from my office, who is a netball tragic—was the gold medal won by the Australian netball team. I put that on the record for Judy. Well done, Australian netball.

Next is Albion Ormeau Cricket Club's Big Bash. This coming Sunday, everyone is invited to the Big Bash at Albion Ormeau Cricket Club in Albion, where a fundraiser is happening. Preston Campbell Foundation is the beneficiary. Many thousands of dollars is expected to be raised. Preston Campbell will be there, as will many other sporting personalities.

The 2021 Census results have confirmed that the Coomera electorate wins across all areas in relation to population. We have around 86,000 residents and the highest number of residents in all of the younger categories, with 40 per cent of those 86,000 aged under 25 years. There are 50,324 voters. This is 33.18 per cent over quota.


That brings me to my fourth point: infrastructure investment and the timing of it. I give a big tick for both private and state schools. It is fantastic. We have plenty happening in that regard. In terms of police, fire and emergency services, after a long fight we have all of that infrastructure in place. However, we fail in a couple of areas. The train station, which was announced in 2017, is not being delivered until 2024. It was going to be in 2025 until we put pressure on the government. With regard to M1 exit upgrades, there is not a dollar for exit 38 in any budget since 2018 when the business case was put. At exit 41 there is no slip lane. It has been knocked back time and time again. What about the bandaid solution at exit 45? They could not even get the signage right. The minister said this morning that I am whingeing about the sign. I tell you what: 28,500 people on my Facebook page are also whingeing about it. It does impact them and they were not happy. What about exit 49? What is going on with QTRIP? It tells us the money—\$38 million—will be spent in 2024-25, yet the pundits tell us it is going to be delivered in 2024. How are you going to do that—unless you are fudging the numbers, Minister?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member, you will put your comments through the chair and use correct parliamentary titles.

Mr CRANDON: I think I have run out of time.

(Time expired)

Mansfield Electorate, Queensland Day Awards

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (7.08 pm): I am pleased to share with Minister Bailey that all of the signs in Mansfield are spot on—great work. It is an absolute honour to speak of the 2022 Mansfield Greats Queensland Day Awards. I congratulate Mansfield Greats under-18 winner Bryson Mapri. Bryson is a tireless volunteer with Clairvaux Football Club. He brings out the best in everyone through his encouragement, his infectious enjoyment and his enthusiasm. The Mansfield Greats over-18 award recipient was Kristin Cross. Kristin is the assistant resident manager with Greenleaves Retirement Village and has been incredible, transforming the village into a very happy and comfortable place for all residents. Finally, the mighty Mt Gravatt Hawks Football Club received the Mansfield Greats community organisation award for its sensational work to bring together the football stars of our Mansfield electorate community.

I was honoured to once again partner with Club Southside for its 2022 Queensland Day awards ceremony that was held at the Mount Gravatt Bowls Club. I congratulate my good friend Jim Renshaw from the Wishart Community Hub, who received the community spirit award for his tireless work running one of our largest Facebook community groups. The Dennis Webb Neighbourhood Watch Award winner was Upper Mount Gravatt 23 Neighbourhood Watch group coordinator Ron West, who does a marvellous job informing the Mount Gravatt hill community. The sport award recipient was the very passionate Keaton Luck, who co-runs the successful Sharks Volleyball Club at Mansfield State High School.

Mark Winters from the Mount Gravatt East Townhouse Development Action Group received the environment award for his ongoing work with the Mount Gravatt East community. The community project award was awarded to the passionate Betty Taylor, founder and managing director of the Red Rose Foundation. I am a proud board member of this foundation that is based in the Mansfield electorate and provides services and programs across Queensland to eliminate domestic and family violence related deaths.


I would also like to acknowledge additional Club Southside Queensland Day award winners: fellow neighbour Terri Cooper from Rochedale Estates; another fellow neighbour of mine, Mike Rapson from the Rochedale Neighbourhood Watch; the sport award to long-term friend Brian Kerle from the Brian Kerle Basketball Academy; the environment award to Tzu Chi Foundation; and the community project award to the Queensland Federation of Taiwanese Associations.

Finally, the Southsider Queensland of the Year award was presented to David Wu and Diana Miao from Golden Vision. David and Diana's various businesses offer quality products and services in the Mansfield electorate and across South-East Queensland. They provide employment opportunities for many Queenslanders and are active in many community groups and events. I congratulate these deserving recipients, who do incredible work across my wonderful community of Mansfield.

Interruption.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Error in Division


 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (7.12 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, I would like to correct the record in terms of the division count. Unfortunately, I counted you, Mr Deputy Speaker, in the chair. That is my mistake. The count is 49 noes.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): The record will be corrected.

ADJOURNMENT

Resumed.

Massie, Mr D and Ms S; Moffatt, Mr D, AM

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (7.12 pm): Tonight I want to inform the chamber about two brave Palmview residents from my electorate of Buderim, Darrell and Stephenie Massie. Over the last couple of months, Darrell and Stephenie have been let down by Queensland Health—not by the

hardworking paramedics, nurses and doctors, but by the system. Yesterday, they travelled here to Parliament House to share their stories. Darrell and Stephenie made the drive down to Brisbane from the Sunshine Coast to highlight the problems within Queensland's broken health system so they can be fixed on behalf of all Queenslanders.

Darrell was ramped at Sunshine Coast University Hospital for seven hours after arriving via ambulance with a large, painful hematoma—a complication from a recent surgery. A week later, his wife, Stephenie, fell at home and broke her hip and femur. She too was ramped, for about five hours. They say they cannot speak highly enough of the medical staff, who were run off their feet—many working overtime and on double shifts. Darrell and Stephenie say they joined queues of emergency patients waiting in corridors on tin beds and in wheelchairs, all with paramedics waiting hours to hand them over into the hospital's care so that they can get back on the road to help their next patient.


76-year-old Darrell is the victim of two terrible statistics—ramping and the wait list for the wait list. He is going blind from cataracts and was told it would be more than a year before he even gets an appointment, despite being categorised as requiring an appointment within 90 days. After sharing his frustrations in local media, an anonymous good Samaritan has generously donated the money for Darrell to have eye surgery privately at the end of this month. That is great news for Darrell, but, unfortunately, there are hundreds more cataract patients just like him on the Sunshine Coast, all waiting on a long list, losing their independence.

While I have the floor, I would also like to offer my sincere condolences to the family and friends of the remarkable Don Moffatt AM, who passed away last week. Don's achievements were many. He served during the Vietnam War as an Army pilot. His passion for aviation and serving his community led him to chair the former Sunshine Coast Helicopter Rescue Service for 15 years. Then he moved on to be the deputy chair of LifeFlight Australia when the services merged. In 2017, Don was recognised with an AM in the Australia Day Honours List.

His incredible commitment to the Sunshine Coast community was exceptional. Don was a humble man, who would quietly help people in our community without seeking recognition. I remember when I was first elected a young Buderim veteran and his partner were facing eviction due to trouble with their landlord. Don stepped in to help without hesitation and eventually roped me in to help as well. That was the kind of bloke Don was. He did not ask for compliments; he just got the job done.

I, like many, was proud to know him. On behalf of the Sunshine Coast community, I offer Don's wife, Bridget, and his entire family our condolences, and our gratitude for a life of service to Australia, and in particular to the people of the Sunshine Coast.

Struddys


 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement) (7.15 pm): The Palaszczuk government has announced that iconic Logan sportswear manufacturer, Struddys, has achieved preferred supplier status with the Queensland government, thanks to our Buy Queensland procurement approach to doing business. Struddys, one of the last of a handful of Australian based uniform manufacturers, will now be ready to supply to the Queensland government and its agencies. Around \$18.5 billion is invested each year by the Queensland government on goods and services. The Buy Queensland approach seeks to invest as much of this as possible with local businesses just like Struddys. Through this program the government has cut application red tape, making it easier for local businesses to be awarded government contracts. I am proud to see another iconic local company like Struddys now able to put Queensland's frontline workers in Queensland made garments. On the runway to Brisbane 2032 we want the eyes of the world to see Queenslanders wearing Queensland made.

Struddys is a Queensland born company that each year is manufacturing for thousands of Australia's best sporting teams. What sets this business apart is their commitment to local products and their commitment to a local workforce, plus their major support for Queensland Indigenous communities. What started as a retail store in Sunnybank has now become a household name in grassroots sports and schools across the nation. Every day tens of thousands of Australians proudly wear garments made in Logan by Struddys.

It made sense for them to be another example of the Palaszczuk government supporting Queensland businesses to manufacture onshore. We know that manufacturing contributes around \$20 billion a year to Queensland's economy. We also know that manufacturing is far more than the traditional industry it once was. Struddys is a terrific example of that. I hope to see many more of these products on the backs of Aussie sporting teams for years to come.

I have gotten to know the owner and founder, Ross Strudwick, quite well over the last few years. As a former representative footballer, who played for Queensland and Australia, it is fair to say that the bloke is an absolute character. Underneath that trademark smile and his incredibly quick wit is a very sharp local businessman employing many good local people. One of those good locals is Struddys general manager, Michael Rasmussen, who said, 'The company believed that by supporting Queenslanders, Queenslanders would support them.' They are aiming for a workforce of somewhere between 150 to 200 people within four to five years, which is a doubling of their current staff, and they expect to be able to achieve that with the support of Buy Queensland. I am very proud to back local Queensland businesses like Struddys because they back good jobs for Queenslanders.

Veresdale Scrub State School

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (7.18 pm): I table a petition signed by over 900 people, which petitions the government to save the historic original building at Veresdale Scrub State School.

Tabled paper: Nonconforming petition regarding saving the historic Veresdale Scrub State School [\[1150\]](#).

There has been a lot of work undertaken by locals who attended this school, as well as others, who are keen to see the heritage of this school preserved in bringing this matter to the attention of the education department. I thank them for that work. It has been a very commendable community effort. Last year it certainly did look like the government might simply forge ahead with plans to remove the building, on the basis of a report indicating that the building does not meet current building standards—without any community consultation, no plans for a replacement and with barely any acknowledgement of the genuine concerns held by members of the community.

It seems to have escaped the department's attention that there must be dozens, maybe even hundreds, of buildings in the government sector that do not meet modern building standards but not all of them are being slated for demolition like this one is. In all of this, I called for proper community consultation and I also called for plans to be put forward for a new asset at the school if this building were to be removed. In fairness to Education they have done this. They put forward two options to the community: refurbishment of the building for \$1 million and replacement of the building for about \$2 million. I attended one of the public consultation sessions run by the department last week where I received the petition that I tabled here today.


I can well appreciate the desire of people to protect the heritage of their district. There are so many memories tied up in people's old schools and, in a time when things seem to be changing so rapidly around us, links to our community and our country's history are vital. At the same time there comes a time when upgrades to facilities are needed. The work undertaken in the Scenic Rim by organisations like the Historical Society of Beaudesert, the Templin Historical Museum and the Tamborine Mountain Heritage Centre in looking after our heritage is to be applauded.

I stand here to give voice to the community's support for retaining the heritage aspects at this school. The government has consulted—I grant them that—but the two options put forward may well have been too limited. If there is \$2 million on the table for a new facility but only \$1 million for refurbishment, maybe the \$2 million could be utilised in a different way. I have put forward in the past the idea of incorporating the existing heritage building into a newly enlarged building, to preserve the heritage but also upgrade the school's facilities. Other community members have suggested retaining the heritage building for a separate purpose, and I table correspondence to that effect.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 9 August 2022, from Mr Rob McDougall to the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing, Hon. Grace Grace, regarding saving the Veresdale Scrub State School [\[1151\]](#).

In all of this, I thank the community for raising these issues with Education Queensland and also the work of EQ in their consultation on this matter.

Torres Strait Island Council, 85th Anniversary

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (7.21 pm): I rise to speak about the first Torres Strait Island Council conference, which was held on 23 August 1937 on Masig Island. On this day in 1937, representatives from 14 Torres Strait Island communities secured important concessions from the Queensland government in what was a pivotal point in time for Torres Strait Islanders transitioning from cultural law to Western law. Next week on 23 August I will join mayors and councillors from the Torres Strait Island Regional Council, Torres Shire Council, Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council, Torres Strait Regional Authority and communities across the Torres Strait to mark 85 years since the establishment of the first Torres Strait Island Council.


When we talk about the first councillors' conference, we are talking about a point in time when Torres Strait Islanders went through a major shift to their way of life under a very oppressive government regime. The pearling industry was booming, local men were employed on boats to dive for pearls to support their families on the islands, children attended school and were taught Western curriculum, local people turned to the only shop as a food source and for variety.

The minutes of the first conference clearly highlighted the oppressed nature Torres Strait Islanders adhered to. On the one hand, the councillors spoke at length about creating opportunities for locals in the pearling industry, discussed aspirations to purchase their own vessels for pearl diving and, at the same time, negotiated the crumbs they were getting paid. Even with the little money that they received, they still had to contribute towards the island fund tax, categorised into able-bodied men, partly disabled men, old men and women in work.

They discussed asking the managers of the local island stores to be fair and to reduce prices on expired goods sold so they could continue to buy food to feed their families. All of this was done under the watchful eye of the so-called 'Protector', who exercised intrusive authority over the lives of Torres Strait Islander people.

To the 14 councillors of 1937, I say thank you for your voice. Today, 85 years on, the Queensland government, under the leadership of the Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk, signed a commitment for the Path to Treaty, a time for truth telling, healing and to reframe the relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in this state. I look forward to the journey ahead with all Queenslanders together. Eighty-five years on, I am proud to stand on the right side of history. We have come this far and we will go far.

Gamin, Ms J

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (7.24 pm): Sunday week ago the people of Burleigh lost the last of a remarkable duo who had represented Burleigh for a number of years. In 2019 Paul Gamin passed away. He had been a councillor for Burleigh from 1985 to 2000. Sunday week ago we lost Judy Gamin, who was a former MP for Burleigh.


Judy was with the National Party and she had had an interesting pathway to politics similar to me. Judy had stood for the National Party as a candidate in the federal seat of Moncrieff in 1984, losing to Kathy Sullivan for the Liberals. Then in 1988, when Russ Hinze left parliament, she won a by-election for what was then the seat of South Coast on the Gold Coast. There were not too many state seats on the Gold Coast at that time. We now have 11 seats, but there were only a few then.

Only a year later, in 1989, Judy lost to Bob Quinn from the Liberal Party in the state election, but she managed to return to parliament in 1992 when the state seat of Burleigh was formed. Judy held that seat until the election in 2001, when she lost to my good friend from the Labor Party Christine Smith. Then Christine lost to me in 2012. In the last 30 years the seat of Burleigh has had three members of parliament.

Judy leaves behind Elizabeth, Caroline and Peter. Sadly, she had two other children, Thomas and John, who were tragically killed in the crash of Ansett—known at the time as ANA—flight 149 near Winton in Western Queensland on 22 September 1966.

Judy sent me a lovely handwritten note probably about a month ago now to say that she had moved to Brisbane to live in a retirement home and she had let her membership of the party go. I promptly got on the phone and rang Judy, as I tended to do over the years, and we had a great old chat. It was a surprise to me to hear that she had passed away Sunday week ago. Her funeral is on Friday in Brisbane at Hendra and I will be attending. Rest in peace, Judy Gamin.

Bruce Highway Western Alternative

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (7.27 pm): I rise tonight to talk about the Bruce Highway Western Alternative, a significant future transport project that will run through parts of my electorate. Formal consultation for stage 2 of the Bruce Highway Western Alternative is now open until 2 September. This section runs from Moorina to Narangba.

I want to begin by reiterating that right now we are only conducting a planning study for a corridor. There is no money to build or even plan a road yet. While modelling indicates that we will need one in the future, we do not know when yet. We need to gazette a corridor to give current and future residents certainty about our long-term plans, to allow council to plan future developments and to enable impacted property owners to begin discussions about compensation.

I want to acknowledge that there will be people who are unhappy about this corridor regardless of its final path—and I understand that. It is my goal to make sure that number is as low as possible. That is why I want everyone to have their say through the official Transport and Main Roads consultation process. According to the Kurwongbah electoral roll, there are 13,220 enrolled voters and just over 6,500 households in the suburb of Narangba.


During the informal consultation process for stage 2 of the Bruce Highway Western Alternative, only 434 pieces of feedback were submitted. That is less than 3½ per cent of the Narangba adult population. What is more, not all comments came from people in the Narangba area. By contrast, around 1,300 people joined a Facebook group against the corridor. I sincerely hope every member of that Facebook group takes the opportunity to visit the TMR website or a consultation session and make a submission.

I want to point out that the final route will depend on not only community consultation but also technical studies, terrain constraints, wildlife and financial feasibility—which is why the consultation maps are not more detailed. I encourage people to stop circulating do-it-yourself maps which are adding more confusion and stress to our community. I also want to be very clear that I do not have the power to stop this corridor. My electorate is a beautiful place to live, and the Moreton Bay region is one of the fastest growing regions in Australia.

Balancing where population growth occurs with accessibility to community infrastructure and jobs is a challenge, and as a government it is our job to plan for the future. I do take very seriously my responsibility to represent community views, and I have been letting the minister and TMR staff know what my constituents have been telling me about the Bruce Highway western alternative. I have also been very vocal in my view that we should examine very carefully the possibility of using powerline corridors that run through western Narangba and eventually join up to Protheroe Road on the southern side of Dayboro Road. At this stage TMR has told me that the terrain is too difficult. I said, 'I don't care. I think we can work with it.' Sorry, Minister.

I acknowledge that I am an electrician and not a road engineer. There will be technical reasons why TMR has narrowed down the options to those presented for consultation. I would say to conspiracy theorists that they are not keeping anything secret from the minister or me. My advice is: Get on with it. Give your feedback to TMR, not Facebook.

LifeFlight Australia

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (7.30 pm): I recently had the great pleasure of attending the Darling Downs RACQ LifeFlight Rescue Annual Gala Ball held at the refurbished Empire Theatre in Toowoomba. It is always a highlight event in the region; however, this year the event was enormously successful, with the community raising more than \$450,000 on the night. It is a great credit to the local community and supporters of this vital aeromedical service. We were joined on the night by some very special guests, including RACQ LifeFlight Rescue past patients and their families.


LifeFlight Australia is a world leader in aeromedical care, saving lives and serving our regional communities. For more than forty years RACQ LifeFlight Rescue has been Queensland's leading community helicopter rescue service, delivering emergency response, critical medical care and hospital airlifts to seriously ill and injured people. Since the service attended their first patient airlift in 1979 to today, LifeFlight's purpose has always been the same: to save lives and support Queenslanders during their time of need. LifeFlight is able to provide its unique combination of search, rescue and aeromedical capabilities to carry out dozens of missions. It has directly assisted well over 100 people and indirectly assisted many more. For many of those airlifted, the LifeFlight missions made the difference between life and death.

After completing 693 critical missions in 2021, LifeFlight's Toowoomba base, the Clive Berghofer LifeFlight Centre, continues to be Queensland's busiest aeromedical chopper base. It is tasked through Queensland Health's statewide Clinical Coordination Centre and Retrieval Services Queensland. While COVID saw these numbers decrease slightly throughout 2022, the number of people helped by RACQ LifeFlight Rescue was 656. After spending 854 hours in the air, it has brought emergency care to the most remote corners of the region.

I would also like to acknowledge the Surat Gas Aeromedical Service, which also forms part of the Toowoomba aeromedical response delivered by LifeFlight. SGAS joined forces with LifeFlight in 2011 to contribute to the wellbeing of people living in the Darling Downs south-west region while also providing an around-the-clock aeromedical service for Surat Gas companies such as Shell, QGC, Santos, Arrow Energy and Origin. I would like to acknowledge LifeFlight's Darling Downs Regional Advisory Committee, whose dedication and innovation has proved to be an invaluable resource for LifeFlight.

Sincerest thanks goes to chair Gus Romero and committee members Julie Stewart, Ali Davenport, Barry O'Sullivan, Joe Stark, Wendy Roche, Trudi Bartlett, Mark Mahoney and David Russell for contributing their knowledge and expertise to represent and promote RACQ LifeFlight Rescue in the community.

Sri Lanka Day Festival; Country Women's Association, 100th Anniversary

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (7.33 pm): The Federation of Sri Lankan Organisations coordinate what is fast becoming a fixture on the Mount Ommaney social calendar. Last year I spoke in parliament about it retrospectively, but this year I want to share an open invitation with my community and all of Queensland to come along and experience Sri Lankan food, arts and culture. Last year attendees were treated to a fantastic food experience. I am told that the food ran out a little bit early, such was the unprecedented popularity of the event. This year the event will have even more food and entertainment, and I hope we can look forward to the same beautiful weather too.


The Sri Lankan Day Festival is organised by a wonderful committee of hardworking people and a number of member organisations. I want to read their names into *Hansard*: Sinhala Association of Queensland; Silver Fawn Club; Spur Queensland; Sri Lanka Society of Queensland; Sri Lanka Sports Association of Queensland; and the Australian-Sri Lankan Friendship Association of Queensland. Celebrations like this do not just happen, as we in this House all know. They take thousands of hours from hundreds of volunteers led by volunteers including secretary Jay Weeraseeka and president Jay Weerawardena, to name just a few. I am so honoured to be hosting what I consider to be a hugely significant celebration of the Sri Lankan community and their cultural contribution to Queensland at Rocks Riverside Park in my electorate on Sunday, 11 September. I hope to see everyone there.

From one of my newer community organisations to one of my oldest, can I extend congratulations to the Country Women's Association of Australia, which is celebrating 100 years this year. Our Queensland Country Women's Association has a thriving branch in Oxley led by the fabulous Norma Lovelace OAM who, along with our old guard CWA members, regularly hosts fantastic events in our community welcoming anyone who loves a hot cup of tea and beautiful scones. Of course, there is always an opportunity to purchase a jar or six of jam, which I did this Saturday just past armed with a shopping list from my enterprising son, Heath.

We are also very lucky to have many younger members in our Country Women's Association, and by younger I mean people under 50. We have people like Sally Gardner and Belinda Fisher, but can I give a special mention to very youngest member of the Oxley CWA, Tempe. Tempe is barely in her teens but she is a regular fixture already at our local events—when not in school, of course—and most recently helped cater one of their recent events with her delicious pinwheel pastries. The future of the CWA is in safe hands with members like Tempe. Happy 100 years! Thank you to the member for Ipswich West for his lending me his pin, which he has as an honorary member of the CWA. Happy birthday, CWA!

DEPUTY SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Error in Division

 **Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Honourable members, the government whip has advised of an error in the tally for the last division. The government whip inadvertently included the chair in the tally. The result of the last division was ayes three and noes 86, not ayes three and noes 87 as was announced to the House. The tally sheet has been altered according.

The House adjourned at 7.36 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, Hunt, Janetzki, Katter, Kelly, King A, King S, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, MacMahon, Madden, Mander, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Skelton, Smith, Stevens, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Watts, Weir, Whiting