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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 18 August 2022

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THURSDAY, 18 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.

REPORT

Register of Members' Interests



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I table the 35th report on the Register of Members' Interests.

Tabled paper: Thirty-Fifth Report on the Register of Members' Interests [\[1168\]](#).

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

School Group Tours



Mr SPEAKER: I wish to advise members that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from: Watson Road State School in the electorate of Algeester; Pallara State School in the electorate of Algeester; student leaders in the electorate of Algeester; Nundah State School in the electorate of Nudgee; Emmaus College in the electorate of Jimboomba—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Correct, there is no electorate of Jimboomba—and Brisbane South State Secondary College in the electorate of South Brisbane.

Brisbane South State Secondary College, Minecraft



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, this morning in the gallery we are visited by students from Brisbane South State Secondary College. These students are Minecraft masters who have been working on a Minecraft model of the Legislative Assembly chamber. As the students have built the chamber using photos and architectural plans, today is a chance for them to view the chamber from the gallery. Viewing the colours and surfaces in person will help the students to refine their model to better reflect the look, feel and character of the old House.

While the students are here today, they will also start their work on the Minecraft Legislative Council chamber. They will visit the red chamber, foyer and grand staircase, while also observing the exterior facades with a view to extending the model to include these other public areas of the precinct. A word of warning to the students: while you are here, I am not sure whether you need to worry about MPs or creepers. The group will document the process and materials required to assist other school groups that may take up the project and extend it into the future. As Speaker, I was proud to support the Queensland Parliamentary Education team's collaboration with students to build a virtual parliament, and I am pleased to welcome them to the parliament today.

PETITIONS

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

Tallebudgera Connection Road, Upgrade

Mrs Gerber, from 435 petitioners, requesting the House to deliver a safety upgrade to the Devil's Elbow corner of Tallebudgera Connection Road [\[1169, 1170\]](#).

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPER

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

MINISTERIAL PAPER


The following ministerial paper was tabled by the Clerk—

Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment (Hon. Dick)—

[1171](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on North America budget and investment mission to USA and Canada by the Treasurer

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

M1, Upgrade


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.34 am): Since our government was elected in 2015, more than \$5.5 billion has been invested jointly in a pipeline of projects upgrading the M1. We have delivered five projects, six are underway and we are planning at least a further three. Just this morning the Minister for Transport and Main Roads turned the first sod on a major \$110 million upgrade of the exit 49 Pimpama interchange. A new bridge over the motorway, additional traffic lanes, on- and off-ramp upgrades and new signalised intersections to replace roundabouts will keep traffic moving through this stretch safely and efficiently.

Last week, the \$1 billion M1 Varsity Lakes to Tugun upgrade reached a major milestone. This massive project is transforming the southern end of the Gold Coast—the last remaining 10 kilometres. We are six-laning all the way from Brisbane to the border. It is delivering a wider, safer and quieter M1, and importantly it is also creating 850 jobs.

The upgrade is being delivered in three stages and I am pleased to say that the first stage—Varsity Lakes to Burleigh—is now complete. This is welcome news for the 90,000 commuters who use this stretch daily. I thank the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and the Gold Coast based minister and member for Gaven for marking the occasion last week. Works have included: the new diverging diamond interchange at exit 87; adding a fourth northbound lane between Reedy Creek and Burleigh; extending and relocating the exit 85 northbound off-ramp by 250 metres; and installing smart motorways technologies to help reduce stop-start travel. The final two stages—Burleigh to Palm Beach and Palm Beach to Tugun—are under construction.

The M1 is a critical route between the south-east's two largest cities. This investment is all about my government's commitment to create good jobs and better services to support our great Queensland lifestyle.

Floods, Recovery Assistance

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.36 am): The generosity of Queenslanders in times of need never fails. We have seen it again this year since the summer floods. In March we kickstarted the latest appeal with \$2.1 million between Lifeline, the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, St Vincent de Paul and Givit. That was backed up by another \$142,000 from our fundraiser here at parliament and \$105,000 from Western Queensland councils.

Today I am happy to report that the total raised up until last month by St Vincent de Paul, Lifeline and Givit was almost \$7.3 million for distribution to Queenslanders affected by the flooding. Nationally, more than \$61 million has been raised by the Red Cross and the Salvation Army to help people in Queensland and New South Wales. On behalf of our government, I again thank everyone who has given so generously. I thank the charities who work so hard to raise the money and put it to good use.

Mr Dick: Mr Speaker—

Mr Bleijie: The camera.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Well, you are blocking it.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, deliberately.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members, for the benefit of the House and also for the new member, there are arrangements in place to ensure that, unless you have business to conduct in the chamber, you are not outside of your seat. That generally applies to whips and other people. We will have people sitting in their seats or they will be out of the chamber. For the benefit of all concerned, that is the ruling.


Mr Bleijie: Lights, camera, action!

Ms PALASZCZUK: You threw the cameras out of the chamber. That is what the opposition did. You threw them out. You did not want the coverage. Do not scoff at me, member for Kawana. We love having you on the TV every single day. So stand up, every single day—and put on a pink jumpsuit while you are at it.


Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members, we are off to a bad start this morning. Premier, you have the call. I hope you will continue with your ministerial statement.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I would like to thank the charities who worked so hard to raise the money and put it to good use. Some examples are: the Red Cross distributed relief grants and provided psychological help; Lifeline recruited more crisis support workers; St Vincent de Paul provided financial support and food, clothing and furniture; the Salvos gave meals to evacuees and workers, and distributed funds; and Givit provided food, clothing, bedding, linen, furniture and appliances. That is just a snapshot of the charities' work with the money donated by Queenslanders.

Disaster Preparedness

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.39 am): On Monday, cabinet was briefed by the weather bureau and another wet summer could be on the way. We will do all we can to prepare for that. There is no reason to be alarmed. We hope there will not be the need again for emergency response and recovery, but we know that whatever happens, Queenslanders will be there to support one another.

Veterans, Grants

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.39 am): Today is Vietnam Veterans Day. It is held on the anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan in 1966, 56 years ago. We remember the sacrifices of those who died and show our respect and thanks to the many Australians who served during our involvement in the Vietnam War. We also pause to reflect on the impact of service veterans' families.


This year, we also marked a number of major anniversaries of the Second World War, including the 80th anniversary of the bombing of Darwin, the 80th anniversary of the fall of Singapore and the 80th anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea.

Most Queenslanders have a connection to someone who has served or is currently serving in the Australian Defence Force, and honouring their service is at the heart of our government's Queensland Remembers Grants Program which we launched last year. The \$4 million grants program supports ex-service and other not-for-profit organisations to deliver commemorative events, activities or projects, such as the creation of new memorials and gardens and avenues of honour. The program supports minor capital works, major capital works and community grants.

In its first round, the program supported 25 recipients across the state, including funding to create a new war memorial park at Murgon, to upgrade the existing Roma Cenotaph, and to restore buildings at the National Service Heritage Precinct in Wacol. I am pleased to announce that the second round of the program is now open. Eligible organisations can lodge a submission via the Queensland Veterans' Portal until 4 October. It is not just our service men and women whom we pay tribute to.

Beginning this year, Queensland will observe its annual War Widows Day on 19 October. This day recognises the people left behind by those who have served Australia, people who faced enormous grief. This is a first for Australia. Through these activities, we are continuing to pay tribute to Queensland's veterans community.

Thomas Dixon Centre

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.41 am): One hundred and fourteen years ago, a West End landmark was built. Bootmaker Thomas Dixon set up a business in Montague Road. It was a standout from the beginning. The website states—


It features red brick work, large windows with arched glazing bars, and king trusses that run across the expansive ceiling—sophisticated and uncommon ... of this period.

More than a century later, the Thomas Dixon Centre is still a unique West End feature. Since 1991, it has been home to the Queensland Ballet. Like other tenants of heritage buildings, the ballet loved being part of its community but wanted to make its home even more special.

Tonight it will be my great honour to officially open the refurbished Thomas Dixon Centre, and what a stunning restoration it is: a mix of heritage and contemporary architecture, an investment to preserve our past and to protect our future in the arts thanks to the funding from our government with some federal backing and the support of the ballet's donors and partners, and thanks to the oversight of the Department of Energy and Public Works.

As the minister has said, it is a labour of love from more than 1,280 local workers. It now includes a 350-seat theatre, six dance studios, a rooftop terrace and a promenade. It means that while our world-class Queensland Ballet performs for thousands at QPAC, it can also host more intimate productions at West End, while collaborating with the local cultural community, with public spaces for schools and other artists. As Artistic Director Li Cunxin said, 'Queensland Ballet wanted to remain in West End for a sense of neighbourhood pride.' We can all be proud that our ballet is so connected to its community in such an outstanding home.

H2-Hub Gladstone

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (9.43 am): Queensland has a long and proud history of converting our natural advantages to economic advantage. There are so many examples across our great state, but one of the best is using the deep water of Gladstone Harbour, together with our natural resources and the enterprise and skill of so many Queenslanders to build one of the strongest industrial hubs and one of the best multicommodity ports in the world. It is this advantage, alongside the large state development area, the connection to the Central Queensland Renewable Energy Zone and the fact that our energy assets are in public hands, that gives Gladstone the potential to be a truly global green hydrogen hub.


Queenslanders can now have their say on the H2-Hub Gladstone proposal to develop a \$4.7 billion green hydrogen and green ammonia production and export facility at Yarwun. Queensland's Coordinator-General has released drafts of reference for the H2-Hub Gladstone project's environmental impact statement. This means Queenslanders can now comment on the EIS to ensure a thorough assessment of this project. This is an exciting project for Central Queensland and for the state's future as an emerging hydrogen superpower.

H2U is proposing a two-stage development to create a major new industrial hub in the Gladstone state development area with export infrastructure at Fisherman's Landing wharf at the port of Gladstone. H2U estimates the project will create over 550 jobs during construction, with up to 350 jobs during the peak construction phase and 140 ongoing operational jobs.

I announced in April that the project had been declared a coordinated project and that H2U and Orica had made a strategic partnership agreement to initiate the project's first phase. The opening of the public notification period on the draft terms of reference is another step forward. Subject to approvals, H2U proposes to begin stage 1 construction in 2023, with production commencing towards the end of 2025.

The H2-Hub Gladstone project has a planned capacity of up to three gigawatts of electrolysis and up to 5,000 tonnes per day of green ammonia production. It is expected that the proposed facility will use 100 per cent renewable energy from newly built solar and wind resources in the Central Queensland region. The public can comment on the EIS draft terms of reference until 13 September 2022.

Economy

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.46 am): The Palaszczuk government's Economic Recovery Plan continues to deliver the good, the better and the great—good jobs, better services and protecting and enhancing our great Queensland lifestyle. The Queensland economy is continuing to perform strongly in 2022, building on the momentum of the strong recovery we saw in 2021.

Key economic data released since the budget I delivered in June show ongoing elevated levels of activity well above pre-COVID levels. Real retail turnover rose 2.4 per cent in the June quarter to a new record high. This highlights the resilience of Queensland households. Dwelling approvals are 39 per cent above their pre-pandemic level. Housing finance commitments are almost 80 per cent above the level recorded before the pandemic. This is adding ongoing levels of residential construction to the substantial pipeline of work that will underpin strong growth in dwelling investment going forward.

According to the June quarter NAB Business Survey, Queensland businesses are experiencing the strongest business conditions in the country. Our international trade sector also continues to power on. The value of overseas goods exports has more than doubled, increasing by \$58.9 billion in 2021-22 to a new record of \$116.8 billion.

Our exporters have diversified their export markets. Japan, India and Korea are now Queensland's top export destinations for 2021-22, all overtaking China, and the reopening of international borders has led to a sharp jump in overseas student visa applications. We continue to see ongoing recovery in tourism. Accommodation provider revenue is well up on 2019 levels, and aviation capacity is trending higher, as the minister for tourism noted yesterday. Most importantly, ahead of today's ABS data release, our labour market remains exceptionally strong.

Employment in Queensland grew by another 13,400 persons, or 0.5 per cent, in the month of June. There are now 219,400 more people employed in Queensland than immediately prior to the pandemic. That is the largest growth in employment in the nation, both in job numbers and in percentage terms. To put this in context, since before the pandemic, Queensland has added almost 60,000 more jobs than New South Wales and 118,000 more jobs than Victoria. Importantly, employment growth has been strong across many Queensland regions. Unemployment rates in many of our regions have fallen to exceptionally low levels. It is no wonder Queensland is the most desirable place to live in Australia.

ABS population statistics released since the budget show net interstate migration to Queensland surged again to 19,247 in the December quarter. This brings total net interstate migration in 2021 to a record high of 50,162. Queensland easily had the highest annual population growth rate in the country at 1.4 per cent in the December quarter 2020.

We all know Queensland is the best place in Australia to live, to work, to raise a family and to start and grow a business. The range of strong economic data released since the budget continues to highlight the strength of our regions, the strength of our economy and the ongoing opportunities and prosperity available to both Queensland workers and Queensland businesses.

Work Health and Safety Act, Review



Hon. G GRACE (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.49 am): Every single worker in Queensland has a right to be safe in the workplace and to return home safe and healthy to their families and loved ones at the end of the day. Robust health and safety laws are critical to ensuring workers are protected and that those in control of workplaces are held to account if the law and regulations are not followed.

The Palaszczuk government has a strong and proud history of standing up for and protecting workers in our great state. Queensland's Work Health and Safety Act was comprehensively reviewed in 2017 in response to the Dreamworld and Eagle Farm tragedies. The best practice review of Workplace Health and Safety Queensland included 58 recommendations concerning both operational and legislative measures to ensure Queensland has the highest work health and safety standards.

Arising from this review significant amendments were made to the act including the introduction—the first in the nation—of industrial manslaughter laws and the establishment of an independent Office of the Work Health and Safety Prosecutor. Since 2017 the inspectorate has undergone a refocusing to compliance and a wide range of new standards have been set including in the areas of amusement ride safety and protecting workers from silicosis and other dust lung diseases. We will never rest on our laurels when it comes to workers' safety.

To ensure Queensland's laws remain robust, effective and enforceable, it is time for a review to occur five years on from the best practice review. The review will commence next week. The review will be undertaken by three independent reviewers: Craig Allen, former director-general of the Office of Industrial Relations; Charles Massy, a barrister specialising in industrial relations and employment; and Deirdre Swan, former deputy president of the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission. Craig, Charles and Deirdre are eminently qualified and bring a mix of regulatory, practical and legal perspectives to this important review.

The independent reviewers will also be assisted by leading academics in the area of work health and safety regulation and, of course, my department. The review will have a strong focus on consultation with stakeholders including industry groups, employers, registered industrial organisations, the legal profession, academics and government agencies. An interim report will be provided to me by mid-November with a final report expected to follow shortly thereafter. I look forward to receiving the report and any recommendations to strengthen our nation-leading work health and safety laws for workers in this state.

Coronavirus, Update



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.52 am): Queensland's health workers have been critical to our pandemic response. Their dedication and commitment along with the Premier's strong leadership have saved countless lives and helped protect the Queensland economy from one of the gravest threats we have ever faced. I want to join the Premier in thanking our frontline health workers for their efforts throughout the pandemic and also the Chief Health Officer, Dr John Gerrard, for helping guide us through the third Omicron wave.

We now know that the peak of this current COVID-19 wave has passed. The third wave peak occurred around 26 July when there were 1,123 people in Queensland hospitals with COVID. There were 66,569 active cases reported on that date with 2,404 Queensland health staff furloughed through illness. I am pleased to inform the House that since then there has been a significant improvement in these indicators. Currently, there are around 21,107 active COVID cases reported and 751 furloughed health workers. While national modelling suggests we will not experience the worst of this wave until the end of the month, we are pleased that the peak has already passed. This is a testament not only to our health staff but to Queenslanders themselves, who rose to the challenge yet again.

More than 828,000 Queenslanders over the age of 50 have had their fourth dose booster and that number rose substantially leading up to the peak. More people with COVID-19 also sought antiviral medicines. Between 20 June and 24 July prescriptions rose from 800 a week to 6,467 a week. That is an increase of over 800 per cent. However, we are not out of the woods yet. The third wave has peaked, but it has not ended. Furthermore, a fourth wave later this year is possible.

We need to continue doing things that have helped us weather these challenges. Please follow the health advice to wear a mask when you are indoors or you are unable to physically distance when recommended. Stay home if you are sick. Seek antiviral medicines if you are infected and eligible. Importantly, get up to date with your vaccinations. While we cannot eliminate COVID, we can limit the impact it has on us, as we have proven yet again.

M1, Upgrade



Hon. MC BAILEY (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.55 am): Anyone who has driven the M1 between Brisbane and the Gold Coast knows it is Queensland's busiest stretch of highway, carrying up to 210,000 cars per day. That is why the Palaszczuk Labor government is making the M1 bigger, better and safer.

Since coming to office we have delivered: a \$74 million upgrade to the Coomera interchange at exit 54; a \$25 million upgrade to the Oxenford interchange at exit 57; the \$195 million upgrade to the M1-Gateway merge thanks to the advocacy of the energy minister; the \$218 million Mudgeeraba to Varsity Lakes upgrade; and we have another six upgrades underway to the tune of \$4 billion pouring into the M1. In fact, I was on the Gold Coast this morning, as the Premier mentioned, with the federal minister Catherine King breaking ground on the major upgrade at exit 49 at Pimpama. As one of Australia's—

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr Boothman: How's the sign going?

Mr BAILEY: I can assure honourable members that we will not be ignoring the M1, as those opposite did. In one of Australia's fastest growing regions, this interchange upgrade will deliver double the capacity across the M1, new signalised intersections, longer and safer on and off ramps and better active transport connections. It is part of a \$213 million M1 interchange upgrade program delivering major improvements at exits 41, 45 and now 49.

We have also just completed works on the first section of the billion dollar Varsity Lakes to Tugun M1 upgrade. I opened the 2.3-kilometre section last Tuesday complete with three lanes each way and a new diverging diamond interchange at Burleigh Heads—

Mr Hart: Where was my invite? What happened to inviting the local member?

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

Mr BAILEY:—and it is already easing congestion. There is clearly confusion opposite about actually doing something on the M1.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: We can hear the confusion opposite. I am happy to clarify for them. We are pushing ahead with the 10-kilometre upgrade on the southern Gold Coast despite unprecedented rainfall and impacts on staff from COVID and flu and, I might add, 44,000 tonnes of illegally dumped asbestos that has been dealt with. The upgrade also includes a safe, connected cycleway. Master planning is currently also underway for a separated cycling corridor from Brisbane to the border, which Bicycle Queensland CEO, Rebecca Randazzo, labelled 'a win for tourism and a great step forward for bike riders'.

Of course, we are delivering the \$2.1 billion second M1 Coomera Connector, creating a second major connection between Logan and the Gold Coast and an alternative to the M1.

Mr Crandon interjected.

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

Mr BAILEY: It was blocked by the previous government. It would only happen under this government.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

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

Mr BAILEY: We will not ignore the M1 or the Gold Coast as the previous government did. Only the Palaszczuk Labor government will deliver a better M1, an actual second M1, good jobs and better services for Queensland's great lifestyle.

Brisbane Housing Company



Hon. LM ENOCH (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (9.58 am): I rise to advise the House on matters relating to the sale of a Kelvin Grove apartment complex by Brisbane Housing Company. I recognise and acknowledge it is an independent decision of the board. However, the Queensland government and Brisbane City Council are joint shareholders and we will work with BHC on how they engage with both state government and council.

At a time of obvious housing stress it is my expectation—and I dare say the expectation of Queenslanders—that the social and affordable housing sector pulls every lever at its disposal to retain existing properties and inject greater supply into the market. This is why my department deliberately paused its own business-as-usual strategic asset management strategy to respond to the pressures of the current market.

Mr Mander interjected.

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

Hon. LM ENOCH: The Palaszczuk government is working tirelessly to provide more social housing outcomes for Queenslanders sooner. We are rolling out a \$2.9 billion investment to increase the social and affordable housing supply—the largest concentrated investment in Queensland's history. We have commenced 4,891 and completed 3,939 social and affordable homes since coming to government in 2015. We exceeded our first-year target under QuickStarts Qld of 727, commencing 832 new social homes. I am pleased to advise the House that as of 31 July 2022 we have commenced more than 900 new social and affordable homes under the QuickStarts Qld program.

We have launched our \$40 million Help to Home initiative, seeking 1,000 more housing solutions for vulnerable Queenslanders. We have delivered a new 40-unit youth foyer on the Gold Coast—an expansion to the Logan youth foyer—and we have commenced a new youth foyer in Townsville. We are delivering an almost \$14 million commitment to roll out the housing older women strategy, building new homes and delivering specialist support services for older women. We have invested \$166.3 million in specialist homelessness supports across Queensland in the 2022-23 budget.

On top of these measures, the government recently announced an investment of \$16 million through the Immediate Housing Response Package to support families experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness. It is the Palaszczuk government that is committed to more housing, more jobs, better services and to enhancing Queensland's great lifestyle.

Multicultural Queensland Month



Hon. LM LINARD (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.01 am): It is August, and that means it is Multicultural Queensland Month. Once again this year we are in full swing, with events and activities taking place across the state. Multicultural

Queensland Month is, of course, our state's largest multicultural celebration every year, with the theme of this year being 'inclusion in action'. Language is fundamental to building a truly inclusive community, and this year's theme is about exploring practical ways to break down language barriers and ways to use language to connect rather than divide.

The launch of Multicultural Queensland Month was marked with the release of our new Multicultural Action Plan. It was fitting to launch the plan and month at Radio 4EB, our media partner for Multicultural Queensland Month, who have created a special podcast series sharing diverse Queenslanders' stories and perspectives throughout the month. Our new Multicultural Action Plan consists of six actions: to build the economy and community; to provide better access to interpreters; and to improve cultural diversity data to enhance service delivery to culturally and linguistically diverse Queenslanders. It marks the next phase of the work that must be done to achieve a truly welcoming, harmonious and inclusive Queensland for all who call it home.

Multicultural Queensland Month gives us an opportunity to increase awareness of the benefits of diversity while sharing the innovative ways that people and organisations are making Queensland communities strong and cohesive. There is a large variety of cultural events being held across the state, including events funded under the Celebrating Multicultural Queensland program, such as Townsville's India Fest—

Mr Harper: Hear, hear—a great event.

Ms LINARD: It is absolutely a great event; I take that interjection from the local member—the Lockyer Valley Multicultural Festival and the Technicolour Multicultural Festival, which I will be attending next weekend, in the electorate of Stafford.

There are webinars being presented by industry experts from 2M Language Services; the University of Queensland's School of Languages and Cultures; National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters; and the Griffith University MATE program. The webinars are providing practical information, hints and tips on topics such as how to arrange translating and interpreting services, the importance of using inclusive language and the benefits of speaking more than one language. We again partnered with the RNA this year, who provide the Multicultural Plaza Music Stage to showcase incredible musical talent from across Queensland.

Last week I joined with the Queensland Community Alliance, Multicultural Australia and QPASTT to announce a partnership to deliver a new workers' rights, education and support services program. This was an election commitment from our Premier to provide education on workers' rights to new Queenslanders and assistance to vulnerable migrant workers about employment issues. We know that this is an issue across our community—we heard it during the wage theft inquiry and the Queensland Community Alliance advocated passionately for it. Multicultural month is the perfect time to announce this new partnership, and I look forward to working with QPASTT and Multicultural Australia on its delivery.

Of course, the pinnacle event during Multicultural Queensland Month is the Multicultural Queensland Awards ceremony, which will be held at the La Boite Theatre. The awards have been running since 1990, and I look forward to continuing the tradition again this year and to congratulating the outstanding recipients. I encourage everyone to visit the Multicultural Queensland Month website to find out what is happening throughout the state and to embrace Queensland's diversity, promote inclusion and make new connections in the community this month and every month.

National Science Week




Hon. MAJ SCANLON (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (10.05 am): This National Science Week I want to thank and acknowledge the incredible minds that we have across this state, from the over 300 scientists in my department to those in universities and industry—nation-leading educators like Megan Hayes, who I met last week, school students like those I met at Upper Coomera State College participating in Sisters in STEM through to the impressive young First Nations women at Trinity Bay State High School in North Queensland. Queensland is no stranger to scientific excellence. We are the home of pioneering discoveries and advancements like the HPV vaccine created by Dr Ian Frazer.

The Palaszczuk government knows that investing in science means good jobs, better services and a great lifestyle. This is why last month I announced we were investing \$17 million to partner with local universities and industry to support researchers to further commercialise and scale up their work. In particular, we want to ensure regional Queensland is getting the benefit of commercialisation, which is why we have provided this dedicated funding. I recently saw the success of this sort of work in action

at QUT, where their research is being used to create Logan based company BlockTexx, who are using science to recycle more than 50,000 tonnes of old textiles. Our scientists are among the best in the world across a range of disciplines including environment, health, medical technology and biotechnology.

Since 2019, 10 Queensland research facilities have been awarded funding to purchase cutting-edge equipment and facilities. In fact, the other week I had the pleasure of visiting Griffith University, where we have provided \$1.8 million to help establish Compounds Australia—the nation's only dedicated biodiscovery management facility. That facility will now help to develop effective disease-targeting drugs sooner to help treat diseases like HIV, malaria and cancer. I am pleased to say that this support will also continue as part of our newly announced innovation road map, announced last month by the Minister for Innovation and the Premier. It is this side of the House that backs science, and I acknowledge all of the incredible scientists across our state for the amazing work they do.

Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.07 am): On this side of the House we like to talk about good jobs, because good jobs support better services and Queensland's great lifestyle. Today I would like to detail one particular project in my portfolio area which is all about delivering good jobs and better services—that is, stage 2 of the Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct near Gatton. Mr Speaker, you should not just take my word for what a great project this is. Let's have a listen to what Lockyer Valley Mayor Tanya Milligan has had to say. She said—

Large scale projects such as this have the potential to generate positive and tangible financial impacts for our region through job creation and business opportunity ...


The city convenience and country living of the Lockyer Valley is becoming increasingly attractive as people continue to seek that sought-after work-life balance ...

There you have it—jobs and lifestyle, supported by our government. This \$861 million expansion project will see a 500-bed increase approved by the Palaszczuk government, on top of the more than 1,000 beds initially scoped for stage 2 of the correctional precinct. The expansion project will result in more than 1,500 beds for male prisoners in the purpose-built facility. It will deliver on the jobs front as well. It is expected to create more than 900 construction jobs in the region at its peak and approximately 600 ongoing permanent operational jobs.

The project is on track, with early works well progressed on the site. Major construction works are expected to be completed by the end of 2023, with commissioning in the first half of 2024, weather permitting. As at the end of June 2022, there have been a total of more than 900 workers inducted onto the project site and almost 500,000 worked hours conducted since site works commenced.

This is a classic example of government at work—a government that appreciates that jobs in the regions are good for all Queenslanders, a government that realises that better services help ensure a more prosperous community and a better lifestyle. This project guarantees not only direct jobs but also indirect jobs for trades, hospitality, producers and more. Last but by no means least, stage 2 of the correctional precinct will mean greater security for our correctional facilities across the state, for both staff and prisoners, with the addition of extra beds and state-of-the-art technology. It is good for Queensland.


Domestic and Family Violence

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.10 am): I rise to acknowledge a difficult couple of weeks. In just a couple of weeks it has been reported that three women have lost their life. I want to extend my condolences to the family and friends of Jifeng Liu, known as Eileen, and her son, Sam. I want to extend my condolences to the family and friends of Florrie Reuben and to the family and friends of Tania Trickey.

I, like all Queenslanders, have many questions about how these tragedies occurred. Domestic and family violence is never acceptable and these recent tragedies are an important reminder that we must continue to work to end violence against women. Abuse is a choice and if you are using violence or abuse in your relationship, take responsibility and ask for help. Help is available through DVConnect Mensline and if you are worried about a family member or a friend or a co-worker, support is also available. Through the Be There app we can all learn to be better bystanders because we all have a role to play in ending violence against women.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to making Queensland safer for all women and girls. Earlier this year I joined with the Premier and the families of victims of domestic and family violence to announce an historic \$363 million package to reform the system in preparation for criminalising coercive control. This includes additional funding for perpetrator interventions, high-risk teams, co-responder models and specialist domestic and family violence courts. We also need to address the community attitudes that underpin violence against women, and that starts by educating all Queensland students in Respectful Relationships. We will not stop this critical work until all Queenslanders are safe from domestic and family violence.


Rural Economic Development Grants

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (10.12 am): One of the things the Palaszczuk government is most proud of is our ability to create jobs in the agricultural sector. One of the hallmarks of this government's backing of the agriculture sector is the Rural Economic Development Grant scheme. In the last term of government we promised \$10 million in matched grants to help businesses in rural and regional Queensland to expand and to create jobs. We delivered on that promise with more than 30 projects supported and that in turn created more than 1,800 jobs across the state. We know what the RED Grants mean to rural Queensland. That is why we launched a fourth round of the scheme, because creating jobs for Queenslanders is what the Palaszczuk government has done, is doing and will continue to do.

I am pleased to announce that one of the first RED Grants recipients from round 4 is Wallaroo Produce Supplies on the Southern Downs. It wants to expand its storage and packing line facilities and upgrade its coldrooms. This means that Wallaroo will be able to increase vegetable production, and the member for Southern Downs will be pleased to know it also means more jobs for the people of the Southern Downs. The Premier brought community cabinet to the Southern Downs in June and now we are delivering good jobs for the region as well—12 long-term, full-time jobs, not to mention the other jobs in construction from this project alone. I will have more to say about other successful RED Grants recipients in the coming weeks. This is good news for the people of regional Queensland and proves yet again that the Palaszczuk government continues to stand shoulder to shoulder with our farmers.

PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMITTEE

Membership

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.13 am), by leave, without notice: I move—


1. That the member for Macalister be discharged from the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee; and
2. That the member for Capalaba be appointed to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

MOTIONS

Order of Business


 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.14 am): I move—

That general business notice of motion, House to take note of committee reports, No. 1 be postponed.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Referral to Transport and Resources Committee

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

That the Transport and Resources Committee (the committee) inquire into and report to the Legislative Assembly by 16 February 2023 on:

1. The current practices and activities of the coalmining industry (including coalmine operators and their senior management and associated corporate entities; contractor/labour hire companies and their management; and the Queensland Resources Council) to cultivate and improve safety culture, within its corporate structures and onsite among workers, with particular reference to actions taken and changes/measures implemented in response to the board of inquiry's findings and recommendations relating to:
 - (a) the impact of coal production rates on safety risk management;
 - (b) industry's use of coal production related and lag safety indicator related bonuses and incentives to workers and executives, and their impact on the management of safety risk;
 - (c) accurate, fulsome and timely identification, classification and reporting of, and effective responses to, incidents and failures of risk controls;
 - (d) the appropriateness and potential safety impacts of the use of labour hire; and labour hire workers' roles in onsite safety, at coal mines; and
 - (e) onsite safety, generally; and ensuring appropriate measures to address process safety and personal safety separately.
2. That the committee consider:
 - (a) the board of inquiry's reports;
 - (b) the views of industry stakeholders, worker representatives, workers and the community; and
 - (c) options for achieving the intent of the recommendations made by the board of inquiry to the coalmining industry.

An opposition member: Written and authorised by the Treasurer.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members!

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.16 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 30 August 2022.

Mr SPEAKER: I am sure this is something we can all get behind.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, question time will conclude today at 11.17 am.

Social Housing



Mr CRISAFULLI (10.17 am): My question is to the Premier. What is the Premier's target for the number of households on the social housing waiting list at the end of the Queensland Housing Strategy in 2027?

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is very interesting to hear the Leader of the Opposition talk about social housing, because the last time those opposite were in office they wanted to move people out and get strangers in to share.

Government members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right: if you went on a holiday, the house was going to be returned.

With regard to this opposition, there is irony and hypocrisy of even raising social housing when it just obliterated social housing. It had no respect. It wanted to privatise the whole lot—90 per cent—and the member for Everton is still sitting here. He was one of the architects as well as the former member for Moggill.

The government is considering the Auditor-General's report that was handed down, but the Leader of the Opposition should also be aware that five per cent of the market is social housing and affordable; the big issue is the 95 per cent, which is the private rental market. We acknowledge that there is housing stress. Let me say it again: we acknowledge that there is housing stress across Queensland and across the nation. There are a whole lot of factors contributing to this and we—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mrs Gerber: Premier, you should be able to tell us a target.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Treasurer, we do not need assistance.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Your target is privatisation, member for Currumbin.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, you will direct your comments through the chair.

An opposition member: What is your target?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Our target is to continue to grow the amount of social housing.

A government member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right, 7,400. Just the other week the minister and I were in Inala looking at a new build that will go to a family who has a child with a disability. That is what good Labor governments do: we invest in social housing. I am proud to represent Inala where we have a large amount of social housing. The Treasurer and member for Woodridge is also proud, as are other members on this side.

The Leader of the Opposition's record is privatisation. Those opposite do not value social housing in this state. This side of the House will always value and respect our tenants who are in social housing and treat those families with the respect that they deserve, not kick little old ladies out onto the street. I can remember talking to people when I was in opposition about those opposite wanting to kick elderly tenants out onto the street and take their homes. Disgraceful!

(Time expired)

Social Housing

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question is to the Minister for Housing. How many social housing properties does the government need to build in the next five years to ensure those classed as very high need will have a roof over their head?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. I thank him for his interest in housing in this state. On this side of the House we know that the housing system is under incredible pressure. We have seen multiple compounding issues with regards to the housing system: COVID-19, mass migration into our state, the continued issues that we are seeing around workforce, the continued issues we are seeing around supply chain issues and we have had multiple flooding events in Queensland that have impacted thousands of properties across the South-East and other parts of the state and, of course, we continue to see weather impacting our building capacity right across our state regardless of who is building where. I have visited multiple building sites across our state, one where builders have said they have had 52 days of delay trying to build the properties they are building on behalf of this state to house more vulnerable Queenslanders.

We know in terms of the work that we are doing with our second action plan under our housing strategy—a very important strategy, a whole-of-government strategy, one that looks at all of the levers we can pull with regards to policy right across the whole of government—that strategy is looking at increasing housing stock.

Mr POWELL: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance under standing order 118(b). The question specifically asked how many social housing properties are required.

Mr SPEAKER: The minister has one minute and 25 seconds to round out her answer. I encourage the minister to address the question asked.

Ms ENOCH: Under our \$2.9 billion investment, the largest concentrated investment in Queensland's history in social and affordable housing, we will see 10,000 more social and affordable houses added to our stock over the life of our strategy—7,400 under our second action plan. As I announced today, we have also commenced more than 900 under the second action plan. That is absolutely amazing work from the department, I have to say.

We are not the only players in this space with regards to social and affordable housing. I welcome the Albanese government's commitment to social and affordable housing, a \$10 billion housing investment fund, 30,000 new social and affordable houses across the state, and I have made it very clear to the new housing minister that Queensland wants its fair share of that to be able to support and enhance our investment and the number of social and affordable homes that we want to build over the next few years.

It is an incredibly important relationship with the federal government. It is just a pity that previously what we had under the LNP was a government that completely abandoned this space. They stripped about \$100 million out of our budget. They have never been able to work well with us. I am looking forward to working well with the Albanese government to get our fair share of that investment to support the record investment we have put in place here in Queensland.

Mackay, Exports

Mrs GILBERT: My question is to the Premier and Minister for the Olympics. Will the Premier update the House on Mackay's contribution to Queensland's record export figures?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Mackay very much for the question. Both the Treasurer and I have recently been to Mackay. We have both visited Real Time Instruments. We also know that the port of Mackay has had its best trade year. This is fantastic news for the region. Mackay has an absolutely bright future. I thank everybody in the Mackay region for the outstanding work that they do, especially in areas such as sugar exports and mining. We have committed \$5.7 million to expand Mackay's Resource Centre of Excellence. This record of 3.6 million tonnes in 2021-22 beats the previous record. We know that exports mean revenue but also, too, trade means jobs and one in five jobs in Queensland is relying on our exports.

The other good news today is that the value of Queensland's overseas merchandise exports in 2021-22 is the largest on record: \$116.8 billion, more than twice the previous year. With the help of TIQ there are some really good stories happening across our state. In Mackay we talked about Real Time Instruments which sold equipment in India and Columbia; in Mundubbera in the electorate of Callide, Ironbark Citrus have sold mandarins to Indonesia and the Philippines; in the Glass House, Wallum Nurseries is exporting native seedlings to the Middle East; from Cairns, MFC Safe has a food safety consultancy and a five-year contract in Singapore; and from Underwood, educational technology company Go1 has a new client in Singapore, Singapore's Trade Union Congress.

In other good news, we are seeing great growth in our markets in Japan, India, China, Vietnam, Taiwan and the Netherlands. In Vietnam we have had a 127 per cent increase in our trade. Next week I am sending our minister for agriculture on a trade mission to Vietnam. It is a very important market. The minister will be speaking about agricultural technology, horticulture and cotton. I also commend the fact that there was a really good cotton congress on the Gold Coast talking about the growth in that sector as well. We also will continue our trade with Malaysia, Indonesia and the US. The increase in our trade revenue is double that from last year—\$116 billion. That will mean even more jobs for Queenslanders across our state. Later this year, in October, will be the export awards. We look forward to seeing companies highlight the work they do, especially across regional Queensland.

Social Housing

Mr MANDER: My question is to the Minister for Housing. The Auditor-General found 30,922 households on the social housing register. In estimates the director-general said there were 27,437. Last week the minister said there were 29,000. How can the government solve the housing crisis when they cannot even get their basic figures right?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for Everton for pointing out the fact that there has been a reduction in social housing register applications. That absolutely has been the case and the director-general made that clear at estimates. We continue to ensure that we are doing everything we can to support people who come to the Queensland government for assistance. We know that that is increasing as a result of some of the unprecedented pressures we see across the system.

The member for Everton literally took a wrecking ball to the social housing stock in this state. In his time he demonised tenants in social housing. As I have said many times, and this is the map that the member for Everton seems to wash over, when he left that portfolio as the minister responsible there were 428 fewer social housings dwellings.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Leader of the Opposition, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Everton, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms ENOCH: There were 428 fewer social dwellings. Then he made all of these promises—

Ms Simpson interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Maroochydore, I have just called the House to order. I have given two warnings to members and you immediately interjected. You are warned under the standing orders. I hope that my rulings have provided some guidance to the House.

Ms ENOCH: Here we go again with the map. I want to acknowledge that we have seen a reduction in social housing register applications. That is due to the hard work of my department, working with all of the people who have applied for social housing. We are continuing to do that work. Over 200,000 services have been provided with regards to private rentals. We continue to do innovative work to support people who are looking for support. I announced and made clear some of those initiatives in my ministerial statement today.

Under the map of the member for Everton there were 428 fewer social housing dwellings. That was as a result of his decisions. On top of that, he made all of these promises. He had this very glossy document outlining a housing strategy that he had put together. It is a great document, I guess, for him. It is very glossy. In that strategy his whole idea was to off-load 90 per cent of the social housing stock and take it out of state government hands. He wanted to privatise 90 per cent of the stock. He wanted to get rid of it all. It was not just that; they wanted to get rid of all of the tenants and get all of the public servants off the books of the state government. That was his map.

On top of that, he made promises about building more properties across different areas but in 2013-14 there were zero commencements. You have to commence things to complete things. There were zero commencements in Logan, zero commencements on the Gold Coast, zero commencements on the Sunshine Coast. You have to commence something to complete it and we are doing exactly that.

Hydrogen Industry, Jobs

Ms RICHARDS: My question is to 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 how the Palaszczuk government is supporting the jobs of the future in industries such as hydrogen and is the Deputy Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Redlands for her question. I know she is excited about the opportunities in her community as we embrace and pursue jobs in future industries. Earlier today I outlined how Central Queenslanders will benefit from the billions of dollars being invested in their emerging hydrogen industry. However, it is not only the regions that are benefitting from our efforts to create the jobs of the future. The south-east is benefitting too, including in the Redlands.

The Palaszczuk government has a \$35 million Hydrogen Industry Development Fund and in the second round we have \$20 million allocated to that fund. I have already announced a \$5 million investment to build a hydrogen ferry in Brisbane, which will go to Gladstone to ferry workers to and from Curtis Island. Along with the Goondiwindi Regional Council, we have invested \$2 million to assist their pilot project to produce hydrogen from the wastewater at their wastewater facility. In Emerald we have invested \$2.7 million into Emerald Coaches so that they can buy two hydrogen cell buses that will run school bus routes as well as ferry workers onto mine sites.

Today I am really pleased to announce that the Palaszczuk government has committed \$1.5 million to buy two hydrogen buses for the Redlands. We have partnered with Transdev Queensland, which has a fleet of 109 buses that run two million trips a year. By adding two hydrogen cell buses to their fleet we can begin to demonstrate how we really can change how our transport is fuelled. We can learn from projects such as this one to expand the number of hydrogen vehicles. We can build up both the supply and demand sides to ensure that, while we produce the hydrogen, we also have local uses for it. These projects are a key part of how we intend to ensure we have the skills and the supply chains needed for this emerging industry so we do not just get our fair share of the jobs; we get even more than our fair share of those jobs.

While the LNP dismisses the hydrogen industry and hydrogen jobs, calling it dangerous, the Palaszczuk government is absolutely determined to ensure that Queenslanders benefit from the jobs that will come from the renewable energy and hydrogen revolution. We will be a superpower in producing, transmitting and exporting that energy.

Social Housing

Mr BLEIJIE: My question is to the Minister for Housing. Five years ago, the government promised to build 2,972 new social homes by 2022. Official figures show that the government has fallen short by more than a quarter. How can Queenslanders trust any government commitment to house Queensland's most vulnerable?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. The member writes to me regularly complaining about people in social housing so it is great that he has an interest today. In fact, there is a long list of those in the opposition—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms ENOCH: At the time that the opposition leader was the Townsville City Council deputy mayor and planning chairman, he likened the structures to—I am sorry, Mr Speaker. I was just handed something.

I have already announced today, and I have announced it many times, that this government is continuing to commence and complete social housing products. As I said earlier, we have commenced 4,891 new social dwelling homes and we have completed 3,939. We will continue to ensure that that planning goes ahead. As I said, we have already seen more than 900 commencements under the second action plan. We had planned to commence 727 but we have actually commenced over 900. That is an incredible effort by the department.

That is in stark contrast to what we saw from those opposite. In 2013-14, at the height of their time in government, we saw zero commencements in all of the locations I have already mentioned: Logan, the Gold Coast, the Sunshine Coast, Ipswich—places where we needed to see more social housing being built. They abandoned that whole space and they continue to see social housing tenants as being less than everybody else. We see that in the correspondence that we get from them and we see it in their attacks on social housing tenants.

We take care of social housing tenants in this state. That is why we are building more social and affordable housing and it is why we have made a record investment in social and affordable housing, which is the largest concentrated investment in Queensland's history. We will continue commencements because, as I have already said, you have to commence a project to complete it. We will be continuing to do that at the pace that we are taking right now. As I said, already there have been more than 900 commencements since we started the second action plan. We are not far off the target of 4,000 housing completions since coming to office.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

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

Labour Force Data

Ms PEASE: My question is of the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment. Will the Treasurer please update the House on the latest labour force data for Queensland and any revisions that have been made to previous data?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Lytton for her question. In just over an hour we will see the Australian Bureau of Statistics release labour force data for the month of July. That data comes after another strong Queensland performance in June which saw employment in Queensland grow by 13,400 persons, or 0.5 per cent. The June data showed that there are now 219,400 more people employed in Queensland than prior to the pandemic. Queensland has the largest growth in employment since March 2020, whether measured in total job numbers or as a percentage.

As the honourable member asked, from time to time labour force measures are retrospectively revised. For example, the May release revised the unemployment rate for January down from 4.4 per cent to 4.3 per cent. There is no word yet from the ABS whether it will be revising labour force data for five previously accounted for positions—previously secret and unrecorded jobs in the federal government, held, I understand, in and around Cronulla or Canberra between March 2020 and this year's federal election! There is no word yet from the ABS on two Queensland jobs—jobs that Karen Andrews and Keith Pitt thought they held alone. They might need to be revised as well!

As far as we know, the current Leader of the Opposition in Queensland is only trying to hold down the Leader of the Opposition's role. I am not suggesting for a moment that he has any more competence in his front bench than the Morrison government's front bench, which Scott Morrison clearly

held in disdain. I used to refer to it as the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison-Joyce-McCormack-Joyce government, but now we know it was just the Morrison-Morrison-Morrison-Morrison-Morrison government! In Queensland it is not an LNP front bench full of appointments; it is an LNP front bench full of disappointments.

Regardless of how the current Leader of the Opposition feels about the capacity of those around him, he is not trying to do their jobs for them because he is flat out doing his own job for himself. When you cut out the autobabble and the 'something something something', there is nothing left—no new ideas, no plan, no vision and certainly no policy for public housing. I welcome every new job we have seen created in Queensland and those new jobs we will hear about in about an hour. Queenslanders could only wish that the Leader of the Opposition could do his job as well as they do theirs.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Nanango will cease her interjections.

Social Housing

Mr POWELL: My question is to the Minister for Housing. In a single media conference and repeated again today, the minister has blamed the former LNP state government, the former federal government, multiple compounding issues—the weather, the private rental market, building costs and people making a tree change—putting pressure on new markets for not delivering on its social housing commitments.

Government members interjected.

Mr POWELL: What responsibility does the government take for not delivering on its social housing commitments?

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my right will not interject during a question. Otherwise, I will ask for the question to be repeated.

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. I do not agree with the premise of the question. We are certainly continuing to work with regard to our Housing Strategy. We have made a record investment of \$2.9 billion, the largest concentrated investment in Queensland's history. We are continuing to commence social housing dwellings as per our plan; in fact, we are exceeding our plan. We continue to do that.

Of course, those opposite had plans too. They made a lot of promises. In fact, hundreds of new social housing dwellings were supposed to occur in all of these different regions where we saw zero commencements. They made promises to build new social housing dwellings in Logan, yet in 2013-14 there were zero commencements in that area. If you do not commence a project, you cannot complete it. Of course, it takes time to do that.

Every single industry body right across Australia understands the pressures we are seeing in the construction industry. Just down the road, Queen's Wharf just announced delays because of weather events, flooding, workforce issues and supply issues. We are not immune to that, but we continue to work at pace to ensure we are meeting our targets and meeting the expectations of our Housing Strategy.

Our 10-year Housing Strategy makes it very clear that we are building more social housing and affordable housing to be able to support Queenslanders sooner. Our second action plan is absolutely putting at pace our ability to house vulnerable Queenslanders sooner. We have accelerated our efforts with regard to commencements—more than 900 commencements of social and affordable homes since we started our second action plan—and we will continue at pace. As I have said, we are very close to 4,000 new social and affordable homes being built since we came to office, and we continue to do that work.

This is in stark contrast to what we saw from those opposite. I have to keep reminding people that when the member for Everton was the housing minister he oversaw a 428-dwelling reduction of social housing.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my right!

Ms ENOCH: How do you say you are going to build more but not commence any? This is what we saw from those opposite. We saw a complete reduction—a 90 per cent cut to the construction program under housing—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

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

Ms ENOCH: We saw that from those opposite, but they come in here and ask questions about whether we are meeting our targets. We are absolutely meeting our targets.

Workers

Mr MARTIN: My question is of the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. Can the minister update the House on how the Palaszczuk government continues to support Queensland workers, including upcoming opportunities to work with the Albanese government, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for the question. I know that the member for Stretton has a long and proud history of standing up for Queensland workers. He joins a Palaszczuk Labor government that has led the way nationally when it comes to workers' rights, protections and entitlements in the areas of paid family and domestic and family violence leave—which, I might add, those opposite voted against; labour hire licensing—which, I might add, those opposite voted against; wage theft—which, I might add, those opposite voted against; and industrial manslaughter and occupational health and safety changes—which, I might add, those opposite voted against. Just as we will not be lectured to about housing in this state, we on this side of the House certainly will not be lectured to about industrial relations by those opposite.

What a breath of fresh air: we now have a federal government that is taking these issues seriously and is working with Queensland on adopting a number of initiatives we led. It is looking at paid family and domestic and family violence leave; supporting union-led applications for valued work wage increases, particularly in the area of aged-care workers; supporting minimum wages to keep pace with the cost of living; and taking steps to commence the abolition of the highly politicised ABCC, which we support. The only thing those opposite can hang their hat on is stopping union stickers and flying flags. What a great outcome that was!

I note the words of the Treasurer earlier in relation to Scott Morrison giving himself five additional jobs and portfolios in a secret way. The current federal Leader of the Opposition said, 'No, don't look over here; look over there at cost-of-living pressures.' I will tell members who was responsible for cost-of-living pressures. Over the last decade the federal system of Fair Work Australia has seen the greatest deterioration of workers' rights in the history of Australia. We have seen a decade-long reduction: the lowest wage increases in Australia's history, the lowest number of enterprise bargaining agreements, the highest casualisation of the workforce—predominantly female workers—and no skills and training plan. What a breath of fresh air the Jobs and Skills Summit will be.

We are looking forward to working with the Albanese government. Already I know the federal opposition is boycotting it, just as it boycotted workers for the past 10 years. It is an absolute shame. We are working together with the Albanese government. We will turn this around and ensure that workers in this country get the pay and conditions they deserve.

Social Housing

Mr JANETZKI: My question is to the Minister for Housing. In the past 18 months the state government has sold off 295 homes and 67 blocks of land. How can the minister criticise the community housing sector when the state government is choosing short-term profit over keeping a roof over the heads of vulnerable Queenslanders?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. There has been a long-term asset management strategy in the state over successive governments.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Members to my left, the minister is being responsive to the question as it was asked. I ask that you hear the answer. I would like to hear the answer also.

Ms ENOCH: The member for Everton oversaw the same asset management strategy. The unfortunate thing was that the member for Everton did not build any more social housing. He did not commence any more social housing in vital locations and attempted to privatise 90 per cent of social housing in this state.

However, at the beginning of this year, as a result of the multiple compounding issues that we are facing and the unprecedented situation that we are seeing with regard to the housing construction industry not just in Queensland but right across the country, my department looked to pause the asset management strategy particularly in South-East Queensland because of those flooding events and those thousands of properties that had been impacted as a result.

We are fast-tracking our ability to meet some of that unprecedented need. For instance, in Gympie we fast-tracked the local housing action plan with the Gympie Regional Council, investing \$10.5 million to see more properties built very quickly for people who need it as a result of the flooding event. We are commencing more public housing dwellings right across the state. As I said, we are already exceeding our targets.

This strategy, as I said, is what we saw under the member for Everton. It has been there over successive governments. My understanding from the advice that I have been given is that the state government has never paused the asset management strategy in the past. That is the advice that I have been given. We are in unprecedented times and we have done that as a result, and we continue to do that.

We are commencing more and building more as a result of our Housing Strategy. We are not just looking at building more properties but also supporting people in the private housing market. We have recently announced the \$16 million immediate housing response package to increase our rental subsidy scheme. Usually it is six months and \$5,000 to help people subsidise their private rent in the private rental market. We have increased that to 12 months and \$10,000 to help people sustain their rent in the private market. We are working with specialist homelessness services and providing more funding to them to support people who are in need. We are providing more workers to specialist homelessness services through that \$16 million immediate housing response package.

Mr SPEAKER: The minister's time has expired.

Ms ENOCH: But there is so much to tell you, Mr Speaker.

(Time expired)

Health System, Supply Chain

Mr WALKER: My question is of the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Can the minister update the House on what the Palaszczuk government is doing to ensure future medical and health supply chains for Queensland and the risks of not doing so?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for Mundingburra for his question. At the height of the pandemic we saw supply chain issues across the world and the incredible strain that COVID-19 caused through sickness and forced lockdowns. We can still see the flow-on effects and we still see supply chain issues happening today when there are continued outbreaks around the world, not least in industries like the building industry but certainly we have seen it in the health sector as well. I am glad to inform the House that the Palaszczuk government not only was proactive from day one back in 2020 in relation to these issues but is continuing to be proactive, making sure that Queensland is prepared to face its next emergency, be it a pandemic or a natural disaster.

The member himself recently visited the site in Townsville where we are building a 5,000 square metre storage facility. This will be a hub for important medical supplies like intensive care consumables, sanitisers, cleaning products and personal protective equipment. We know that when natural disasters hit we can see the state cut off. Having these supplies in the north is a great way of making sure that we can keep that supply chain going with such critical supplies.

Between December 2021 and January 2022, Queensland Health was able to meet a 1,000 per cent increase in demand for P2/N95 masks. Now with this new facility in Townsville we will ensure that the hospital and health services in the north of the state have their own secure supply of medical and associated stores. It will be a critical link in our chain which stretches from warehouses in the Far North and Central Queensland right down to South-East Queensland. This is so much more than just a warehouse. Half of the floor space will be temperature controlled, meaning more delicate and temperature dependent materials will be able to be kept there. It will be over four times as large as the current distribution centre in Townsville.

The need to insulate Queensland from supply chain pressures is being delivered as part of the Queensland government Critical Supply Reserve Strategy, which was launched back in September 2020. I acknowledge the former health minister for his work around the Critical Supply Reserve Strategy. While the Palaszczuk government was looking beyond the pandemic back then—and we continue to do so—we did know what the risks were. We know that from day one those opposite believed that we were overreacting. They called for the borders to be opened 64 times. They called the former chief health officer, now Governor, a 'trumped up bureaucrat' and would have rather seen us go down the track of the US in handling this. I am very proud that we did not take the advice of the Leader of the Opposition and acted appropriately.

(Time expired)

Social Housing

Mr LANGBROEK: My question is to the Premier. The government does not know how many social homes to build, does not know who the most vulnerable social housing applicants are and does not know how to fix the problem. In the midst of a housing crisis, is the government up to the job of providing housing for Queenslanders who need it?

Mr SPEAKER: Member, there were a number of statements made in that question. I will allow the Premier latitude in terms of her response as a result of that question.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I enjoyed looking at the member's photos he posted this morning of his late-night rendezvous—

Mr Dick: Running around the parliament, not doing work.

Ms PALASZCZUK:—sitting in the Speaker's chair. Let me say a couple of things about housing. Housing is a very important—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members to my left!

Mr O'Connor interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: Whilst I was sitting here listening to the opposition ask questions about housing, a whole lot of information came flooding back to me like the time when the opposition were in government and they wanted to throw 300 people out of caravan parks in Cannon Hill, Woombye and Hervey Bay. I recall going around and speaking to these people who were in their 80s. They were stressed and asking, 'Why do I have to leave my caravan park?' Those opposite wanted to sell it all off and privatise it.

The Leader of the Opposition was talking about social housing. I recall that when he was the deputy mayor in Townsville he campaigned against social housing. He campaigned against social housing.

Mr Dick: He called it 'sardine city'.

Ms PALASZCZUK: He likened it to Eastern Europe or 'sardine city'. He campaigned against social housing in his area. I recall that they axed the tenant advisory body, so people could not go and seek any advice or advocate on behalf of people who wanted social housing.

I recall that the housing minister at the time also wanted people to share their houses with strangers. I recall that they wanted to take over properties when people went overseas on holiday for a certain period of time. It is discrimination! I will not be lectured by those opposite about social housing. To be very clear, the reason the member for Everton did not build any social housing is because they were getting ready to flog it off.

Government members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right: all of it. This side of the House values people in this state. When we provide them with a social or affordable home that is their home.

(Time expired)

Renewable Energy, Jobs

Ms LAUGA: 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 commitment to growing renewable energy projects and jobs, particularly in regional Queensland, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr de BRENNI: I thank the member for Keppel for the question. Today is an especially great day for Queensland. The sun is shining and Australia's largest solar farm has scored its first century. This week the Western Downs Green Power Hub is celebrating reaching a tonne. As of this week it has notched up the ability to export more than 100 megawatts of clean energy from the field and into the nation's electricity grid, taking wholesale power prices in Queensland right now to minus \$52. It has already delivered more than 450 construction jobs. When finished, the scoreboard will show it is generating enough clean zero emissions power to keep the lights on in both Logan and Redlands. In fact, we have been scoring runs on renewable energy and jobs right across Queensland, especially in Central Queensland, which I am sure the member for Keppel would appreciate as a former batswoman of the year in the Rocky women's comp.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr de BRENNI: That is a little fact for everyone. Since 2015 we have taken a good line and length to deliver 50 large-scale renewable projects. We have hit job creation numbers for six with 7,900 jobs, and Central Queensland is playing a top order role in the state's energy transformation.

Mr Stewart interjected.

Mr de BRENNI: There is a little bit more to come, Minister for Resources. I thank the member for Keppel for substituting for me on the field recently. She stepped up to the starting side at the ground-breaking ceremony for the Clarke Creek Wind Farm. This is a project that the bookies are backing because it means 350 construction jobs and power for almost a quarter of a million homes. There is a reason Andrew Forrest is padding up and building cheap renewable energy and manufacturing here in Central Queensland: he knows that this government is serious about a long innings.

It is not just wind farms scoring runs in job creation for our state: the selectors have the Central Queensland hydrogen industry in the rep side too. I acknowledge my teammate the Minister for Training and Skills Development. She has been at the other end of the pitch. Together we have been at the crease in a partnership that has delivered the nation's first workforce development plan for the hydrogen industry.

While we have a class A job-creating team on this side boldly led by the Premier, now in her seventh season as captain, all we see from those opposite is play that is just not cricket. If you have ever seen John Howard or New South Wales Premier Dominic Perrottet bowl you would know why. I invite everyone to do yourself a favour and search for 'Dominic Perrottet bowling'. If it is not underarm laptop lies they are trying bodyline tactics, serving up the kind of nuclear powered bouncers that will increase power bills so much they would even clear the wicketkeeper. While everything is going up, including your mortgage, fuel and groceries, the LNP wants to run themselves out and build the most expensive form of power we know. We know that when it comes to cleaner, cheaper energy and more jobs it is only Labor that puts in the hard yards and turns up ready to play.

Weapons Licensing

Mr DAMETTO: My question is to the Minister for Police. Firearm dealers across Queensland risk closure and the industry is on the verge of collapse due to unacceptable permit to acquire wait times which have blown out from 13 days to 50 days. Will the minister accept that the Weapons Licensing Branch lacks the capacity to process PTAs in a reasonable time and will he make the House aware of what he is doing to rectify this?

Mr RYAN: We have a very robust weapons licensing regime in Queensland because it is about community safety—

Mr Dametto interjected.

Mr RYAN: I have not even started the answer.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Hinchinbrook, you asked the question. The minister is responding to your question.

Mr RYAN: It is a regime that gets the balance right between recognising there is a genuine need in certain instances for people to have firearms for occupational or recreational purposes but also keeping the community safe by ensuring that only people who will be responsible with firearms have access to firearms. The Queensland Police Service takes that role very seriously because if they get it wrong there can be significant consequences for community safety. The Weapons Licensing Branch has been working very hard in recent years particularly because of the impacts of COVID-19 on not only the workforce but also being able to process applications that are received by the Weapons Licensing Branch. We have seen a general increase in the number of people applying for weapons licences as well as permits to acquire.

I am not sure whether the member has had the opportunity to study the budget papers that were handed down only two months ago, but there is a specific reference to boosting resources to the Weapons Licensing Branch. There is a reference in the budget to enhancing the resources of the Weapons Licensing Branch, increasing the number of staff at the Weapons Licensing Branch to ensure that processing times can be managed within appropriate, responsible and reasonable processing expectations of the community. What has also been highlighted in the budget papers—it does not take much to read them; you just open them up and look to the Queensland Police Service page—is a commitment around implementing a digitised weapons licensing management system which will support not only the processing of weapons licences but also the accuracy of applications being put forward by members of the public who are seeking a weapons licence or a permit to acquire.

These are very serious matters. The Queensland Police Service takes it very seriously and the government takes it seriously. We have strong weapons laws. We also have resources that are being provided to the Queensland Police Service to assist them in the work they do. I am very pleased to be working alongside my weapons licensing advisory forum. In fact, we had a meeting only a couple of weeks ago where key stakeholders from across the weapons stakeholder community come together and provide feedback around how things are going. The Queensland Police Service works very closely with them to ensure we have an optimal system that keeps Queenslanders safe.

Containers for Change

Ms BUSH: My question is to the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs. Can the minister update the House on the success of the Palaszczuk government's Containers for Change scheme?

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members. I want my 10 cents worth as well.

Ms SCANLON: I thank the member for Cooper for the important question. I am pleased to update the House that in the Cooper electorate more than six million containers have been returned to date through our refund facilities. Across Queensland six billion containers have been returned, which is fantastic. Queenslanders love this scheme because it is run by small local businesses, it protects our environment and it creates good jobs. That is why it was so bizarre yesterday for the new member for Callide to come in here in his first speech and attack the Containers for Change scheme.

Ms Pugh: Who does that?

Ms SCANLON: I take the member's interjection. Who does that? This scheme is so popular that the Liberal National Party backed it—or so we thought at the time. I thought it would be helpful to put on the record for the member for Callide how this program has benefitted his community. The Callide electorate has 15 container refund facilities, which is the second highest in the state. These 15 small businesses support dozens of jobs. There have been 60 million containers returned in the Callide electorate alone. I have not heard of anyone dying while collecting them at this point. By attacking the scheme he is attacking those local businesses. I was interested—

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Members, there is too much background noise. I am barely able to hear the minister's contribution.

Ms SCANLON: The opposition leader showcased the new member for Callide on his Facebook page as a fresh young face of the LNP. If that is their strategy of winning over young voters, good luck to them. It was all just a bit weird. What was even weirder was the Leader of the Opposition completely dodging questions about the matter yesterday as to whether he supported his new member's position or not. He says he supports local businesses, yet his new member is attacking small businesses in his own electorate. He says he wants to deliver for the environment, but then he cannot even stand up for the most basic environmental programs. The Leader of the Opposition said in his budget reply speech—

... I ... give credit where it is due and so I place on the record my acknowledgement of the \$2.1 billion, 10-year transition strategy for the waste levy.

I place on the record my thanks for that endorsement from the Leader of the Opposition. Unfortunately, though, the member for Bonney has not got that memo either, because he comes into this House and talks down the scheme, which is no surprise given they turned Queensland into the dumping ground of the country. Those opposite continue to undermine environmental programs at every opportunity. They do not believe in renewable energy, Containers for Change or tree clearing laws that reduce emissions. It is only this side of the House that will protect our environment.

(Time expired)

Social Housing

Dr MacMAHON: My question is to the Minister for Housing. Regarding the government's pause to public housing privatisation after the sell-off of 295 public homes in the last 18 months, what will it take for the government to commit to a permanent end to privatising public housing?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. The premise of the member's question is incorrect. As I have said very clearly, a strategic asset management strategy has been in place for successive governments where the reinvestment of properties into building new properties has been a normal practice. We are trying to ensure that we are building the right types of dwellings to fit the kinds of needs that we are seeing from those who are seeking out support from the government.

This is quite remarkable coming from the member for South Brisbane, whose own party actively campaigned against some of the supports we put in place for those who were experiencing homelessness in the inner city of Brisbane during COVID. This is the same party that campaigned against any kind of housing development in the inner city of Brisbane. We have that kind of campaigning against any kind of dwelling and we have the member for Broadwater, who, as we have already heard from the Premier, opposed social housing dwellings when he was the deputy mayor and chair of the planning committee at Townsville City Council. He has never seen a social housing property that he wanted to have in his own area.

We have the Greens and the LNP on a unity ticket here. They are on a unity ticket when it comes to the way that we manage social housing in this state. They both oppose dwellings at different ends of the spectrum in this state for different reasons but it is the same outcome—fewer dwellings. We continue to ensure that we are managing our social housing stock in a way that is sensitive to the future.

Dr MacMahon interjected.

Ms ENOCH: I cannot possibly hear the interjections from the member for South Brisbane.

A government member interjected.

Ms ENOCH: I take that interjection. It appears they are actually campaigning for more houseboats.

We will continue to ensure that we are supporting the right mix of the types of social housing that we need to be able to meet the needs of those who are seeking support from the Queensland government—with more one- and two-bedroom properties to be able to support those who are in need. We will continue to do that through our record \$2.9 billion housing investment in Queensland.

Community Partnership Innovation Grants

Mr HARPER: My question is to the Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs. Will the minister provide an update on the Community Partnership Innovation Grants scheme?

Ms LINARD: I thank the member for the question and his ongoing advocacy on behalf of his community in respect of my portfolio. Like the member, as Minister for Youth Justice I am acutely aware of the complexity underlying youth offending and how important it is to work together to address its causes. Individuals, families and communities all play a critical role in preventing and reducing youth crime as local communities are often the first to see young people disengage—from education, from training and from prosocial behaviour in their communities.

As I have travelled throughout the state over the past two years, communities have told me they want to be a part of solutions to help vulnerable and disadvantaged young people in their local communities. Many have come forward with innovative ideas that they want to partner with government on. Earlier this year I announced a one-off \$1.4 million Community Partnership Innovation Grants funding round and invited the community to submit ideas for programs to prevent youth crime occurring in their communities. Many of these initiatives were already underway but they wanted support from government to be able to take those initiatives forward.

The response was very strong and we received 116 applications. Of this group, eight were successful and included initiatives such as funding youth workers to run an intensive six-month program post release from detention in Ipswich. The focus will be on helping First Nations young people to get into training and employment. That is not unlike the program that Life Without Barriers is delivering on the Gold Coast. I was there just last week launching that program with my colleague the Minister for the Environment.

Other grants that were successful included: elders assisting police to conduct cautions and provide support to young people and their families in Inala; culturally safe wraparound services and support for Pasifika young people and their families in Logan; and support for disengaged First Nations young people in Moreton Bay to get them into education, training and employment. One that would be of most interest to my colleague was a successful grant in Townsville where we are partnering with criminologist Dr Dodd, from the Australian Catholic University, and Associate Professor Luke Lawton, senior staff specialist in emergency medicine at Townsville University Hospital, someone who is very respected in your community.


Mr Stewart: Hear, hear!

Ms LINARD: I acknowledge the other members there as well—the member for Townsville and the member for Mundingburra. That grant will assist up to 15 at-risk teenagers who will be involved in the first cohort. It is about addressing risk-taking behaviours and diverting young people from those behaviours. They are just a few of the grants that were awarded. There was such a strong response, so in this budget we have allocated an additional \$3 million for these grants. I know communities across the state will be applying. Our government looks forward to partnering with them to continue to address youth offending across Queensland.

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

PRIVILEGE

Comments by Premier

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (11.18 am): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. During question time, the Premier made disparaging comments in response to a question from the member for Surfers Paradise about guests he and I hosted here last night. One of those guests was Tamika Smith. She was here to listen to a speech I was making about her efforts to build a house for the children of Kelly Wilkinson, a mum from my electorate allegedly murdered in a horrific domestic violence incident. I ask the Premier to apologise for the inference, and I take personal offence and ask for the comment to be withdrawn.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Bonney, it is difficult for you to take personal offence on behalf of another individual. However, due to convention, I will ask if the Premier will withdraw the comment. I do not believe this is a matter of privilege suddenly arising, but for the convention of the House I ask that it be withdrawn.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I withdraw.


Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Premier. I appreciate that.

TRADING (ALLOWABLE HOURS) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 17 August (see p. 2126), on motion of Ms Grace—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (11.19 am): I rise to speak to the Trading (Allowable Hours) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. Before I speak to the bill itself, I want to pay tribute to the retail workers across this state, many of whom have done it pretty tough over the last couple of years as they worked for businesses which might have been affected during lockdowns, even though we did so well in Queensland compared to other states. There were 263 days of lockdown in Melbourne and 107 days in Sydney. I honestly do not know how those workers coped with that. Nevertheless, there have been lockdowns, the effects of COVID, the effects of staff availability and therefore more pressure on workers and labour shortages in general.

I want to also call out some of the truly appalling stories that we are hearing too regularly—and I think all of us in this House hear them quite regularly in our own communities—of the way retail workers are treated by consumers. I was meeting with Dominique Lamb from the National Retail Association only yesterday and she expressed her extreme concern about it. I want to say thank you and job well done to all of those retail workers, and I am so sorry that you have to put up with that. Please know that you are appreciated in this House.

To every consumer out there, please be kind and please go out of your way to be kind at this moment. Of course, that appreciation goes out in spades to Queensland's small businesses, who we know are the heart and soul of our local communities, many of whom have also done it tough. I want to talk a little bit later about some of those small and independent retailers who play a particularly important role in our communities.

Supporting small business has been front and centre of the Palaszczuk government's \$15.2 billion economic recovery plan. We have allocated \$2.5 billion to supporting small businesses since the beginning of COVID and that has included significant reforms around reducing red tape with

the establishment of the Queensland Small Business Commissioner through our small business friendly councils. We have 33 of those currently signed up, there are another eight in the wings, and I think we are talking to another seven. We have our SME procurement target. We have our Business Launchpad, which has helped more than 18,600 users in the food and beverage and residential construction industries and is now covering every local government in Queensland—and there is more news to come about that.

I was listening to some of the contributions from the member for Buderim yesterday talking about red tape. It is interesting: the last CCIQ Pulse Survey, before the LNP lost government in the last term, showed that businesses felt that red tape had actually gone up in the time they were in government and felt very let down by the rhetoric that in fact it was never delivered on. It is always interesting to hear the member for Buderim talk about small businesses as if somehow the LNP is the champion for it. I do see him at press conferences: 'Blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, terrible, terrible, terrible, some bad story, bad story.' It would not matter what you did; you could give every business \$50 million and there would be something bad about it, if you listen to the member for Buderim.

The cold, hard facts are that the LNP simply does not care about small business. When it comes to the big-picture announcement, when it comes to going to the election and their priorities as an alternative government, you do not hear any mention whatsoever—

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Order, member for Buderim!

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock! Member for Buderim, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms FARMER: In the budget reply speeches, which are supposed to lay out the priorities of the alternative government, there was not a mention of small business this year and not a mention of small business last year, so he can go on all he wants but the fact is that the LNP do not care about small business and he just does not have enough pull in that shadow cabinet to make them even think about.

Talking about red tape, this bill is just about that. I know from talking to small businesses and our key stakeholders like the CCIQ that small businesses need certainty. There are things about COVID and the vagaries of COVID and what it has inflicted on us—and really all around the world—that have meant that certainty is in short supply. However, it is certainly something that this bill can go towards addressing. It is talking about giving more confidence to Queensland retailers, workers and consumers by making sure we have consistent and stable trading hours.

It builds on those landmark red-tape-reduction reforms which were made by the Palaszczuk Labor government to modernise and streamline our trading hours laws in 2017. I really want to praise the minister, who has been absolutely diligent and purposeful since that time to make sure that that giant jigsaw puzzle and maze that was trading hours in Queensland could be addressed. She made significant reform in 2017 and promised that there would be a review, and in fact that is exactly what has happened.

I was very pleased to see that the Education, Employment and Training Committee confirmed that those reports in fact had provided those consistent and stable trading hours arrangements for our Queensland small businesses. Although they said there was no need for radical deregulation as a result of the inquiry, they obviously did identify some opportunities to further streamline and simplify Queensland trading hours, and I welcome their recommendations. The government has accepted all nine of the committee's recommendations in full or in principle. It is another example of this government listening to business and listening to what they need in order to cut red tape and regulation by reducing complexity.

I want to talk about some of those things, including reducing the number of core trading hours for non-exempt shops. It will be easier in the future to apply for orders from the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission. We have cut down the core trading hours areas from five to four. We have those areas which were formerly classified as tourist areas—this includes our fabulous retail businesses in New Farm, the Gold Coast tourist area, Pacific Fair Shopping Centre, Cairns CBD, Hamilton North Shore and the Great Barrier Reef Wonderland tourist complex, to mention a few—which will now be classified as type 1 trading areas. I note the inclusion of the Mossman and Port Douglas tourist areas.

I want to acknowledge the fantastic meetings I have been involved in with the Port Douglas businesses. We are very aware of their really quite specific situation there. I was really pleased to see that the committee specifically went to what the situation was for them and that they are going to be


included as a type 1 classification after a 12-month moratorium. I really want to call out those businesses and say how impressed I am with the way they work, and also the mayor, the council and the local chamber. They are doing a great job. They have that unique status that they, with any and all retailers in the area, are able to open any time of the day or night, any day of the year. That is great for a big multinational company, but the small and family tourism retailers are really hard pressed to stay open.

The area classification formerly referred to as the South-East Queensland areas will now be classified as type 2. The classification formerly referred to as schedule 1AB will now be referred to as the type 3 trading area. The type 4 trading area classification combines what was formerly classified as seaside resort and other area categories. I acknowledge that that will simplify things for a lot of businesses.

We have the special events declarations continuing under the bill. I know how important that is, particularly in some of our regional centres for special events. In the short time left available, I did want to talk about the bill containing provisions to protect the employees who work in small businesses when a special event declaration applies. As it should be, employees will have the right to choose to work and not feel pressured to work the extended hours. I am confident that the majority of our small businesses are really conscious of the need to provide a positive work environment to retain their valuable workers and would genuinely consult and negotiate voluntary agreements. The SDA made a submission about this, saying that trading hours are effective to protect the work-life balance of retail workers and the impact this has on their families and adequately support consumer needs for in-store trading, noting online shopping is available 24/7. It is widely recognised that a reasonable work-life balance is essential, and the NRA was making those submissions.

Before I finish, I want to especially call out some of those stores which belong to the Master Grocers Association. Thank you for the advocacy of that organisation and for their stores which go above and beyond for their local communities, particularly during COVID, but play such an important role. I wish to mention the Molloy Road independent store and the Morningside IGA particularly. I commend the bill to the House.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Before I call the next speaker, I remind honourable members that the following members are on a warning under the standing orders: the members for Chatsworth, Broadwater, Everton, Maroochydore, Nanango, Bonney and Buderim.

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (11.30 am): I rise to give my contribution to the Trading (Allowable Hours) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. Firstly, I thank my committee, the Education, Employment and Training Committee, which took the time to get out there: our chair, the member for Redlands; the deputy chair, the member for Southern Downs; along with the members for Rockhampton, Theodore and Stafford.

We were able to travel and hold the inquiry into allowable trading hours. It took us to all parts of Queensland. We heard from people in Brisbane, but we also travelled all the way up to places like Mossman and Cairns and west to Mount Isa. It was great, especially because this was one of the first times we were able to travel as a committee post COVID. I think it was important we did so because we had an opportunity to talk to regional Queensland. I remember talking to the member for Theodore afterwards and he said it was great to hear what it was like for these businesses in North Queensland. A lot of the time in regional Queensland we complain about not having our voice heard, but this was done really well this time. I say well done to the committee and to those who organised the committee travel.

The bill seeks to implement recommendations made by our committee and followed on from the inquiry into the operation of the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990. Overall, the committee found that the act operates effectively to regulate the trading hours and agreed that the reforms made in 2017 provided consistency and stability to trading arrangements for the retail sector. There were also some recommendations made by the committee. I will put on record that I believe I was the only one to put in a statement of reservation.

Ms Richards: Thanks for putting one in.

Mr DAMETTO: We did so because the KAP felt very strongly about it, and I will get to that in a moment.

Ms Boyd: It actually made sense.

Mr DAMETTO: I take that interjection.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr DAMETTO: I will not take the next one, though, because I have to get on with the speech.

One of the recommendations was to streamline the categories of core trading hours for non-exempt shops by reducing the number of categories from five to four and recategorising the Mossman and Port Douglas tourism area. The KAP will oppose this amendment. Yesterday the member for Traeger circulated some amendments and they will be introduced during consideration in detail. We oppose this amendment because of the reduction in the number of categories from five to four, which will by default open up public holiday trading for big corporates in Queensland communities, especially in rural and regional towns.

Another recommendation was to clarify special events declarations made by the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission which exempt all shops in a stated area from trading hours restrictions, including to provide clear guidance on the matters the QIRC must have regard to. This will be supported by the KAP. There was also a recommendation to clarify that the power of the QIRC to make orders for non-exempt shops is limited to determining the category of core trading hours that should apply to a particular location and to determining definitions and boundaries of such locations. We will also support this recommendation of the committee.

Separate to the trading hours laws, another part of the bill amends the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006. We will not be opposing this. There is no reason we should.

We should ensure that when we are writing legislation in Queensland and creating regulation we keep in mind our small and medium-sized businesses. They are the backbone of our small regional towns; they are the backbone of Queensland. This state was built on their back. We also need to protect them because they are part of the social fabric, especially of our regional towns. Those retailers give our towns their identity and a sense of difference to the place down the road. I love the Paul Kelly song that talks about every city feeling the same, or words similar to that; I will not use unparliamentary language. The fact is that a lot of big cities around the country all look the same now. Most cities have the same large department stores on every corner and every shopping centre has exactly the same layout. In regional towns the corner store, the deli, the little cafe, the IGA, the greengrocer and those sorts of places give our towns their identity. I think we should be doing a lot more to protect them.


We would like to see the towns further protected. We see that the moratorium is to be extended for 12 months. I must say that is not long enough. We have had the five-year moratorium, and I applaud the Labor government for that. The KAP lobbied hard to make sure that five-year moratorium was put in place initially. However, we have to remember we have had to deal with COVID during this time and there were large disruptions to the market which I believe have hurt small businesses more than anyone else. We know small businesses have adapted, but so have the large duopoly supermarket chains, although we do acknowledge there is a third player in the market now.

We need to understand that those big corporates have the opportunity to move quickly as the market shifts. Click and collect has been one such thing. Automated tellers and those sorts of things not only eroded jobs but also put the big corporates at an advantage when it came to the smaller greengrocers, the IGAs and others that are represented by the Master Grocers Association. Their ability to move quickly has given them an unfair advantage during COVID and I think that needs to be considered when we come to the consideration in detail and the amendments that the member for Traeger has circulated. Let's have a good think about whether or not those small businesses should be afforded a little bit more support going into the next five years. I think they should. It would be hard for anyone to argue against that, and I would like to hear the debate if we get to that point.

We also heard from the IGAs. We talked to a number of our local IGAs not only in the Townsville area but also across Queensland to gain an understanding of the support they give to small and local charities and sporting clubs. We also heard in depth about the extra staff they put on compared to the big supermarket giants and what that means for the local community—the young people looking for a job, the ability of older people to get a night-packing job and those sorts of things—as well as the way they support their communities.

I must make it clear that we did hear opposition to keeping the moratorium in place. I asked people to put themselves in the place of those smaller businesses that may have to close down due to being made to open longer, just for the sake of convenience. I know it is a very broad question to ask. That is why I hate yes/no questions, because the issue is more in depth than that. If we ask someone, 'Would you like better convenience? Would you like your shopping centres to be open longer?', of course they are going to say yes. Who does not want more convenience? However, if we ask a longer question or one with a preamble such as, 'Would you like these conveniences at the cost of small businesses and your local charities or local small sporting clubs missing out on future sponsorship?', I think the answer would be slightly different. That needs to be taken into consideration here.

I once again thank the committee. I thank those who were able to give evidence. I thank those from the community who came forward and told us their stories and also those who spoke against the moratorium. Their voice is important and they were heard. I look forward to the consideration in detail.

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (11.38 am): I rise to speak in support of the Trading (Allowable Hours) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. Small retail businesses are the backbone of the Queensland economy. As the committee report outlined, in 2020 Queensland's retail industry generated more than \$73 billion and employed almost 270,000 people, making it the second largest employer in the state behind health care.

We know that many retailers have struggled during the last 2½ years since COVID. When we look back on that time it was not only our frontline health workers—and obviously we want to sing out to them and also our police, who did such an amazing job—but those retail businesses and retail workers who were some of the hardest hit during the pandemic. As we all know, they are more likely to be young, to be under casual contracts and were often the first to lose their jobs across different industries. However, they were also the very people that we really depended on to make sure the shelves were stacked and we had food in our homes. I acknowledge and give my sincere thanks to those in my electorate of Nudgee who did a great job in times of significant stress.

We have seen that our retail sector is resilient and strong. Trade turnover has increased by nearly 12 per cent since June 2021, surpassing its pre-COVID level. Not only has the pandemic significantly impacted small and retail businesses and business generally; the floods further exacerbated pain in our small business sector. Nowhere was this more keenly felt than in my own electorate of Nudgee, with the inundation and recently announced closure of Toombul Shopping Centre. If I pause for a moment in respect of Toombul, there are so many people who have a story of Toombul. It was not just a shopping centre and it was not just retailers; these were often northside locals who owned these small businesses—and let's not even stop to think about how many people lost their jobs in those local businesses. Many of us had a story, and so many members in this chamber from very different areas across the state have shared those stories with me. It was where I started my first job at the Toombul McDonald's as a 14-year-old in grade 9, where I learned to work hard. 'Time to lean? It's time to clean' and 'You're on; you're it'—these policies are as relevant at 41 as they are at 14.

I want to acknowledge the businesses that have been reaching out and talking to me about that devastation. I will mention just a few: Function Well, Natasha and Darren Bain; John from Priceline; Antica Home; ProfessioNAIL; delightful Jim from Hairhouse Warehouse; McDonald's Toombul and Nick, the franchise owner; Toombul Barber; Home & Her—these are all businesses that have ongoing concerns and are talking to Mirvac. They have my ongoing support as they seek to re-establish, and those conversations are ongoing. I give my heartfelt callout to them.

Mr Hinchliffe: Great work of the local member.

Ms LINARD: Thank you. I take the interjection from my colleague the member for Sandgate, whose community was similarly affected as they often visited this centre. It was a place of safety for many as well as for ongoing trade.

In respect of the bill, it was our government who in 2017 amended the trading hours act. This landmark reform modernised our previously complex trading hours laws. It helped simplify the process of running a business. Through extensive consultation with industry and stakeholders, the number of trading hours zones across Queensland was reduced from 99 to 12. I acknowledge all of the committee members who, under the excellent leadership of the member for Redlands, did a great job. I thank all of the stakeholders who came forward. The committee received evidence and feedback that the moratoriums and amendments to the act made in 2017 have provided consistent and stable trading arrangements for the retail sector as a whole as well as for individual businesses, workers and consumers. While the act is operating well to regulate trading hours arrangements, the committee identified some areas where it believes that provisions can be improved. They made nine recommendations in this regard and I acknowledge that the government accepted all of those recommendations.

The retail businesses in my electorate of Nudgee fall under a type 2 trading area. Under the type 2 classification the opening hours will remain 7 am to 9 pm, Monday to Saturday and 9 am to 6 pm on Sundays and public holidays. That provides ongoing confidence and certainty. Confidence and certainty for the retail and small business sector is crucial, and that is what this bill delivers. It is a demonstration of how our government delivers practical reforms in the interests of businesses, workers and communities. That process requires ongoing listening and consulting. It is something we have always done and something we will continue to do. Ongoing engagement with local business owners

is the role of any local member worth their salt. It is something that I value highly in my own community. Each year I hold a significant small business breakfast. It grows every year, which I think is a representation of the fact that business wants to engage. They want to be at the table and they really appreciate the opportunity when you show your willingness.

Recently it was wonderful to visit Wavell Heights Gourmet Meats in my own community. They have just extended and had an opening. As a local member, when you get an email and a shout-out saying, 'Leanne, we know that you support our local community. We would like you to attend our open day,' it is always a privilege to be part of a business's growth, when you see them doing well, particularly after such a difficult time. It was lovely to drop out there. They of course fed me well—as these beautiful businesses do.

I have covered the business The Closet with Louisa Forrester in my social media. They are doing innovative things on our community. They reached out and said, 'Would you come and look at what we are doing and see if it is of interest?' Now they have become better known through amplifying what they are providing. It is lovely that a number of members have visited them as well.

Zillmere opened a new laundromat. I know that some might think that is a small thing, but it is not a small thing to have another business there. I do a lot of these visits together with my colleague the member for Sandgate. That laundromat is leaning into the community, to support them in a number of different initiatives. I give them a shout-out, too. I make mention that I have started doing small business awards.

Ms Pugh: It is a great idea!


Ms LINARD: Thank you. I take that interjection from my colleague, who knows that that great idea came from the outstanding campaigns that the member for Mount Ommaney and the member for Bulimba do every year. We started that in my electorate of Nudgee because we wanted those businesses to know that the community supports and loves them and that the community will continue to support them during difficult times. There were tens of thousands of votes and lots of engagement on social media posts when we were giving them shout-outs about what they do. It was an extraordinary representation that communities feel that they own these local businesses and that they are part of the stories of local businesses. Very often these local business owners are local families. I will do that again this year, and I am sure it will be even bigger than last year.

In the time I have left I mention P&Cs. I am sure every parent in this chamber will agree that our lives are busy—the juggle is complex. I note in the committee report the advice from P&Cs Qld that the use of video technology to conduct meetings during COVID was welcomed. I hope it will lead to the participation of more parents in P&C meetings. It will certainly be welcomed by P&Cs in my electorate. I love going to P&C meetings. I think sometimes they think I am mad, but I enjoy them. I like hearing about the tuckshop reports, the swim club reports and the uniform reports—

Mr McDonald: What is the best food they serve?

Ms LINARD: I will take that interjection and give you a shout-out for your community. I love attending those meetings because, of course, we engage with our principals—our principals and teachers do an amazing job—but when you go to a P&C you get to see the culture and the heart of a school, because that is where the mums and the dads are. The principal is at the table, but as a local member you also get to say, 'I can help with that' and 'You might not know I could help with that but also our federal colleague could help with that', or 'direct that to the council'.

I do spend quite a lot of time with my P&Cs. I was with Northgate State School P&C last week and Earnshaw State College the week before. It is always nicer to be in the room. I acknowledge that we are all loving being back in a room together. I think it is important to acknowledge that some parents cannot be in the room and they should be empowered to be a part of those meetings. There is an amazing outreach of volunteering from busy parents who are really leaning in and investing in local schools. I give a shout-out to every active parent in these P&Cs who does it for these beautiful young people in our schools and wants to see them succeed. On that note, I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (11.48 am): I rise to make a contribution to the Trading (Allowable Hours) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The committee has worked on the issue of allowable trading hours for quite some time. We travelled to different areas throughout Queensland to consult with small business owners. The situation in the regions is very different to South-East Queensland. In South-East Queensland we are lucky to have an economy of scale with our mass of population. Through COVID that insulated us to a reasonable degree in a lot of areas. In my neck of the woods on the northern Gold Coast, that certainly was the case.

When we went travelling throughout Queensland we found that a lot of other areas were not so lucky. The committee went to Cairns and Mossman. The member for Southern Downs and I went for a walk around the shops and spoke to a fair few business owners in Cairns, and during the COVID period they suffered terribly.

Mr Stevens: They're still suffering.

Mr BOOTHMAN: Yes, I take that interjection. It was certainly a very tough time for those businesses and we do need to take that into account when considering this legislation and the moratorium itself in that they did not have enough time to make the contemplated adjustments. We also need to take into consideration the evolution of the internet, so to speak. Many people now do 24-hour shopping on the internet and that is having a direct impact on those businesses, especially in Cairns but in South-East Queensland as well.

When we were in Cairns the member for Southern Downs and I went to a lovely little cafe and spoke to someone there. We asked him what he thought about changing the trading hours in the Cairns area. He said that they are having enough trouble getting enough workers to fill the job vacancies in those areas and therefore he was very concerned about the impact additional trading hours would have. As he said, 'I work seven days a week. I'm worked off my feet. I have no life with my family.' This is one important aspect that this bill needs to address—that is, the work-life balance.

In places like Mount Isa there was a very good turn-up to the committee hearing. The member for Southern Downs and I again went for a walk around the business precinct and spoke to a lady from the local bakery. Her comments were very interesting. She said that if the big end of town was allowed to open on Sundays it would kill her business because she gets a lot of tourist traffic coming through and they go to the Bakers Delight and support her business. It was one of her biggest days of the week and therefore that was her niche market.

I take my comments back to my electorate in the northern Gold Coast and my local SPAR, and this is my fear for these regional towns. As I say, in South-East Queensland we have the economies of scale and the masses of population. These more regional areas do not have this. As an example, Duncan and Grant who run my local SPAR at Oxenford work seven days a week. They have to. They reinvent their business regularly. They sell some of the best hot food anywhere on the northern Gold Coast—the greatest pies.

The Leader of the Opposition actually had a pie there after a press conference. This business, as I said, tries to reinvent itself regularly, but it still has the economies of scale and the population in the area to cater to. Places like Stanthorpe and Mount Isa do not have that. If we allowed the big end of town to open those additional hours on the extra day, that would crucify those businesses. That is the important part that we have to understand—that is, we have to give the small guy that little bit of help to fight back and remain viable.

One of the points I brought up in the committee process was mapping for the Gold Coast tourism area. I asked the department if it could make a visual map to make it easier for local retailers to understand where the tourism area ended, and I am thankful that the department did take that on board because it can be quite confusing and it is an issue that has come up previously in my office.


There are many other parts of the bill, and this is where I will get to supporting the Deputy Leader of the Opposition's amendments. Businesses are continuing to expand and we need to cater for the expansion of those businesses, so I support the amendment of the deputy leader in terms of the definition of an independent retail shop to be increased from 30 to 40 employees and from 100 to 150 employees for multiple shops. We need to give incentives to these individuals to expand their businesses and to create jobs in these local areas.

Very importantly, these local small businesses and independent retailers work hand in hand with our local community groups, and we have to remember that. As an example, my local Bakers Delight is supplying all of the bread rolls and all of the loaves of bread for this weekend's Guanaba Rural Fire Brigade open day. It is supporting its local community. It is willing to give back to the local community. We heard time and time again in Mount Isa, Townsville and all of the other places that these local businesses are more than happy to give back by sponsoring the local sporting teams, help the Lions clubs, help the Rotary clubs and help the rural fire brigades. Those businesses are really willing to do the grassroots on this; therefore, we need to encourage these businesses to expand further. I certainly do support the deputy leader's acknowledgement of this issue.

As we have been through a long COVID period I also support the deputy leader's amendment to increase the moratorium from one year to five years. It gives these businesses additional time to adjust and work out ways of combating the evolution of the internet, because a lot of these businesses are

struggling against the internet. As I said earlier, for places such as Cairns, having the COVID lockdown for a long period of time means that a lot of those businesses have not recovered in those areas, so it is very important that we get this right to ensure that there are no changes after 12 months. We need to ensure there is a good, long period where these businesses can have a chance to survive. It is critical that the House does support these amendments that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition will move.

I want to thank my fellow committee members and the secretariat staff for the excellent work that we did on this bill. Again, we do need to take into consideration what COVID has done and we need to ensure that there is a good period of time for a moratorium from one to five years.

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (11.57 am): I rise to speak in support of the Trading (Allowable Hours) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill which will support thousands of Queensland small businesses and their employees and volunteers along with school P&Cs across our great state. When we talk about good jobs, better services and protecting and enhancing our great Queensland lifestyle, this bill embodies all three of those elements.

The Queensland Industrial Relations Commission has had the power to make trading hours orders since 1964, and that power has continued since the introduction of the current act in 1990. The QIRC's power to make orders has been an integral part of ensuring Queensland's retail sector has modernised over the ensuing decades. For example, we had the introduction of Sunday trading. Whilst it has been responsive in keeping up with the modernisation of the small business framework here in Queensland and the expectations of the community, it has also led to some complexities over that time and over those decades and a degree of a lack of uniformity due to the range of multiple orders that have been issued over that time.

The QIRC's power to make those orders, both of its own volition and in response to properly made applications to it, definitely remains important and fundamental to addressing and responding to the changing needs of the community and to that of the retail sector with more flexible mechanisms than that of a legislative amendment. For example, the QIRC can exercise its power where the population demographics of a smaller town changes over time and grows, small business grows and it becomes a larger regional hub or, indeed, a tourist area.

We are certainly seeing more and more tourism growth here in Queensland. Queensland absolutely is the place to be. We have seen a huge increase in domestic tourism. I see the minister for tourism is in the House at the moment. I acknowledge the work that has been done which has seen a huge increase in domestic tourism in Queensland over the period of the pandemic. Since vaccination rates are up and we have been able to safely open our borders, we are seeing an increasing amount of international tourism returning to our shores and that is a wonderful thing.

The bill limits the QIRC's former ability to make more generalised trading hours orders and, consistent with the committee's inquiry recommendations, the QIRC will no longer be able to make orders which vary the core trading hours of trading areas set out in the legislation. Overall, importantly, it provides a more modern, uniform and streamlined approach for our local small businesses in our Bundamba community like our iconic Charlton's Fishing at Redbank, Uncle John's Bakehouse at Redbank Plains, Citiswiv Community Discount Pharmacy at Bundamba or the Dinmore Fruit Barn—where often I drop in to get fresh fruit and vegetables, and I highly recommend it to anybody who has the pleasure of coming to the Bundamba community—and, of course, our local Goodna Newsagency.

Our local small businesses in Bundamba, like small businesses throughout Queensland, have shown extreme resilience in response to the pandemic, but we have also had additional terrible challenges to meet with the floods in February of this year. After having to weather and respond to the pandemic, our local community was impacted by the floods. I want to make special mention of a local Redbank Plains business called Goodness Grazes, which stopped their operation for two weeks immediately after the flood and came down to Goodna, to ground zero, to the most impacted areas of Goodna, and set up a temporary marquee where they cooked for two weeks early in the morning until late at night. They put their business on hold so they could help flood victims and volunteers in the two weeks after the flood event. It was absolutely incredible and completely emblematic of the kind of local community spirit and local business community that we have in Bundamba.


I would now like to turn to some of the provisions in the bill that relate to workers in the retail sector and industrial protections. As previous speakers have, I want to place on record my thanks and acknowledgement of the outstanding work that our frontline retail heroes did during the pandemic. When we needed food during lockdowns, for example, we were able to go out and get the items that we needed from these frontline heroes who were out there at their own risk to help the rest of the community stay safe. This bill supports our workers by strengthening voluntary work protections for

employees and removing exemptions that applied if an employee is subject to an industrial agreement. As most retail employees are covered by an award, the bill implements the committee's recommendation to ensure that these offences consistently apply irrespective.

The bill amends the trading hours act to ensure that employees cannot be required to work in circumstances where a shop's trading hours are extended unless they have freely elected in writing to work during these extended hours. I think that is a real protection for our retail workers. The bill also prescribes a new offence to ensure that the small number of unscrupulous employers cannot coerce, harass, threaten or intimidate employees into working extended hours.

With the few remaining minutes that I have I will turn to the provisions in the bill that relate to our school P&Cs. They do wonderful work. I think every member in the House will acknowledge that. This bill supports our local schools by making some amendments to make permanent the temporary arrangements that were put in place during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Our teaching staff and our school communities had to react and provide education under the most difficult circumstances through the pandemic and they did that admirably.

The amendments in this bill will mean that our hardworking local P&Cs, like those from Redbank Plains State High School, Goodna State School and Ripley Valley State Secondary College, can conduct their meetings via online platforms like Teams and Zoom. That was a sensible temporary arrangement that was brought in as a result of the pandemic that should be made permanent. Importantly, these amendments support our busy parents and volunteers by improving the efficiency and effectiveness of their meetings and help those impacted by external factors like travel time, family commitments or, indeed, the impacts of natural disasters, which our local community knows all too well. As I said, this bill is all about providing more good jobs, great services and protecting and enhancing our Queensland lifestyle.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (12.07 pm): I rise to speak on the Trading (Allowable Hours) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. The primary objective is to implement recommendations of the Queensland parliament Education, Employment and Training Committee following its recent inquiry into the operation of the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990. Where I am from on the Gold Coast and many other tourism destinations in Queensland, with our beautiful warm weather and array of natural attractions, are highly desirable destinations for holiday-makers. Our southern friends in states such as Victoria, New South Wales and other states flock to my electorate of Surfers Paradise year round which continues to confirm the Gold Coast as one of Australia's favourite holiday destinations.

Our southern friends, typically from large metropolitan areas, are accustomed to extended trading hours as part of their daily routine, and it should therefore be understandable for tourist areas to support extended trading to cater for the expectations of visiting tourists. Following the deregulation of trading hours in my electorate, many businesses have benefited from extended hours of operation. Of course, it is much more complex in regional areas as to whether they would benefit from a similar trading environment. We have heard from the shadow minister, and the member for Theodore via the committee, about the effects of events over the last couple of years on small businesses throughout Queensland.

Whilst the committee recommendations aim to support extended trading, there are several points that need to be addressed. As the shadow minister, the member for Kawana, has pointed out, as the party for small business the LNP will: one, oppose committee recommendations 2, 7 and 9; two, move an amendment with respect to the proposed moratorium extension, committee recommendation 8, from one year to five years; and, three, move an amendment to the Act to change the definition of independent retail shop outlined in section 6 of the act so that the requisite threshold is 40 employees on the shop floor at any one time or 150 employees where a number of shops are operated throughout Queensland.


I am not a qualified tradie but, like many others, I enjoy a sausage when picking up my garden supplies on the weekend, and I welcome recommendation 3 that hardware shops be retained in the Act without amendment. I note with concern that almost \$2 million was spent on the Tradies in Paradise scheme but that only two qualified tradespeople took up the offer. More importantly, more than two years after the pandemic many businesses are still struggling to survive, many have not survived and, as we have heard, many are working seven days a week, 24 hours a day just to keep their doors open.

Stakeholder groups have raised concerns should recommendations 2, 7 and 9 be adopted. The Master Grocers Australia foresees that many small and family owned community food and grocery retailers in Queensland will have to cease operations. Other stakeholder groups, including the IGA Queensland and Northern New South Wales Board, want a five-year extension to the two existing

moratoria, as opposed to the bill's 12-month proposal. Whilst thankfully in my electorate the IGA in Surfers Paradise and Sorrento have made it through the pandemic, countless rural and regional businesses have not made it through because of this state Labor government's regulation. As we all know, this state government is terrible at consulting, and the lack of action over the past two years has left small and family businesses with nothing but more uncertainty.

Whilst the LNP generally supports the committee report recommendations, the red tape that this state government refuses to remove and imposes on small and family businesses continues to affect business growth and economic growth and damages the international competitiveness of Australia's economy. The 2021 Chamber of Commerce and Industry red-tape survey confirms that the burden of red tape has intensified and continues to adversely impact Queensland businesses. Eighty-eight per cent of Queensland businesses confirmed they experienced moderate to major impacts from government regulation, which is up from 72 per cent four years ago according to the 2017 survey.

I would like to thank the committee chair, members of the committee and the secretariat for their work in producing the report. Whilst Queensland continues to emerge from the COVID pandemic of the past two years, the state government needs to listen to small and family businesses and support them to be more competitive at this critical juncture.

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (12.12 pm): Today I rise to contribute to the debate on the Trading (Allowable Hours) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, which is a bill for an act to streamline Queensland's existing trading hours arrangements. The bill also clarifies the scope of decision-making powers for the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission and extends two current trading hours transitional arrangement moratoriums until 31 August next year to provide certainty and stability for the retail industry.

Finally, the bill includes minor amendments to two education acts to extend the use of communication technology for attendance at meetings, such as Queensland College of Teachers' investigations and P&C associations. I know that over the past couple of years we have all become a lot more familiar with communication technology such as Zoom, Webex and Teams. I acknowledge the important role it can play to increase participation in a whole range of sectors such as health and education, particularly in regional areas. I appreciate Zoom myself. It was the only way I was able to attend three P&C meetings in one night, even in an electorate the size of mine.

Many of us on this side of the chamber will already know a bit about Queensland trading hours, having fought to make sure they are fair for workers. For anyone not familiar with it, I will start with a bit of background on our system in the Sunshine State. Firstly, we have two broad categories of business when it comes to trading hours: exempt shops and non-exempt shops. Exempt shops have unrestricted trading hours and examples include bakeries, butchers, chemists, fruit and vegetables—I got them wrong; it should be butchers and bakers—hairdressers, news agencies, nurseries for plants, service stations, sporting goods, tobacconists and toy shops. Those shops do not have to open all hours every day just because they can. I have never seen a 24-hour plant nursery or toy shop, but maybe there are; I do not know. There is a subclass of exempt shops—independent retail shops—where trading restrictions apply for Good Friday, Christmas Day and Anzac Day. However, there is a limit to the number of workers on shift that shops in this category can have to qualify.

Non-exempt shops include large retailers such as supermarkets, department stores and hardware shops as well as car and caravan dealers. Non-exempt shops are divided into four categories or areas to determine their trading hours: the South-East Queensland area, a defined tourist area, a seaside resort area and a schedule 1AB area for places that had public holiday and Sunday trading prior to the changes we legislated in 2017. Each area has its own core trading hours, which can be found online at www.business.qld.gov.au, for anyone keen to have a look. Within those areas, non-exempt hardware shops have their own schedule, as do car and caravan dealers. All non-exempt shops are closed on Good Friday, Anzac Day and Labour Day—Labour Day is the first Monday in May, for the benefit of anyone who is not aware—and Christmas Day.

In recognition that one size does not always fit all, the QIRC also has the power to make special event declarations to allow non-exempt shops in a stated area to trade outside their usual allowable hours. To ensure consistency across the state, this bill sets out factors that the Industrial Relations Commission must consider in making a declaration, namely: whether the event is unique or infrequent and of local, state or national significance, including any potential contribution to Queensland's national or international reputation; whether the need exists for longer trading hours for non-exempt shops; geographical factors; and attendance numbers predicted for the event.

As an example, and I know this will excite many, the Kingaroy BaconFest is on this weekend. Non-exempt shops will be allowed to trade longer hours to cater for significant visitor demand—

Mrs Frecklington: I hope you're coming out.

Mr KING: I will get to that—under a special event declaration for this unique and locally significant event. I am sure everyone will have a great time and that BaconFest will do Queensland proud. Sadly, member for Nanango—through the Speaker—I cannot attend BaconFest. I will be at the Leyburn Sprints, representing the minister, which is not too far away.

Importantly, this bill also strengthens the rights of workers to not have to work extended hours unless they voluntarily choose to do so in the event of a special event declaration. To make sure the message about workers' rights is clear, the bill introduces an offence for employers who seek to coerce or bully employees into working extra days or longer hours. I note that the opposition members of the parliamentary committee for education, employment and training which inquired into this bill have expressed support for these protections in their statement of reservation—which is basically a statement of support—citing family and caring responsibilities as one of the reasons that extra work hours may be undesirable or unworkable for employees.

I would remark briefly that it would have been good to have their support when we were fighting other legislation such as WorkChoices on the national stage back in the 1990s. Unfair work choices legislation impacted horribly on many workers who could not balance employer demands and threats of dismissal with their family responsibilities. As a matter of fact, the 'Your rights at work' campaign opposing WorkChoices was one of the catalysts that led me to run for election to this parliament.

It would be remiss of me to speak on a bill that touches on workers' rights without recognising the tremendous achievements of the mighty union movement over the years. Those achievements include workplace health and safety, the eight-hour day, the minimum wage, equal pay, superannuation and fair compensation for working on public holidays. I know a lot of families are looking forward to the newly elected Albanese government's changes to conditions in the aged-care sector and cheaper child care. Those are all achievements that Labor stood up for alongside the union movement. I am very supportive of worker protections and I think everyone here knows that.

I am also supportive of the amendments that rename the categories or areas of non-exempt shops that I mentioned before to become type 1, 2, 3 and 4 trading areas. I am sure that the inclusion of the Mossman and Port Douglas tourist areas, along with other similar tourist areas in the new type 1 category with longer core trading hours, will make the member for Cook happy as well as many visitors to that region.

I note that the parliamentary committee for education, employment and training, chaired by my colleague the member for Redlands—who I have to say is probably the second best chair in this place, although I do not want to upset anyone—conducted extensive public consultation and heard from many stakeholders representing both workers and businesses during the inquiry into this bill. I note the general consensus that the 2017 amendments to Queensland's trading hours have been working well and this bill enhances and clarifies those changes. This bill provides further stability for small business, employees and consumers as we continue to recover from a very difficult couple of years. I commend the bill to the House.



Mrs FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (12.19 pm): It gives me great pleasure to rise to contribute to the Trading (Allowable Hours) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I must start by talking about the mighty Kingaroy BaconFest festival that will be on this weekend. It is so exciting. This is one of the biggest events that ever gets held in Kingaroy. Quite frankly, a couple of years ago when the first BaconFest happened so many people came that the food vendors ran out of food by about 10 o'clock in the morning. It did not matter; we got more food into town—

Ms Grace: We are talking bacon!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection from the education minister: we are talking bacon. There is bacon everywhere. Right now, all the light posts and poles around Kingaroy have banners of bacon on them. Jason and I are so excited for this weekend. We have the aptly named Wine and Swine—we are heading out to the drinks—on Friday night.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Order, members. I know that bacon is exciting, but let's hear the member's contribution.

Ms Grace: We love bacon.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: We do love bacon. That is why this bill is so important: it allows shops to open while festivals such as BaconFest are on. That is why it is important that I tell the House—and, as some members here say, the couple of people actually watching online—about BaconFest, because

people may be thinking, 'What AM I going to do this weekend?' They should come along to Kingaroy, to the mighty BaconFest! People may not realise that BaconFest also hosts the Australasian BBQ Alliance sanctioned SunPork Smoke Off competition. It is huge. It is a massive event.

On Sunday morning, Jason and I will be enjoying the long table breakfast—of course eating a bit more bacon! If that is not your idea of a 'crackling' good time, I am not sure what is! I expect to see everyone in this House head out to the South Burnett. It will be wonderful to have so many people back, and back to the shops that will be allowed to open because of the trading allowable hours bill.

It is important that we get to the nub of what we are talking about here. It is important to reflect in this House that we did talk about this bill five years ago, in 2017. At that time I spoke on the then bill in support of all of my local small independent grocers, hardware stores and motor dealers who had come to the opposition to find support when the extension of trading hours was proposed by the Labor government. It was flawed legislation. I note that it would have seriously impacted my regional traders. That has been said by many people in this House today. Ultimately, at the end of that bill—after, I think, 32 amendments—we had a five-year moratorium on trading hours which has provided relief for those small and independent retailers. It has given them breathing space and an ability to plan, invest in and grow their business.

I want to give a shout-out to the communities of Esk and Toogoolawah. Using locals, the local Esk co-op board is investing over \$2 million into building the brand new Esk IGA. I know that Tania Lukvitz, who manages that, has been very pleasantly surprised at how the community has worked together whilst this building is going ahead. It meant the loss of our local butcher—Darren Ebert and his family closed their shop—to make way for the building; however, this building is a wonderful addition to the town. It is a small, community-run IGA through the co-op and it is just so vitally important. To think that one of the big majors could come in and open whenever they wanted would be devastating to that business. I know that community-run board works extremely hard to run not only the Esk IGA but also the Toogoolawah IGA and the hardware shops in both Esk and Toogoolawah. They are fantastic shops—as all of my small, independent grocers are.

It is important that they get to compete. People will say that the big guys employ people as well. Of course they do, but in my community of Kingaroy it is wonderful to support the IGA that is able to be open on a Sunday. They employ the local kids. More than that, they support local businesses and community groups and sponsor things like BaconFest and sporting groups like the mighty Red Ants and the Murgon Mustangs. Local businesses are the ones that support those community groups and sporting clubs. It is important that we give them a break.

We have heard here about butchers and bakers—that was a nod to that 'Butcher' over there. It is the local bakers who actually provide the buns. I mention as an example the Burrandowan races. It poured with rain all day, but I did find some shelter by working in the bar. The Burrandowan races was a fabulous day. For events such as that, where do the buns and the meat come from? They come from our local—whether it is the little butcher in Kingaroy, the Windmill Bakery in that Kingaroy shop or the baker attached to the IGA. It is important in these regional towns that we continue to support the trading hours that are there to ensure these small traders and retailers can continue and do not get taken over by the big guys. That is something that is important.

We have heard of the issues around that mammoth hardware store that goes into regions. I have even had the small op-shops say that their trade goes down as soon as that mammoth hardware store comes into a town because people go there and just buy cheap stuff. It means that people are not shopping in those smaller, local-run shops. It is important that we consider it.


It is also important to note that my local chambers of commerce, both Murgon and Kingaroy, have at various times spoken to me about the importance of making sure that we are supporting these local businesses, because it is those local businesses that end up being the volunteers into those chambers of commerce as well. It is important that regional members—and all members in this House—support our local businesses.

I will talk about the changes in this legislation that allow P&Cs to meet online. That is fantastic. We know that COVID has changed the way that people meet. To make that amendment to enable online P&C meetings certainly goes a long way to making sure our P&Cs can continue functioning. There are way too many P&Cs in my patch for me to give a shout-out to; I have almost 50 P&Cs across my electorate. It is important that we continue to support them, because it is those P&C mums and dads who shop local, buy local and support all those local shops.

I again encourage everyone to support the South Burnett and support BaconFest. We expect that it will be bigger and better. We will eat more bacon. There is a bacon-eating contest. Kevin Bacon actually did a livestream video for BaconFest. How good is that? We have cut-out posters of

Kevin Bacon around town as well. We also have a Bacon Man. Bring your kids. He is not scary, but he does look like a big, fat piece of bacon. You can buy bacon earrings, little piggy earrings and socks. Enjoy BaconFest!

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Member for Nanango, a couple of years ago I did a training course to qualify as a judge for the Australian Barbecue Championships. It is a very short course and I would highly encourage you and other members to do it. It is fantastic. You get to eat barbecue all day!

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (12.29 pm): Of course the Palaszczuk government always brings the bacon home! That is one thing we do all the time. While the member for Nanango was speaking I was sitting here drooling, because I do not mind bacon and eggs in the morning. Thank you, member for Nanango, for putting me off my game today. I will make sure I get to the BaconFest.

I rise to speak to the Trading (Allowable Hours) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. This is deja vu because five years ago I was on the committee that looked at shopping hours and we transformed shopping hours in Queensland. The member for Nudgee was the chair of the education committee at the time. I remember being on that committee. Those opposite thought the world was going to stop spinning and the earth was going to change. Nothing has happened like that. In fact, it has been pretty good.

I heard the member for Buderim talk the other day about small business operators. I have a lot of history in small business, so I think I do know what I am talking about when it comes to small business. The unemployment rate in Queensland is 3.8 per cent today. I congratulate the Treasurer, the Premier and the cabinet—3.8 per cent. In the middle of a pandemic and coming out of a pandemic we are getting figures like that! That is what keeps small businesses going—everyone has a job. I go back to the Borbidge-Sheldon era. I do not know that many on that side will want to talk about the Borbidge-Sheldon era.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Pause the clock. Member for Maryborough, I bring you back to the bill.

Mr SAUNDERS: I am going back to the bill, Mr Deputy Speaker. I am talking about confidence in small business. They are talking about shopping hours. I am talking about confidence.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Get back to the bill, member for Maryborough.

Mr SAUNDERS: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for your guidance. We are talking about confidence in small businesses. That is what keeps small businesses going. When there are low unemployment figures like today—3.8 per cent—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Maryborough, I ask you to come back to the bill, otherwise I will ask you to resume your seat. Come back to the bill please.

Mr SAUNDERS: Mr Deputy Speaker, I am coming back to the bill. I am talking about confidence in small business with trading hours.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Maryborough, that sounded a bit like a reflection on the chair. I ask you to come back to the bill, otherwise I will sit you down. Come back to the bill.

Mr SAUNDERS: There is no reflection on the chair, Deputy Speaker. What I am talking about—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Maryborough, I made a ruling. I think that is now a reflection on the chair and you are warned under the standing orders.

Mr SAUNDERS: When it comes to trading hours, what is important for small businesses throughout Queensland is the employment rate. When the unemployment rate is low, more people shop at smaller businesses. That is their economic base. When there is high unemployment, people tend to shop at the bigger chains because they think it is cheaper.

As a government we have been working with small business operators throughout this state. We saw the great response from this government during the pandemic. In the Treasurer's ministerial statement today we heard about sales in our business community being up. That is what governments do. The committee report outlines extending the moratorium for another 12 months for small businesses to get used to the changes and for the QIRC to make sure that after that 12 months small businesses are ready for the changes that will happen.

Small businesses do play a major part in our community. I know that because I was in small business for many, many years. I know the part they play when they donate to sporting organisations. We see that in the community. No-one knows better than I do the part that small businesses play in the community. I have been through two floods in my community this year. We saw the devastating effect


that had on small businesses in my community. That is why it is important that we back small businesses in our community. That is why we keep them alive. That is something that this government has done since we were elected in 2015. We have worked with small businesses.

I was on the original committee that looked at trading hours and we changed them. The other thing we have to remember as legislators is that people's shopping habits are changing, so we have to amend trading hours to work in with what the consumers want and how they spend their time shopping.

Small businesses are an integral part in our community. I would like to give a big shout-out to the small businesses in my community who weathered the two floods. The small business minister came up and we talked about support from the government and also about the committee hearing. The minister spoke to a lot of small businesses about the Trading (Allowable Hours) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. We went through that.

I have been talking to small businesses in my community about this bill and how there will not be any changes for 12 months. I think this is a good bill. It has condensed it down. Once again the committee system is working well in this parliament. The minister has accepted the nine recommendations from the committee. That is what a good government does. That is what a government does that is committed to small business in our state.

I would also like to thank the minister for the changes to P&Cs. We know that P&Cs have struggled to get numbers to their meetings because of outbreaks of COVID and school lockdowns. I thank the minister very much because that issue has been brought to my attention in my electorate. I thank you for listening to the people in my community. That is what a good Labor government does. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (12.36 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Trading (Allowable Hours) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. This bill was introduced into the chamber by the Hon. Grace Grace, Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing, and referred to the committee on 25 May 2022. The committee reported back on 22 July 2022. As stated in the explanatory notes, the proposed amendments to the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990 are to implement the committee's recommendations. The recommendations were made in report No. 15, 57th Parliament—*Inquiry into the operation of the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990*—which was tabled on 31 January this year.

The Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990 prescribes whether a retail shop can open for business depending on the class of shop. Exempt shops classified as exempt according to the type of goods or services they sell, as listed in schedule 1AA of the trading hours act, are exempt from trading hours restrictions and may trade at any time, subject to any restriction provided for by other legislation. Independent retail shops included in exempt shops are determined to be independent retail shops on the basis of their small business characteristics, such as the number of staff working in the shop. Non-exempt shops, including hardware shops and shops selling motor vehicles and/or caravans with particular trading hours, may operate during permitted core trading hours as prescribed in the trading hours act according to categories which are defined by their location.

The bill amends the categories of core trading hours for non-exempt shops to reduce the number of categories from five to four by combining the 'seaside resorts' and 'any other area' categories with the hours prescribed for 'seaside resorts'; to include the Mossman and Port Douglas Tourist Area with other tourist areas; and to rename the current categories of core trading hours to trading area types. The Australian Automotive Dealers Association, the Motor Trades Association of Queensland and the Caravan Trade and Industries Association of Queensland supported the bill as it does not alter trading hours for shops selling motor vehicles or caravans. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland also supported this position.

The National Retailers Association submitted that it saw no need in the near future for any changes to the hours set out in the legislation for each trading area type. However, the NRA proposed a standing mechanism to allow trading hours in each trading area to be reviewed from time to time to account for changes to business or trading conditions without the need to return to parliament. The NRA suggested that the QIRC is the most appropriate body to conduct such a review. In response to the issues raised by submitters the department provided the following information.

The objectives of the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990 include setting trading hours, including to set these hours differently based on the needs of particular locations and particularly to facilitate trading in tourist areas; however, the act also empowers the QIRC to recategorise locations to benefit from more favourable trading hours should a need be identified. This will continue with the provisions of the bill. The bill amends the Trading Hours Act to remove the power of the QIRC to make orders to

vary core trading hours for non-exempt shops from the hours prescribed in the act. The amendments mean that any variation to core trading hours would only be possible by amendment to the Trading Hours Act. The bill provides for the QIRC to continue to make orders about the localities or parts of localities where non-exempt shops are situated as it is empowered to do under the existing act.

The CCIQ and Master Grocers Australia were opposed to the removal of the power of the QIRC to make orders to vary core trading hours for non-exempt shops from the hours prescribed in the Trading Hours Act. The CCIQ contended that businesses should be afforded flexibility to change trading hours in the current trading environment which have largely resulted from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, supply chain constraints and high operating costs. The MGA noted that the removal of the power would prevent the QIRC from particularising trading hours dependent on distinct classes of non-exempt shops. The Trading Hours Act provides for the QIRC to decide on an application and declare a unique or infrequent event of local, state or national significance to be a special event—such as the Kingaroy BaconFest. A declaration enables non-exempt shops operating within a specified area for an event which is declared to be a special event to operate as exempt shops for the declared period.


The bill also amends the Trading Hours Act to ensure that, irrespective of any workplace agreement or industrial award, employees cannot be required to work in circumstances where a shop's trading hours are extended unless they have freely elected in writing to work during the extended hours. It is difficult to find the appropriate balance between work, leisure and family at any time, but when your work hours are extended it is particularly hard. Some businesses do this particularly well; others maybe not so much. The LNP supports this amendment. An example of a business that does this well is Hannas Department Store in Toowoomba. Even though they are in competition with large retailers such as Myer's, Big W, Target and others, they always close at lunchtime on Saturday—always—to allow their workers to have a family life or play sport. As a result they have a very loyal customer base, including myself. This suit, shirt and tie all came from Hannas.

There were also mixed opinions on the extension of the moratorium regarding the government's proposed 12 months, with a number of submitters suggesting an extension of five years. The five-year extension was particularly popular with small traders such as Master Grocers, IGA, SPAR and FoodWorks. These are the stores that are at the heart of our small towns across Queensland, supporting local charities and sporting clubs. It is no different in the electorate of Condamine. These stores are already under pressure from online shopping and home delivery services from Coles and Woolies. If you drive to Pittsworth or Crows Nest or if you go out to Clifton, you will see those delivery vans driving around. It impacts the small stores in those towns.

Ms Leahy: It impacts jobs too.

Mr WEIR: That is a good point, member for Warrego; it does. That is where most of the young kids in those towns get their part-time work. They start their working lives in those stores. It also affects butcher shops and newsagents. It is a tough environment. I support small business. This is the party that does support small business.

The shadow minister, the member for Kawana, will propose an amendment to extend that period to five years. The Trading Hours Act provides criteria for determining whether a shop is an independent retail shop based on the number of people working in all shops in the state operated by the same owner. The member for Kawana will also move an amendment that will change the definition of independent retail shop to a threshold of 40 employees on the same shop floor at any one time and 150 employees in all shops under the same ownership across the state. I support the amendments proposed by the member for Kawana. The other amendments are non-controversial. I support the amendments that will be proposed by the member for Kawana and encourage the House to also do so.

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (12.45 pm): I would like to add to the debate on the Trading (Allowable Hours) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I would like to start by congratulating all of the local traders in the Mackay electorate. There are some really great, innovative young people getting into business, which shows the confidence they have in the future of our economy.

This bill is important for fine-tuning the current operating hours that impact our important retailers, businesses, workers and consumers. The Palaszczuk government realised that retail operating hours needed to be updated and modernised. The first tranche of reform was legislated in 2017 and today this bill adds to those reforms. Business is constantly calling for cuts to red tape and regulation, and that is what the Palaszczuk government is doing. Successive governments have put trading hours in the too hard basket for too long but the Palaszczuk government continues to tackle issues head on. Working with stakeholders and crossbenchers, we have passed amendments that reduced 99 different trading hour zones across the state down to just 12. This is really important for business.

Overall, the current committee's review of the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act found that it operates effectively to regulate trading hours arrangements and that the 2017 reforms have provided consistent and stable trading agreements that benefit the retail sector as well as small businesses, employees and consumers. The committee made nine recommendations, all of which the government accepted. The bill now gives effect to these recommendations.

At the centre of the bill are four new simplified and streamlined core trading hours areas for larger non-exempt shops which are largely modelled on existing trading hours. The new type 1 trading areas have the most expansive trading hours: 6 am to 10 pm Monday to Friday; 7 am to 10 pm Saturdays; and 7 am to 9 pm Sundays and public holidays except for closed days such as Christmas Day and Easter Friday. Type 1 covers non-exempt shops in locations which already enjoy longer trading hours such as Cairns, New Farm in Brisbane, the Gold Coast tourist area and Pacific Fair Shopping Centre.

Type 2 trading areas continue the existing trading hours arrangements for the remainder of South-East Queensland: 7 am to 9 pm Monday to Saturday; and 9 am to 6 pm Sundays and public holidays. Type 3 trading areas cover mainly large cities and centres in regional Queensland and continue their current trading hours arrangements, including: 8 am to 9 pm Monday to Friday; 8 am to 6 pm Saturday and Sunday; and public holiday trading from 9 am to 6 pm. An exception will be the Townsville tourist area, which will retain its own unique 7 am start Monday to Friday.

Type 4 trading areas combine the former 'seaside resort' and 'any other area' into a single category. This bill makes only marginal amendments to permitted trading hours by allowing retail trading in areas currently falling into the 'any other area' category on public holidays other than closed days. Between the Holidays Act 1983 and the Commonwealth legislation, only 12 days are designated as public holidays.

In addition, the bill extends the current moratorium on applications for trading hours orders by a further 12 months. This is welcome, ensuring a period of time in which the arrangements set in place by the amendments may not be altered. The government therefore considers that the employment impact from the bill, positive or negative, is likely to be insignificant in the short term and extremely limited in the long term.

When the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission is considering an application for trading hours, the location and boundary of the area under the application and the needs of the industries in the area, including the tourism industry, are included. This is an important aspect to consider as communities change when the types of work and lifestyles evolve. In my community over the past two decades we have seen a lot of change. Being a mining support hub, we have many families that have to work rosters with 12-hour shifts. They do not work a Monday-to-Friday week. They often do a seven-on seven-off roster, or any combination of days. The old days of working a traditional five-day week, nine to five, no longer apply in regions like mine. Changes to retail are welcome in areas like mine. In looking at the application, consideration needs to be given to the effect on non-exempt shops. It needs to consider businesses of all sizes and the effect on employees and employment. With the lifestyle changes, I am sure there are a lot of communities around Queensland that have their own stories to tell.

Communities will want to have a say on any changes that will affect their culture and lifestyle. The local government is usually a body that can articulate the on-the-ground culture and needs of locals. The QIRC can also consider applications for special events that are of significance to local, state or national status. They will also take into account the frequency of the event and whether it fits into religious, sporting or cultural significance.

We all remember different times when there have been significant events in Brisbane. I think back to the Commonwealth Games in 1982 when I was young enough to stay up really late. I enjoyed the extra hours because of that event. I am looking forward to seeing the extra hours for all of the significant events that are coming up. The QIRC will make sure there are no adverse effects from these changes. This bill is measured in its approach to the changes that are being made.

I congratulate the minister for making permanent the changes to the P&Cs and allowing them to continue with their online meetings. As I have said, my community is not a nine-to-five community anymore—it is for some families but not for all—so it is really important that they can go online. As a former teacher, I know that schools operate better when families are able to participate in the culture of their school and in what actually happens. It means they are invested in their children's education and their children know that education is valued. This is a win-win for everybody in our communities. I commend the bill to the House.



Ms LEAHY (Warrego—LNP) (12.54 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Trading (Allowable Hours) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Five years ago, this House was presented with a bill to extend the non-exempt shop trading hours and provisions to standardise trading hours for Sundays and public holidays across Queensland. That five-year extension is now ending and we are presented by the government with this legislation which proposes to extend the arrangements for just 12 months.

The bill's primary objective is to implement the recommendations of the Queensland parliament's Education, Employment and Training Committee following its recent inquiry into the operation of the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990. The committee did not identify the need or demand for substantial deregulation of trading hours arrangements following the major amendments already made in 2017. I do not see that there are changes being driven by overwhelming consumer sentiment either.

I commend the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for the LNP's amendments that seek to improve this legislation. These amendments would help businesses deal with the pressures of the COVID-19 pandemic and the natural disasters. Keep in mind that some Queensland communities have experienced five floods this year. These amendments seek to extend the moratorium from one year to five years. These amendments are needed. In regional Queensland, we have not seen a return to normal market conditions across the regions. In some cases, family and small businesses have had to deal with drought, the pandemic with border closures and successive natural disasters.

I specifically reference the FoodWorks at Dirranbandi which has had to deal with exactly that—drought, border closures and their fifth flood this year. They have not had the tourists coming through because they simply have not been able to get there because the roads have been closed. One road in particular has been closed for 60 days. I urge government members to support the LNP's amendments to help these family and small businesses, like the Dirranbandi FoodWorks and others in my electorate. Frank Spano, the IGA QNN retail chairman, said in his submission—

The industry has faced increasing transport costs—

and we see that with the cost of fuel—

and delays, a labour shortage (especially skilled workers), and inflationary pressure on the cost of goods and services which have all had a negative effect on our members' businesses.

I will add to that list the lack of child care in regional areas. Many of the people who work in these family and small businesses are women, and they are the ones who often cannot work because they have no access to affordable child care or there is simply no child care at all in the community they live in.

The impacts of this legislation will be felt by many family and small businesses in my electorate, like the IGA in Roma. That is a great new store and I congratulate the IGA on this particular store. They have excellent customer service from Cookie and her team. There are IGAs in Charleville, St George, Chinchilla; there is a SPAR supermarket in Injune; and there are FoodWorks stores in Mitchell, Dirranbandi, Roma, Miles, Tara, Thargomindah, Quilpie, Dalby and St George—they are all critical small businesses in these communities.

Amanda Richards from the FoodWorks in Roma wrote to me about the impact on their business of this legislation. She said—

Change to trading hours may result in the closure of our store as we will lose valuable trading hours that keeps our business sustainable.

More net jobs will be lost—the independent retail sector employ more locals than major retailers. Further deregulation of trading hours will result in net loss of jobs

She continued—

Woolworths and Coles will not employ more people—already they're reducing their work force through self-scanning and use of technologies.

The trading hours change is not an antidote for the tourism sector. People do not go on holidays to shop in supermarkets; the market is already adequately serviced. This is an attack by large retailers on small business and the result is fewer jobs. There have been small business closures. Over 31 independent food and grocery stores have closed since 2017. Further deregulation of trading hours will result in more store closures.

Each of the Drakes, FoodWorks, Friendly Grocers, IGAs and SPAR stores across Queensland are small businesses independently owned and operated as sole traders or family-run businesses. The FoodWorks in St George has been owned by the Webster family for more than 50 years; it is a

hardworking, family-run small business. The Mills IGA in Cunnamulla has been operating in Cunnamulla for more than 70 years. I commend Eddie Mills and Stephanie and their family for the great service they have given to the Cunnamulla community. I believe that you, Mr Deputy Speaker Hart, may have been there visiting with me as well. Interestingly, the IGA in Cunnamulla had toilet paper during the pandemic when many others did not. Frank Spano, the retail chairman of IGA, said that these businesses—

... make a significant contribution to the communities in which they operate. They provide considerable support to their local communities, through local fundraising initiatives that support schools, kindergartens, hospitals, clubs and so on.

...


Most importantly they are major employers within their communities. Many of their employees include working mothers ... whose income is essential—

Debate, on motion of Ms Leahy, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Yarrabah, Youth Crime

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (2.00 pm): As today's *Cairns Post* put it, Yarrabah is echoing the same frustrations and outrage of Cairns and the greater Far North which is grappling with the youth crime epidemic. The chief executive of Yarrabah's health service, Suzanne Andrews, said that Yarrabah was like 'any community in the area ... we're all dealing with the same issue' and that issue is the growing crime epidemic, the length and breadth of Queensland. While government MPs do not want us to talk about crime, the fact is that the people of Yarrabah talk about feeling unsafe.


Far North Queensland is short of police, a fact echoed by Ian Leavers, the President of the Queensland Police Union, who told listeners to 4CA in Cairns that he identified their city 'as a priority where we need extra police'. He went on to say that when it comes to dealing with youth crime, 'It needs a lot of other organisations to actually get involved and start doing their jobs.' If Mayor Ross Andrew of the Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council is correct when he said, 'I think there's enough service providers out there,' why are things getting worse in Yarrabah and other centres? The short answer is because of the failings of this current government.

Police officers have expressed to me that the current cautioning procedures for children are too complex, and they have recounted that young offenders, despite being on bail for committing close to 100 offences, are still being given bail and free rein to continue on their merry way, tearing apart those communities.

Yesterday the member for Lockyer spoke about how the number of police per 100,000 residents has reduced and how proactive policing has reduced by 40 per cent. It is not just those on this side of the House who recognise the importance of proactive policing. When questioned about proactive policing at the estimates in 2020, the commissioner said, 'When you are responding, you are not proactive and preventing enough,' and she spoke of a 45 per cent increase in triple 0 calls. Those figures prove that our communities and our police need cooperation and collaboration in order to address youth crime. Despite the police minister admitting in 2018 that there were departments that were not pulling their weight, this government has failed to achieve that much needed cooperation.

The Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council is offering to coordinate services in that community, in effect, to do this government's job. In the interests of making Yarrabah safer, I am calling on the Premier here today and all the relevant ministers to heed their call because until such time those government departments work together—we are talking about Education, Child Safety, Youth Justice and Health—you will not address this problem. We know we have a school truancy issue in Yarrabah. There is a good starting point—early intervention. Get these kids to school because kids who go to school regularly are not out there committing crimes.

Bribie Island, Health Services

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (2.03 pm): Our Palaszczuk Labor government is leading a health building bonanza for Pumicestone. Today I can announce that work has started on our Bribie Island satellite hospital. For the first time, our Bribie community will have hospital care delivered by hospital doctors and nurses in the heart of our community. Our \$450 million project to double the size of Caboolture Hospital and add a whole range of new services is on track to finish in 2024, with the new five-storey clinical services building opening its doors to its first patients next year.

In more good news, federal health minister Mark Butler recently contacted me to say that he has permanently restored Pumicestone's GP priority status after the LNP Morrison government cut it. Thank you to Dr Steve Kearney for his advocacy and to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese for coming to Pumicestone to hear from locals for himself. Mostly thank you to the 1,100 locals who campaigned with me to put our local GP crisis on the national agenda. It is already getting easier in Pumicestone for people to see a GP. We have more new clinics opening and new doctors coming on board. I could not be prouder and more pleased.

I care deeply about health care. Every single day I am out in our community working hard for more and better health services. I fought to fix our GP crisis, I am fighting unfair billing practices from our local private pathology in relation to PCR tests and, starting today, I can also announce that I got concession card holders on Bribie access to free RAT tests closer to home.

When the LNP and the Leader of the Opposition blow into our community, they are not there for our community members; they are there for themselves. You can tell by the insincere smile on his face and the predatory gleam in his eyes. The LNP and the Leader of the Opposition only come to our community to exploit our people, bag our hospitals and bash our health workers. They do not come with solutions; they come to score cheap political points.

We know what the LNP Leader of the Opposition's so-called health solutions are because he showed us and he told us. The LNP Leader of the Opposition showed us his solutions when he sacked 732 nurses from our local health area in addition to thousands more health workers. He told us again just the other day when he admitted on radio that he will cut services again if Queenslanders ever give him the chance.

Queenslanders cannot trust the LNP when it comes to health care. Only Labor will build our hospitals, back our health workers and invest in more and better health care, including in my community of Pumicestone.

Comments by Premier; Sunshine Coast, Housing



Ms SIMPSON (Maroochydore—LNP) (2.06 pm): Before I address a number of matters I wanted to raise in my private member's statement, there is a matter that I just cannot let go. The Premier's statement this morning was demeaning to her role but more significantly demeaning to the women involved and needs to be called out. How is it that the leader of Queensland thinks it is appropriate to cast a slur against women for how they look? These women in particular have done so much to help others. They have worked tirelessly in the area of domestic violence and support. The statement that the Premier made is outrageous. It is outrageous that there are ministers defending these statements. They are indefensible. The Premier should come in here and apologise.

A government member interjected.

Ms SIMPSON: I hear a laugh up the back. Are you kidding? The Premier needs to apologise to these women—women who have done so much in our community. It is outrageous to single them out and demean them on the basis of how they look. Interestingly, the Premier did not single out the men in the photos; it was the women she went after. Surely in this day and age people have learned that this is not appropriate, and the Premier, of all people, should be setting the standard and leading by example. She must come in here and apologise. She must apologise to these women and Queenslanders. We expect better. It is time that she upheld the standards she spouts and walks the walk. It is completely inappropriate. I am actually quite disgusted that there are members opposite who have laughed or who have tried to laugh this off. It is not a laughing matter. I call it out. Premier, apologise!

Mr Whiting: That was a waste of two minutes.

Ms SIMPSON: I will take that interjection and—

Mr Whiting interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order, member for Bancroft!

Ms SIMPSON: They are defending the indefensible. I want to—


Mr Whiting interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock! Member for Bancroft, you are warned.

Ms SIMPSON: The issue I wanted to raise in this House today was in regard to the housing crisis. This morning we heard the Minister for Housing try to blame policy settings of seven years ago and said nothing about what she was going to do to fix this right here and now—today! The Auditor-General has called out the lack of targets and actions that are measurable and able to deliver

against the area of need. Every day we see in our local community and every day in our electorate offices—and I know in my own—we hear the stories of everyday Queenslanders. On the Sunshine Coast there is a 0.4 per cent vacancy rate. We hear of the hardship that people are facing. This government has not delivered social housing or policies that enable housing to be built in a timely way in the market.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (2.09 pm): One of the great things about being the member for Ipswich West is attending my local Skilling Queenslanders for Work graduation ceremonies. I am always pleased to meet another group of enthusiastic graduates knowing that 80 per cent of these jobseekers will find full-time work or study within 12 months of graduating.

On 22 July I attended the Tivoli Social Enterprises combined Skilling Queenslanders for Work graduation ceremony. Axiom College's trainers delivered training for Certificate I in Hospitality and Certificate I in Workplace Skills. Graduates included the first intake of 14 Certificate I in Workplace Skills trainees—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. I just remind the whip about the convention of standing in front of people who are delivering a speech.

Mr MADDEN: Graduates also included the first intake of 13 Certificate I in Hospitality graduates who commenced in February 2022.

On 12 August I attended the Energy Skills Queensland Career Start Rail Skills Ipswich project graduation ceremony at the North Ipswich rail museum. The Career Start Rail Skills Ipswich project is assisting 26 disadvantaged jobseekers. At the graduation ceremony certificates were awarded to the first intake of 13 participants.


Skilling Queenslanders for Work is a permanent initiative administered by the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training. It has an annual budget of \$80 million and that supports about 15,000 disadvantaged Queenslanders looking for work each year. Programs include seven community-based training programs—Community Work Skills, Work Skills traineeships, Get Set for Work, Community Foundation Skills, Skill Up, Ready for Work and Youth Skills—and one traineeship/apprenticeship incentive program, First Start.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work funds community sector programs and has a place based approach tailored to meet the specific disadvantaged cohort and communities with a focus on attainment of a pathway to certificate III qualifications. It provides direct tailored support to those Queenslanders who need extra support to enter and stay in the workforce.

The latest round of Skilling Queenslanders for Work funding was announced on 8 July, and 198 projects received funding totalling \$41.1 million to assist 6,400 disadvantaged Queensland workers. Six programs were approved in my electorate of Ipswich West. I would like to congratulate those recipients: Energy Skills Queensland, ABC Connect Alliance Ltd, Tivoli Social Enterprises and BTC Cooperative Ltd. I would like to thank them all for supporting the Skilling Queenslanders for Work as community sector program operators.

As at 30 June 2022, 69,449 people had been assisted under the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program, with 44,130 people successfully achieving employment as a direct result of the program. I am looking forward to more Skilling Queenslanders for Work programs in my electorate of Ipswich West.

Moggill Electorate, Education

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (2.12 pm): After years of Labor failing to listen to our hardworking and dedicated teachers, I welcome the Labor Minister for Education's recent realisation that Queensland is in the midst of a teacher workforce recruitment and retention crisis. It should not have taken the Labor Minister for Education to travel to Canberra last week to 'hear some of the struggles and hear firsthand what we need to do going forward' to recognise Queensland's teacher workforce crisis, which has been growing under the Queensland state Labor government over the last five years. This is not a doomsday scenario or the prophesy of French astrologer and physician Nostradamus but the reported reality of educators right across the state of Queensland.


The National Teacher Workforce Action Plan that will be developed collaboratively by the Commonwealth and all states demands the full attention and proactive involvement of the Palaszczuk state Labor government. This is an opportunity that cannot be wasted if Queensland is to comprehensively address the stress and the myriad complex circumstances our teachers and school staff continue to face into the future. The minister must act decisively on this issue.

I also wish to take this opportunity to once again draw to the attention of the Minister for Education a number of ongoing school and educational infrastructure priorities that must be delivered by the Queensland state government for local schools in the electorate of Moggill. This includes at Pullenvale State School where, despite being advised of its successful Triple S program application by the Department of Education, the Palaszczuk Labor government has failed to deliver and release its share of funding to Pullenvale State School because of 'a delay due to budget reasons'. This funding is required in order to redevelop, to upgrade and to replace the existing outdoor prep learning precinct. On behalf of Pullenvale State School, I implore the Labor Minister for Education to ensure that the timely delivery of this vital funding is prioritised so this school can finally commence these works as soon as possible.

I wish to draw to the attention of the Labor Minister for Education the need for additional classroom block refurbishments at Mount Crosby State School along with the current state of the school playground, which requires excavation and earthworks to improve the safety and usability of this outdoor facility. In its current state it remains dangerous for both teachers and students. I note that Mount Crosby State School is also seeking to address car-parking issues via the Department of Transport and Main Roads' School Transport Infrastructure Program. Any assistance that can be provided by the minister and the department in order to progress a satisfactory resolution would be greatly appreciated.

I also again reiterate my support for Chapel Hill State School to receive the additional educational facilities and school infrastructure investment that this school community deserves from the Queensland government and the Department of Education. This is particularly important given anticipated changes to school catchments and projected school enrolment growth at Chapel Hill State School. There are also a number of school safety matters related to Brookfield Road and the OLR intersection. I encourage the government to rectify these as well.

Ekka

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (2.15 pm): This year the Ekka returned. The Ekka is living proof that Queensland has a great lifestyle, where the country meets the city and the city meets the country. I enjoyed my time visiting many exhibitors and seeing the great work they are doing. I will start with the Queensland government pavilion, where it is clear the Palaszczuk government's ongoing investments are delivering better services.


I want to also thank DAF for promoting agriculture jobs to the visitors as in Queensland there are many good jobs to be had that assist our primary producers. The Queensland Beekeepers' Association were also there promoting Queensland honey and pollination services. They went through 8,000 samples of honey on the first day. I pay particular tribute to Jo Martin and Jacob Stevens from the association whose dedication at the Ekka helped more people understand the challenges that the industry faces as well as the myriad opportunities.

Other exhibitors included Cotton Australia with their virtual reality experiences and AgForce which offered such a diverse range of options across their stall. Of course I dropped in to the *Queensland Country Life* stand and thanked longstanding journo Mark Phelps from the QCL for the dogs he gave me. My children will love those. I say well done to Queensland Farmers' Federation for its Celebrating Agriculture event on the Thursday night. It was such strong support for the Palaszczuk government. I also thank federal minister Murray Watt and the Governor and Professor Nimmo for their attendance. That support is a tribute to the work of the QFF board; its CEO, Jo Sheppard; and all their member associations.

The Ekka is important to maintaining the social connection with an increasing urbanised Australia who needs the food and fibre produced. That is why the announcement we made about boosting our biosecurity defences was so important. This is more than \$22 million to build on the significant preparedness and readiness efforts we have already made. Those who claim that we are unprepared for the disease threats we face are actually paying a significant disservice and disrespect to the industries we are working so hard to protect. Who really thinks that the Queensland livestock industries, worth more than \$10 billion a year, are just sitting around waiting for governments to press a button before preparing for potential biosecurity threats? Of course they do not work like that. This is why the Palaszczuk government has been working on these right alongside them, not just in recent months but over many years.

When it comes to new disease and pest threats, Queensland is prepared. We are doing more to increase our preparedness, including extra biosecurity officers to be stationed in regional areas right across Queensland. Under the previous federal government, biosecurity staff were reduced by 25 per cent at a time of increasing biosecurity risk. Similarly, in Queensland when the LNP was in government, 26 per cent of biosecurity staff were cut. We need to work together to ensure that Queensland remains the state of good jobs, better services and a great agricultural lifestyle.

Comments by Premier; Ministerial Correspondence

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (2.18 pm): It was outrageous stereotyping by the Premier this morning when she suggested I was having a 'late-night rendezvous' with regard to my Gold Coast guests who were here last night in the Strangers Dining Room. These couples had purchased a dinner with me at a charity function which I was pleased to support. Imagine the outcry if I were to make any similar comments about the Premier having a 'late-night rendezvous' or intimated anything about her appearance. Her judgemental, sexist implications about females in social media photos were completely inappropriate and unbecoming.

Now, the young woman involved—who is a friend of my wife, Stacey, and me and has been for some time—has sent me a message. She says—

I'm hard working QLD tax payer not a politician but a member of the public & we made a donation to a charity and was attending a parliamentary dinner with our respective partners.

She says, referring to the Premier—

You push women back 100 years with your snide remarks. I'm appalled at such behaviour whilst there with a hard working local MP.

She concludes—

Clearly she has nothing important to say just ridiculous slander.

I want to speak this afternoon about a Surfers Paradise constituent issue that had been referred to the industrial relations minister. It came back to my office, asking for the constituent's details so that they could contact the constituent. Inadvertently, the office included a ministerial correspondence action sheet and under the heading 'MP acknowledgement' are the words—Government MPs receive a cc of the constituent response; non-government MPs advised of a direct response. I table the sheet.

Tabled paper: Ministerial correspondence action sheet [\[1172\]](#).


My office replied that we would provide the details if we could be cc'ed into the response. The ministerial office replied that we would be cc'ed in on the response provided 'it doesn't breach any privacy issues relating to the constituent'. What a strange reply, given that the constituent had asked me for assistance in this matter. I table that email.

Tabled paper: Email, dated 12 August 2022, from the Office of the Hon. Grace Grace to the Surfers Paradise electorate office [\[1173\]](#).

I look forward to this matter being resolved and being advised of same, because it leads to a wider issue that I have spoken about in this place before that especially affects opposition MPs. We all have constituents who write to us seeking answers. At times, I have seen different ministerial offices not respond at all to letters that I have sent on behalf of my constituents. Following me raising it in the House, this has been corrected. Responses can be delayed or misplaced, but it means that my office needs to follow up on delayed responses on behalf of constituents.

Other courtesies that have gone by the wayside are ministers advising MPs that they are visiting their electorates. On our side, the member for Moggill is punctilious about such courtesies. It is increasingly happening during this third-term Labor government—for example, making a trip to the Haughton River flood plain upgrade and no invitation or advice being extended to the member for Burdekin. When there are projects open in non-government electorates, local MPs are often excluded from photos or even invitations, or invitations are sent the day before an event. This is a third-term government who think they are never going to lose.

Caboolture Hospital

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (2.22 pm): I stand today to talk up the Caboolture Hospital—not talk it down, like the LNP does. Our local hospital is full of workers from our local community who work incredibly hard. It is a busy hospital, but I hear many stories from people who say how their lives were saved by our local hospital and our local hospital workers. We on this side of the House are backing our hospital workers and making this hospital even better.


We are undertaking a \$400 million rebuild of Caboolture Hospital—\$350 million for those facilities and \$50 million for a new multistorey car park. This expansion will deliver 130 additional beds at the Caboolture Hospital and will see a doubling of the size of the emergency department. The hospital will have expanded operating theatres, palliative care, neonatal facilities, geriatric evaluation, intensive care and cardiac arrest care. Part of this build is a new five-storey clinical services building at the Caboolture Hospital which will be ready next year. A new six-storey multilevel car park will give 1,000 car-parking spaces to the hospital, making a total of 1,500 car-parking spaces.

We back our local hospital and our local hospital workers, in contrast to the LNP. All those opposite want to do is talk down our local hospital workers and our local hospitals. They come into town marketing the tragic stories of our locals for political advantage. Then they breeze out of town, looking for more tragedy somewhere else. The people whose stories they use are left feeling, once again, used by the LNP. This is an insult to our hardworking local health workers—our nurses, our administrators and our wardies—and an insult to the people who have had their lives saved by our local hospital staff.

I say to the member for Glass House: do not be a party to this. Do not stand next to your colleagues, who have come in from out of town, as they denigrate our local hospital workers. Show that you are a true local and that you back our hospital and do not attack it. Call out your colleagues if they attack the local hospital.

It is important to note that we on this side of the House back our local hospital workers; we do not sack them. What is more, we back all our local hospitals; we do not attack them.

Regional Queensland, Health Services

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (2.25 pm): Health services and access to GPs in regional Queensland have been declining rapidly. There were loud announcements over the record health budget recently; however, there was nothing to stop regional areas from losing GPs or to make it easier to access basic health services. GP practices are closing at an alarming rate; people are being turned away from hospital emergency departments; and there is a lack of nurses, extended waitlists for vital surgery and a lack of life-saving dialysis equipment. All this is not an illusion. A mum on the Tablelands recently spoke out about her experience. She said—


Today we needed to get an appointment with a GP for our 4-month-old. With the recent closure of our regular clinic, I called every other GP on the Atherton Tablelands trying to get an appointment to get a script. There was not a single clinic available to take our baby as a new patient. Over half the clinics I called recommended to either drive to Cairns to see a doctor, or visit the emergency department at the hospital. Two clinics at Atherton cannot cope. The hospital won't cope, the other surrounding doctors won't cope. Someone needs to do something please.

It angers me to see that we will spend billions on the Olympics, which will only benefit the south-east, while basic health services in smaller regional centres are heading for disaster.

To make matters worse, the Rural Doctors Association has expressed deep concern about the federal government's proposed changes to the distribution priority area. Currently, overseas GPs are required to work up to 10 years in regional centres before they can work in a larger regional city, but this change means that GPs can instead go straight to outer metro or larger regional cities. Our state government should be kicking down doors to fight this change but are mute on this issue.

Money must be spent to ensure regional hospitals are fully equipped and staffed to meet demands. The state must also work with their federal buddies to increase Medicare bulk-billing rebates, with the increase only available for GPs who work in rural and regional centres. Investment on targeted packages and programs to provide greater incentives to GPs to relocate to smaller regional centres and for school leavers to study medicine and return to their region must be a priority. The government must get its priorities right and fix the health crisis in rural and regional Queensland.

Off-the-Plan Developments, Sunset Clauses

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (2.27 pm): The use of sunset clauses by developers to end property contracts is a practice that we know is happening right now. I know that the Attorney-General has spoken on this issue in this House and that she has referred the issue for inclusion in the Property Law Act review. She has already said that legislation dealing with this issue will be introduced this year. I thank her for her swift and very strong advocacy on this issue.

For context, purchasing a property off the plan means entering into a contract to buy land that is yet to be registered, or it might be an apartment in a building that is not yet built. A sunset clause in an off-the-plan sales contract provides a party with the right to terminate if the contract is not settled within


a particular time frame. There are some good reasons sunset clauses do exist. They allow buyers, for example, to terminate the contract in an off-the-plan sale if the contract is not settled after a prolonged period of time.

We know that developers have been, and are, incorporating these clauses into their contracts. They are using these clauses to terminate contracts with buyers some many months after the original sale and they are selling off these properties to somebody else, sometimes at a markedly higher sales price, taking advantage of a rising property market.

I have a number of people in my electorate, across more than one development site, who are experiencing this injustice right now. They have bought in good faith, saved and put down deposits. They have engaged builders. Many moved their children into local schools at the start of the school year because they were told by developers that they would be in their homes by now. Instead, some have spent two years facing continuous stalling by developers—watching the days, weeks and months and now years tick by. They have witnessed contracts crash around them and watched as people who were going to be their neighbours are now left with having to buy back the same property at sometimes hundreds of thousands of dollars more or are priced out of the housing market entirely because the market has changed so substantially in the past two years. They cannot just buy somewhere else; they have orientated their entire life around living in that particular house.

Home ownership is the greatest financial decision that we make in our lifetimes, but it is more than just a financial decision: this is about people's homes. This is about having a place for their children to grow up in or a place to retire and grow old in. The fact that developers are taking advantage of a hot property market to rob families of this is abhorrent and I welcome a future review into the practice. In the interim, I encourage anyone buying off the plan to please get good independent legal advice before signing a contract.

Coal Industry, Royalties; Comments by Premier

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (2.30 pm): I thought it important to raise and bring an issue to the attention of the Treasurer, who yesterday outlined in comments that since the new royalty regime was introduced Whitehaven Coal has confirmed that its new mine at Winchester South has been unaffected. I thought I should correct the record in the House with a direct quote from managing director and CEO Paul Flynn, who outlined that the lack of consultation and just the dramatic nature shows that it is clearly not a royalty, it is a tax, and that the unpredictable nature of such things that have occurred here in Queensland do not really foster the confidence necessary to commit billions of dollars in capital.

I also point out to the Treasurer that I represent a region in the Whitsundays, the Greater Mackay community, along with the member for Burdekin where our region contributes billions of dollars in not just natural assets but in labour force and in economic multipliers that feed the coffers of this state. Queensland royalty rates are of the highest in the world. They are double the rates of New South Wales.


Mr Madden: Hear, hear!

Ms CAMM: While those opposite say, 'Hear, hear,' we are not seeing a return on those royalties and a fair share to communities like mine in regional Queensland. We are not seeing the investment in road infrastructure in regional Queensland. We are not seeing the investment in health services in regional Queensland. This demonstrates the short-sightedness of the Treasurer.

Further, with regard to the Queensland Resources Council, the Minerals Council, the Resource Industry Network that I work closely with in Mackay, the CCIQ and others, I remind the Treasurer that consultation is not practising your budget speech in the mirror. Consultation is sitting down with stakeholders and actually explaining what the tax bracket would be, the impact for business and to understand what those ramifications are. Right now this policy puts at risk regional Queensland jobs and regional Queensland infrastructure projects into the future.

Along with my fellow colleagues, it would also be remiss of me not to call out the inappropriate comments made by the Premier this morning in question time. If the Premier is now taking advice and responding in this House through vexatious tweets, then I think the Premier needs to take a good, hard look at herself. On behalf of Tamika, Brooke, Lauren—amazing young women in our community; on behalf of my fellow colleagues—hardworking members of this House—the member for Surfers Paradise and the member for Bonney; and on behalf of all women, whether they have attended this House or not, the Premier needs to apologise. The imputation of a late-night rendezvous is unacceptable from the woman who holds the highest office in this state.

Green, Mr P

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (2.33 pm): This one's for you, Greeny. Seven days ago Townsville and North Queensland lost a legend and it rocked us to our very core. Our Rugby League North Queensland Cowboys-loving community received the news that we had lost Paul Green, tragically to suicide, and I want to pass on my condolences to his wife, Amanda, to his children, Emerson and Jed, and to the extended Green family.

Greeny, as he was fondly referred to, was a true legend in North Queensland. After a successful playing career, he went on to become an NRL and State of Origin coach who of course coached the mighty North Queensland Cowboys from 2014 to 2020, and who can ever forget that historic win in 2015 with players like JT, Matty Scott, Coops, Feldty, Jake Granville, Morgo, Jason Taumalolo—that historic win which changed and lifted our city of Townsville and North Queensland for better and forever? We will always be indebted to Paul Green.


I have great memories of lifting Paul up at the airport and giving him the biggest man hug after they came home from that 2015 grand final win. He was always up for a chat, whether it was in the street, at a formal function or just bumping into him at the airport. That historic win will forever be Greeny's legacy. It led to our new stadium being built which the team calls home today and we attract more major sporting events and concerts. Paul was known for always helping and looking out for others, and we have just learned in the last couple of hours that his family have made the decision to donate his brain to the Australian Sports Brain Bank to help others.

Since 1995 North Queenslanders have shared the highs and the very lows with the team and we will never, ever forget what he did for us. I know this awful news has rocked many people—his many loyal friends, players, staff, sharing their immense sadness about how we lost Paul Green to suicide. I want to talk about mental health just for a moment. We need to do more to reduce the suicide rates, and, Mr Deputy Speaker Kelly, you know more than ever after doing that magnificent work. Let us implement all of those 57 recommendations.

When I heard the news I was completely gutted. It has been hard to get my head around how this happened, and no-one knows the answer to that. I had only just finished a meeting with Townsville Wellbeing Network talking about our mentally healthy city, talking about what our Townsville Suicide Prevention Network is doing to reduce rates and what we are doing about it as a community. That just gutted me. It took me straight back to losing some mates in my former career and just that incredible darkness for a couple of days.

Let us all make sure that we look after each other and do it better. We all hit rock bottom in our lives. It is how we deal with that, and we cannot do it alone. Our suicide rates are too high and we need to do more. As JT said recently, the days of saying 'she'll be right' are over. Reach out, check on your mates and get help for those who need it. I have been speaking regularly with Cowboys CEO Jeff Reibel in the last few days checking in on how they are going, and we need to do more of this at these most challenging times. I know the club will do something special tomorrow night so we can all pause, reflect and share our grief together and celebrate what Paul Green did for us. It is time to wrap our arms around each other and our team. Vale, Paul Green.

Residential Tenancies, Mould

 **Dr MacMAHON** (South Brisbane—Grn) (2.36 pm): I am proud to be sponsoring an e-petition to raise standards for mould prevention and removal in rental homes. This year the housing crisis and the La Nina weather pattern have converged to cause something that no tenant wants to see—mould in their rental home—and this government has done nothing to protect tenants' rights. With an unseasonably long rainy season and floods, many people on the east coast have come across mould in bedrooms, walls, ceilings, carpets and Queensland's rental laws are clearly too weak to deal with the problem. While our rental laws allowed landlords to leave properties filled with mould, we have more and more tenants getting sick, children developing lung issues and homes are becoming unlivable as cases of mould and damp increase.

This week one of my constituents told my office about how she has had mould spreading in the ceiling above her bed for the past eight months. This has caused her breathing issues which are so serious she has had to leave her job. When she asked her landlord about fixing it, he said that she would have to pay for any mould treatment and that 'this is just what happens in Queensland'. Another constituent said—


Our landlord sought a 20 per cent increase in our rent on our lease renewal and we've counteroffered, but they're holding the mould problem over us, saying that they want to make sure we keep the property clean.

Christine Butler, who is spearheading this petition, has been through hell, with multiple types of mould rising through her rental home, turning the property into a toxic bomb. Her family is \$12,000 out of pocket with cleaning, inspections, moving and rent. The Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act requires a lessor to ensure a premises is fit for a tenant to live in, and if the law is not clear enough to spell out that this includes removing mould, it should be.

My private member's bill last year required lessors to actually tell tenants if there had been a breach notice issued about damp or mould within the last three years, but the government fell over itself to toss the bill out of parliament and listen to its real estate lobby mates. Our laws need to clearly state that landlords must keep properties free from mould and damp. We need minimum standards that make it clear it is a landlord's duty to ensure this, and that is why I am sponsoring Christine Butler's petition, with already hundreds of everyday Queenslanders calling for just that.

Our current rental laws are the result of treating housing like an investment vehicle rather than a basic human need. This is what happens when a government consistently puts landlords' profits ahead of the health and wellbeing of everyday people. At the same time that tenants have been getting sick because their landlords will not treat mould, we have seen the steepest rise in rents in this state. Rents are rising faster and more quickly than inflation or interest rates. If a landlord cannot afford to keep a property free from mould and damp, they cannot afford to be a landlord. Sell up.

Pine Rivers Electorate, Samford Road Upgrade

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (2.39 pm): It is a pleasure to rise this afternoon and update the House around a significant project in my community. Samford Road is a major connector in the south-west of my electorate. I know that it is a road that is very important to the member for Ferny Grove, and he has been advocating for and delivering some fantastic safety upgrades.


In 2021 safety upgrades were proposed to Samford Road from the Lomandra Access Road picnic area right up to the Camp Mountain Road intersection. My community has been vocal in that period of time around what those safety works include. It was proposed that there be resurfacing and guardrails, shoulder widening and wide centre line treatments, as well as drainage improvements and lighting, signage and pavement rehabilitation as well. The contentious point that existed within the proposal was the removal of the westbound overtaking lane. That was something the community was extraordinarily vocal on.

In March of this year I updated the House and outlined that we had received 324 separate community responses around the project upgrades and that 250 of those 324 opposed the removal of the overtaking lane. Only 27 respondents supported the removal of the overtaking lane. The minister for Main Roads is here with us today. I commend him, his staff and his department for working with us and persevering to put a common-sense solution in place.

I am pleased to report to the community that we have landed on something that has been secured due to the valuable community feedback we received. We will be delivering the upgrades through that section along with the retention of the westbound overtaking lane. All of the safety improvements will be made and the overtaking lane will stay. This is such a critical corridor for my community. We know 13,000 locals use it each and every day. The safety upgrades are imperative to ensure that people can get to work and come home safely. It required an additional amount of funding: \$1.8 million extra needed to be secured for a bigger, better design through the section.

I congratulate all of those community members who were very active through the consultation period. Some of those submissions were extraordinarily lengthy and detailed; we appreciated them very much. It has helped us to get to a good place.

Biosecurity

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (2.42 pm): Managing biosecurity issues is critical to agriculture production. It should always be at the forefront of the minister's attention—always. It is a real and serious issue, not just a media issue or a political issue. Current threats of foot and mouth disease, lumpy skin disease, Japanese encephalitis and varroa mite, amongst many, pose serious risk to our rural and regional communities. A biosecurity outbreak would be catastrophic with wide-reaching effects. It would devastate our agriculture industries and environment and shut down rural and regional Queensland. These threats are already causing uncertainty. The fluctuating price for livestock shows an industry anxious about what lies ahead.

I have repeatedly said that the state government must be ever vigilant to handle an outbreak. Plans must be ready to protect and safeguard our industries from serious threats. For several years I have been concerned with the government's slowness to tackle biosecurity issues. The Premier and the agriculture minister are habitually slow to act and the department has been underfunded and understaffed on their watch. They exhibit little genuine understanding. The minister's record has left biosecurity vulnerable over successive years.

In 2016 I secured bipartisan support from the Labor members for Ipswich West and Gladstone to investigate the spread of invasive weeds. It looked at three levels of government, including the management of state owned land. Despite extensive investigations and proposed recommendations, two years later I had to ask the Labor dominated committee to finalise the report. It was reported to parliament but never debated. It showed contempt and disdain. The minister did not regard the serious biosecurity risk worth consideration, yet his colleagues did. It shows the minister just does not appreciate the magnitude of the problem.

The estimates hearing showed the government is losing the war on fire ants. The government's spin doctors have reinvented the eradication program into a suppression task force. Eradication and suppression have totally different meanings and actions. Less than two weeks after the minister boasted that despite staff cuts Queensland is well prepared in terms of biosecurity, the Premier announced on Twitter 10 additional staff for Biosecurity Queensland. Within a few hours that 10 became 15 because the spin doctors realised that it would not even match the 2015 staff levels. The Premier's announcement made the minister's boast a hollow one, simply designed to avoid questions about how prepared we are for biosecurity threats. The government only made an announcement because people are asking what it is doing.

The government's flippant commitment to biosecurity is shown by the facts. The agriculture minister advised the parliament that since 2015 animal welfare and biosecurity positions have reduced by 13, from 64 to 51—13 full-time staff members cut under Labor. In May we learned the government had also failed to fill five vacant departmental positions. Industry comment in today's *Queensland Country Life* newspaper supports my view that it should not take a threat of such proportion for the government to take action. The government prefers mere show over substance. There is no planning and no vision. Rural and regional communities deserve better on biosecurity.

Maryborough Electorate, Manufacturing



Mr SAUNDERS (Maryborough—ALP) (2.45 pm): I rise to talk about the economic value of the Palaszczuk government to the Maryborough electorate and how good it is for businesses medium, small and large throughout my electorate. Recently I visited the Rheinmetall Nioa shell producing factory in Maryborough to watch the first shells come out. This is what a great government does. We worked with Rheinmetall Nioa and the federal government to locate this factory in our city which employs workers every day. It is skilling up our local workforce. It is a great factory that is the latest in advanced manufacturing.

Also to be based in Maryborough is ESI, Energy Storage Industries, which produces iron flow batteries. I know some on the other side do not understand what an iron flow battery is. This is bringing great jobs and a skill base to my city, once again backed by the Palaszczuk Labor government. No wonder our employment rate is down to 3.8 per cent across this state. We have a great government, a great Premier, Treasurer and cabinet that is leading the charge to create jobs in this state. I will say that again so it sinks in across the road—3.8 per cent. These iron flow batteries are very good. It will bring over 155 full-time jobs to my community. We are talking about renewable energy. We are talking about skilling the workforce in advanced manufacturing. I thank the Deputy Premier for turning the sod for the ESI factory, along with myself and the mayor of the Fraser Coast Regional Council.

In more great news—the good news keeps coming for Maryborough—AEG, Advanced Energy Group, will reopen the sugar mill. This is the first sugar mill in the history of this nation that was closed down and will reopen. It will be a biofuels hub. This will create more jobs in our community and make sure that the sugar industry is kept alive in the Maryborough electorate. Biofuels use a different type of cane. The Advanced Energy Group will invest a lot of money into the Maryborough electorate reskilling workers and employing new workers. Not only is Maryborough producing iron flow batteries but also it will be a hub for this new industry. It is all happening in the Maryborough electorate. These economic benefits are only made possible by the election of the Palaszczuk Labor government and through the great budget we delivered last month. That is what happens when you get a good government. That is why today our employment rate hit 3.8 per cent.

Palaszcuk Labor Government, Integrity



Mr POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (2.49 pm): I rise to address yet more examples of the Palaszcuk Labor government's increasing efforts to avoid scrutiny and accountability. In March the Speaker gave significant advice regarding questions on notice. He stated—

... as long as the question accords with the standing orders and is genuinely seeking to elicit information which should be available to the minister, I will rule that the minister should answer the question in a relevant and genuine manner.

The Speaker went on—

Responses must pertain to the question asked. If not, they are irrelevant and the question will be considered unanswered. Answers which contain gratuitous political statements that are not relevant to the question asked will be ruled out of order.

...

If the data is available it should generally be provided.

I thank the Speaker for his considered oversight of the matter.

Sadly, it appears that the government has no intention of adhering to the Speaker's rulings. For starters, the government is missing deadlines. Responses are not being received by their due date. A Parliamentary Library brief shows that in 2020, 20 of the 1,067 questions or 1.9 per cent were provided after the due date; in 2021, it was 46 of the 1,698 questions or 2.7 per cent; and in 2022 to date, it is already 43 of the 774 questions or 5.6 per cent. That suggests one of three things: (1) deliberate delay; (2) sloppy, lazy internal controls; or (3) increased quality assurance by the Speaker of the content, with answers being sent back. Whichever it is, any one or all of those explanations reflect a tired third-term government that increasingly is determining that they are above proper parliamentary scrutiny.

I will give one example. Question on notice No. 688 was asked by the Leader of the Opposition of the health minister on 23 June. The answer had a due date of 25 July. We are still waiting for a response a month later. Even with increased quality assurance efforts by the Speaker, responses still do not meet community examinations. I can give plenty of examples. One is that in 2016 and 2017, when the opposition asked questions of the then health minister, the member for Woodridge, regarding adverse clinical incidents they were answered. In 2022, we are being told that answering them would be unreasonable. What has changed other than the attitude of the government?

Finally, whilst avoiding commenting on the contents of the motions, I want to speak of the Palaszcuk Labor government increasingly using the committee system as their own personal political play thing. There is an agreed process that involves the Committee of the Legislative Assembly and discussing committee referrals. Many of the more recent references have not been to the CLA, have not been shared with the opposition and crossbenchers, and are not even circulated when moved.

I understand that the government of the day has an ability to propose committee investigations, but in lieu of an upper house we regularly refer to a robust committee system that involves consultation on what committees consider. They should not become a vehicle for the Labor government's retribution or base political pointscoring. Each of those examples further demonstrates the arrogance of this visionless third-term Palaszcuk government.

Alger Electorate, NAIDOC Week; Path to Treaty



Hon. LM ENOCH (Alger—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and the Arts) (2.52 pm): We have been listening to the member for Glass House. Considering that we did have a whole heap of laptop lies out there and we are still waiting on that apology, they talk about transparency.

Mr LANGBROEK: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member has used unparliamentary language. The word that I will not repeat is unparliamentary.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Thank you for the point of order. The context that the language was used in does not, in my view, constitute unparliamentary language. However, we will review the transcript later and if necessary change that ruling. At this stage, I do not rule a point of order.

Ms ENOCH: This year we celebrated NAIDOC Week with the theme 'Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up!', which encourages communities to come together to make meaningful and impactful change while recognising and celebrating First Nations culture. Each year, NAIDOC Week offers an opportunity to reflect on our shared past and work toward a reconciled future. I was impressed by the many celebrations seen across the Alger electorate during this year's NAIDOC Week. In my electorate of

Algeria I am fortunate to have many fantastic schools, all of which boast a safe, supportive and welcoming learning environment for students to grow in. It has been my pleasure to visit those schools regularly during my time as the member for Algeria.

Recently, I attended Acacia Ridge State School where NAIDOC Week was celebrated with an assembly that began with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dance groups sharing cultural dances with the students. The school community was also treated to an immersive didgeridoo performance, which everyone loved. The assembly concluded with an opportunity for all attendees to contribute to a wonderful piece of art that I understand will be displayed at the school. It was a very special and moving moment for everyone at Acacia Ridge State School and I congratulate them on the event.

I was also fortunate recently to attend Pallara Childcare to present the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags as part of their NAIDOC celebrations. The children greeted me with their acknowledgement of the land and people around them. Even though the children are of such a young age, it was wonderful to see them acknowledging and recognising the importance of First Nations culture and history.

Across the Algeria electorate many other NAIDOC celebrations occurred including events at Algeria State School, Calamvale Community College, Browns Plains State School and many more. At the much loved Acacia Ridge NAIDOC celebrations hosted at the Murri School, the community gathered for a kup murri. The underground oven was built by Murri School students, staff and community members and was enjoyed by all. The Murri School hopes to host more kup murris throughout the year to bring the community together and share culture.

This is all happening as the Palaszczuk government embarks on the next step on our path to treaty. These events will become even more important as we continue on the path to treaty in this state. I acknowledge the Premier for her incredible leadership with regard to our path to treaty and the Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister Crawford. I acknowledge my colleagues the member for Cook and the member for Bundamba.

Mostly, I want to acknowledge the many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and non-Indigenous people who, over many decades, have dedicated their life's work to getting us to this point with regard to treaty. I think about my grandparents, my parents and the many aunts and uncles whom I have witnessed committing many years of their lives to these efforts. I encourage and acknowledge all of that as we move forward on our path to treaty in Queensland.

Redlands, Youth Crime



Dr ROBINSON (Oodgeroo—LNP) (2.56 pm): Local Redlanders continue to voice their concerns about youth crime in Cleveland and on the Redlands coast and to call for more resources from the state government to combat it. The death of Matt Field, Kate Leadbetter and baby Miles on Australia Day 2021 was a tragedy that rocked the Redlands coast community. A repeat offending youth stole a car and with it killed three innocent people, stealing their lives from them and leaving behind shattered parents, grandparents, other family members and friends. Sadly, the government's response to this and other tragic incidents has been far from adequate.

In the current system under this government's management, offenders are still able to walk the streets after breaching bail or parole conditions. Young offenders are exploiting these flaws in the system in what has been described as a revolving-door policy attitude to juvenile crime in Queensland. The government's approach does not meet community expectations and the government must do more to protect innocent Redlands locals from recidivist youth offenders.

Sadly, not a week goes by without local reports of youth offending in the Redlands. In Raby Bay, Cleveland Point, Wellington Point and elsewhere, break and enters, car thefts, hooning and antisocial behaviour, among other crimes, seem to be on the increase despite the hard work of our local police, who do an excellent job. Breakouts of hooning and antisocial behaviour have again occurred in certain hotspots in recent times. Wellington Point Recreation Reserve has been abused over many years by young hoons who have no regard for local residents. Speeding up to Cleveland Point, hooning and antisocial behaviour in the VMR carpark is not on.


On 9 August at the VMR Raby Bay, Cleveland, I attended a public meeting with deeply concerned local community representatives Councillor Peter Mitchell, Redland City Council officers and Police Senior Sergeant Michael Morier, the OIC at Cleveland station. We had a constructive conversation about the local issues and possible solutions. I want to thank Councillor Peter Mitchell for pulling things together and for his tireless work on behalf of local residents. I also thank Senior Sergeant Morier for his time and commitment to policing in our community.

I want to be clear to all those who participated and to all residents in areas impacted by hooning and young loutish behaviour that, despite the limited resources from the state government, I will continue to work with the police, the council and locals to do all we can to combat youth criminal behaviour and to deal with these repeat youth offenders. I also take a moment to thank all those who have contacted my office to express their concerns and who help us and the police to keep our community safe. The Redlands community expects this government to do more to keep them safe and to deal strongly with repeat youth offenders.

Interruption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER'S RULING

Reversal


 **Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): We have reviewed the transcript and considered other examples of the usage of that language. I will reverse my previous ruling. I consider that language to be unparliamentary and I ask the member for Algeester to withdraw.

Ms ENOCH: I withdraw.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Resumed.

Regional Medical Pathway

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (2.59 pm): The Regional Medical Pathway is a great collaboration between four partners. Central Queensland University of Australia, the University of Queensland and the Central Queensland and Wide Bay hospital and health services are proud that the first intake of Bachelor of Medical Science students began at the beginning of this year and are working incredibly hard at their studies. This pathway includes 32 students across two sites—Rockhampton and Bundaberg—where 43 per cent of the students are from regional, rural or remote areas and 9.3 per cent of the cohort identify as having a First Nation background.

The Regional Medical Pathway aims to produce locally trained doctors in Central Queensland and Wide Bay and deliver expanded services, safer care, research and learning opportunities and a substantial economic benefit to our regions. This work is an evidence based workforce strategy that is crucial to improving health access across our communities. We in regional Queensland have really struggled to attract health staff, particularly doctors. Research evidence indicates that students who study in regional and remote communities for longer than one year are four times more likely to continue to live and work in those communities after graduation.

As a regional MP, I know that some of our brightest students are relocating to major centres to complete their medical studies. I can easily understand that over a six-year period students make new friends and enter in relationships, and then it is hard for them to return to regional centres. The Regional Medical Pathway commenced this year, and hopefully we will see our first UQ doctors of medicine graduate in 2026. This is a great partnership that will help ease the doctor shortage in regional Queensland, training hundreds of doctors into the future.

At North Rockhampton State High School we have the health hub, where students who want a career in health work can get a head start. They can actually finish school as enrolled nurses. This is great news as we look to grow our health workforce and give more young people the opportunity to build their careers locally. This project was actually funded through the state government with equipment donated by Ramsay Health Care. It is a great investment in our community and in our young people.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

Resumed from 26 May (see p. 1462) on motion of Mr Russo—

That the House take note of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee Report No. 22, 57th Parliament, *Inquiry into serious vilification and hate crimes*, tabled on 31 January 2022.



Mr HUNT (Caloundra—ALP) (3.03 pm): I rise to speak briefly about one of the most interesting and engaging committee processes I have been involved with. In the words of American author and feminist Audre Lorde—

It is not differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognise, accept, and celebrate those differences.

Report No. 22 is titled *Inquiry into serious vilification and hate crimes*. As always—and as is right and proper with a report of this nature—the committee approached this with a collegiate mindset, and the secretariat worked even harder than usual on this report. Thanks go to the chair, Peter Russo, the member for Toohey; the member for Cooper, Jonty Bush; the member for Noosa, Sandy Bolton; the member for Currumbin, Laura Gerber; and the member for Glass House, Andrew Powell.

The manner of consultation was extremely broad, with regular hearings, written submissions and, on this occasion, video submissions from a vast array of stakeholders. The committee also held four public hearings in Brisbane: on 3 September, attended by 35 witnesses representing 15 organisations; on 9 September, with 32 witnesses representing 19 organisations; on 10 September, with 15 witnesses representing nine organisations; and on 15 October, attended by three witnesses representing a single organisation. All outlined their own experiences with not only instances of hate speech but also how the machinery of state responded to these instances. It must be said that the response was not always ideal, if there was a response at all.

The report outlines that ‘hate crimes are criminal acts committed with a bias motive’. The bias motive element of a hate crime means that the perpetrator intentionally chose the target of the crime or their property because of some protected characteristic. A protected characteristic is a characteristic shared by a group such as a race, language, religion, ethnicity, nationality or any other similar common factor such as sexual orientation or being transgender. To be considered a hate crime, the act must be a criminal offence such as intimidation, threats, property damage, assault or murder.

A stakeholder explained how a hate crime differs from a crime without a bias motive. A person may spit on another person just because they do not like a person. That is a quite different thing from it being targeted at a person because of a personal characteristic such as their race, their disability or some other characteristic. It is always the distinguishing feature to keep in mind. This is about conduct that has a link to a personal characteristic that a person cannot control and is an expression of some sort of contempt, hatred, disgust or some other form of prejudice based behaviour.

Some of the testimony was difficult to hear. The Queensland Jewish Board of Deputies described one such instance when a representative said—

Only six days ago a member of our community was walking with his young son to the Brisbane Synagogue. He was abused by someone shouting ‘Heil Hitler’ and giving him the Nazi salute.

When approached, the perpetrator attacked and punched the Jewish man simply because he was identified as Jewish as he was wearing a yarmulke. That this is still happening in this day and age absolutely beggars belief. Thus, I am very proud of recommendation 16. The committee considers that the display of symbols of hate such as the Nazi swastika and symbols of ISIS ideology should be banned. These hate symbols can cause distress to Queenslanders, particularly those from persecuted communities. The committee stresses that such a ban should include exceptions so that, for example, symbols of Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism are not inadvertently prohibited.

Across a broader front, recommendation 4 seeks to ensure that anti-vilification provisions will be applied to cover race, religion, gender and/or sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, sex characteristics and/or intersex status, disability and medical status including HIV status. I am hopeful and confident that all 17 recommendations will go some way towards addressing these levels of insecurity and the disciples of hate that grow from them, but it needs to be acknowledged that we are certainly swimming upstream against a pooling of ignorance that occurs on social media and on the darknet. Time will not allow me to speak adequately about the required legal changes, but that will be explored and recommended. I look forward to unpacking that further when we speak directly to the bill at a later date.



Mrs GERBER (Currumbin—LNP) (3.08 pm): Distressed, disgusted and sorry—this is how I felt hearing and reading the stories of hate and vilification shared with our committee during the inquiry into serious vilification and hate crimes. I want to ask members to close their eyes and consider some of the experiences submitted to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee. You are at home while the kids play in the park across the road. You notice the neighbours filming them. The situation escalates quickly. A man and his partner are throwing rocks at your kids, calling them ‘dirty’ and other derogatory terms that I cannot repeat in this chamber. Throughout the committee process we heard of so many experiences such as this one—each heartbreaking and each utterly disgusting.

The committee has put forward 17 recommendations. Time will not permit me to go through all of these, so I will touch on one that I think the government can start doing now—education. Recommendation 17 recommends the government develop community education campaigns in conjunction with organisations such as the Queensland Human Rights Commission and Multicultural Australia to educate the community about vilification and hate conduct. We must provide better education to our community and we need to be integrating this education in our schools. One brave parent shared their story with the committee. They stated—

I have six biological, adopted and foster children. Five of my children identify as LGBT+. Four of my children are African American and one is Aboriginal.

They have been exposed to daily bullying with sexist, homophobic, transphobic and racist slurs used on a daily basis. For example, they have been repeatedly told to die because they are Black or 'go back to slavery'. The bullying is intensifying to the point where one child frequently has to miss classes due to panic attacks, and another just sits and cries through classes.

This climate of permitted racial, homophobic, and transphobic slurs makes it difficult for my children to learn, and is very damaging for their psychological and emotional health and wellbeing.

It is truly awful that in the 21st century children are still being targeted by such hateful speech, and it appears to be escalating. This is happening in schools. Education on vilification and hate crimes must be improved because the root cause of harm is individuals making choices to propagate hate through their words or actions.

Just on propagating hate through speech, having heard the Premier's comments during question time this morning, I believe the Premier could benefit from the committee's recommendation for education in order to combat hate and vilification. Having sat on the committee conducting the inquiry into serious vilification and hate crimes, I was disgusted to hear the Premier judge women based on their looks in this chamber. Likening a visit to parliament from Tamika, Brooke and Lauren with the members for Surfers Paradise and Bonney to a 'late-night rendezvous' is outrageous sexist stereotyping. The Premier passed this judgement on these women using the protection of privilege in this chamber. Tamika is a respected businesswoman in my community who was visiting parliament to hear the member for Bonney's speech thanking her for her charity work—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member, I appreciate your passion in relation to that particular issue. I have given you some leeway but I would ask you to come back to the report.

Mrs GERBER: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. The Premier's conduct here is exactly the type of hate and vilification that my committee is trying to stamp out with this inquiry.

Ms PEASE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Currumbin is reflecting upon your guidance from the chair.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not view it that way. Member for Currumbin, I ask you to come back to the substance of the report.

Mrs GERBER: The substance of the report is an inquiry into vilification and hate crimes. In my view, the Premier needs to apologise immediately for her conduct, particularly as a woman holding the highest office in Queensland.

In the time that I have left, I want to say thank you to the fantastic local organisations in the Currumbin electorate that support our diverse community, especially noting that this month is Queensland Multicultural Month. I am so proud to represent a community that is so supportive of multiculturalism. I want to give a shout-out to the team at Krurungal Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation who do incredible work supporting our community. I would also like to give a shout-out to the fantastic Neighbours Connect organisation and Afrekete Australia who operate out of Coolangatta. They and so many other organisations in our community do such incredible work upholding this year's theme for Queensland Multicultural Month. The theme this month is 'Inclusion in Action'.

I also want to extend my thanks to those who sat on the committee with me. The secretariat worked extremely hard during this inquiry. Often the testimonials were very difficult to read and hear, and at times I was moved to tears by some of the stories that people very bravely shared with us. Without them sharing their experiences, we would never have been able to grasp the full range of hate and vilification. The recommendations that came out of it are a credit to those people who testified and came forward.

(Time expired)



Ms BUSH (Cooper—ALP) (3.13 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the serious vilification and hate crimes report which was tabled in January this year. As others have said, it was such a meaningful inquiry to work on both in terms of the conclusions and the recommendations that the report has made and for what we believe it will deliver for vulnerable Queenslanders.

It is the process that the committee adopted in this inquiry that I really valued particularly. I would like to speak principally to that because this report would not be what it was without us making some adjustments to the committee process.

All members of the committee were acutely aware of the need to capture the experiences and the wishes of those Queenslanders who are subjected to hate speech and hate acts. First Nations people, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, the LGBTIQ community, disability and women are disproportionately vilified at a far greater rate and in a far more targeted and deliberate way than most in our community. We also know that for a range of reasons, be it through cultural sensitivities, perhaps having a history of torture and trauma, a general fear of and mistrust in government systems or generally a sense of shame of what they have experienced, individuals from these communities may not actively seek to engage or feel safe engaging in a parliament committee process.

We as a committee discussed this. I would like to particularly acknowledge the chair and deputy chair in their leadership on this issue. We decided together to attempt some different approaches to how we might engage with these target groups. We worked with Multicultural Australia to outreach to our CALD communities. They, like the committee, were determined to make sure that the voices of culturally and linguistically diverse people were included in the committee inquiry and in the final report.

We approved the use of video submissions and received 43 video submissions from CALD people, in addition to the 82 written submissions we received right across the sector. What that did was allow us to hear directly from them—in their words, uninterrupted—about their experiences, the things that have been said to them, the things that have been done to them, the things that have been said about them. We did not constrain those video submissions—and some of them were quite lengthy and comprehensive. I want to acknowledge the members of our committee who, like me, listened to every single one of those 43 video submissions in their entirety. We heard what they said and vowed as a committee to make recommendations that would help them feel safe and, importantly, feel like they belong and that they can participate fully here in Queensland.

Throughout the process I was again reminded of the challenges that our committee and I am sure all committees experience in getting a representative response rate from our First Nations people. I think this is a challenge that we need to keep turning our mind to—how do we make these committee processes more inviting and culturally safe for First Nations people—because their voices in all of our inquiries but particularly in this inquiry were really important. I want to say to our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people that your voices in these parliamentary committees are what really matter. Your voice counts. Our committees do have the flexibility to change things about the process to be more culturally safe for you to participate—and we really need you to. Complementary to that of course is that when First Nations people participate in these processes we need to set aside perhaps our own beliefs and our own experiences and listen.

This report makes 17 recommendations. The reform recommended will address a few key areas including removing the barriers to reporting—which we know very much exist. Importantly, there is a recommendation to improve data collection and record keeping. We heard from QPS particularly about the struggles they have around tagging particular incidents of crime as being a hate crime and not just letting it get washed up as general graffiti or an assault charge.

Other recommendations include expanding the protected attributes to afford greater protection from vilification on the grounds of gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics; adjusting legislative thresholds to reflect the serious nature of hate crime and vilification; giving a greater voice for victims through restorative justice—that was a key theme that came through, and I am personally very proud that that is included as a recommendation; challenges associated with online vilification; and, importantly, as others have said, education. We all have an obligation here.

I want to make the comment that in this inquiry and I think in society generally when we talk about education we seem to orient that toward our schools and our education providers and say that it is a responsibility for schools to provide education. Actually it is a responsibility for all of us whether we are in community groups, sporting groups or here as members in this place. It is something we all need to adhere to.

(Time expired)



Hon. LM LINARD (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (3.18 pm): ‘They called me a terrorist, asked me if I had a bomb under my turban and yelled at me to leave the country.’ ‘I have lost count of the number of times that I have been shouted at, told to go home, talked too loudly and slowly, or just generally ignored.’ ‘My kids are bullied at school when they are wearing a head scarf.’ ‘My home office was destroyed. There were Nazi symbols written on this and Heil Hitler written everywhere.’ These are some of the many racist incidents recounted by Queenslanders who made submissions to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee’s inquiry into serious vilification and hate crimes.

This submission is from the Queensland African Communities Council—

I was coming home from University. I was waiting by myself at Salisbury Bus stop. As the bus was approaching it almost passed me even though I put my hand out waving for the bus, when I got into the bus the driver said to me “next time you should use a torch light,” I apologised. The following week the same incident happened but this time the bus driver said “almost missed you because I couldn’t see you,” after that I didn’t feel like catching the bus when it got dark because I felt embarrassed, this bus stop had lights too.

We are so much better than this and every Queenslander deserves so much better than this. In Queensland we protect against many forms of discrimination but there is no legislation dedicated to addressing serious vilification and hate crimes. For too many who come from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds racism is a part of everyday life. It takes many overt forms: from discrimination in the workplace, to online bullying and harassment, to outright public abuse and assault. The Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council was established under the Multicultural Recognition Act 2016 to advise the Minister for Multicultural Affairs on opportunities and barriers facing people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. The council gives advice on implementing the Multicultural Queensland Charter and how to support the creation of a uniformed, harmonious and inclusive community.

The 11 members of my current council come from a diverse range of cultural backgrounds, live across Queensland and are valued members and leaders in their respective communities. Unfortunately, many of them have also experienced racism or faced barriers due to their cultural or religious background. For these reasons council members were well-placed to provide testimony to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee—which I wholeheartedly supported—on the nature, extent and impacts of vilification and hate crimes on culturally diverse groups. The council’s submission highlighted the need for change. It outlined how Queensland’s current vilification laws are difficult to navigate and the challenges people face at every stage of the complaints process. For a person without legal representation many of these challenges may have been insurmountable.

The submission also focused on the solutions and penalties available under the current system. Most complaints are resolved at compulsory conciliation through an agreed settlement. If the matter proceeds to a tribunal hearing the likelihood of obtaining an award for punitive or aggravated damages is slim. The council felt that penalties given to perpetrators of serious vilification under section 131A of the Anti-Discrimination Act do not necessarily meet community expectations. An example provided was of a Muslim woman accosted by a man in an unprovoked attack on a West End street in Brisbane when he threatened to set her hijab on fire with a cigarette lighter. He was fined \$500. This event would have been incredibly traumatic. Is a fine of \$500 commensurate with threatening to burn someone alive? I do not think so.

Recommendation 16 of the committee’s report calls for the establishment of a criminal offence that prohibits the display of hate symbols, including those relating to Nazi and ISIS ideology. On Saturday, 30 October last year I received a call from Jason Steinberg, president of the Queensland Jewish Board of Deputies, advising that a Nazi flag was flying out the window of an apartment in a building overlooking the synagogue on Margaret Street. Queensland police attended the scene and seized the flag, but instead of charging the offender with committing a specific hate based offence the only option available was to issue a notice to appear for public nuisance. In January on International Holocaust Remembrance Day Jason Steinberg again sent me another disturbing image—this time of anti-Semitic posters attached to a post outside the Gold Coast Synagogue.

The member for Sunnybank, a passionate defender of equality and inclusiveness in this place, used these eloquent words in his report’s forward—

While each of us have a moral responsibility to ensure that our conduct is appropriate ... the unfortunate reality in our society is that there will be some people who will traverse the bounds of proper behaviour.

The committee made 17 wideranging recommendations which raise a number of complex issues. These will require careful consideration by government. I commend the committee for shining a light on this issue and I commend the report to the House.



Mr McCALLUM (Bundamba—ALP) (3.23 pm): We recognise the valuable and extraordinary contributions that individuals and organisations from so many diverse backgrounds make to our communities, and that is the basis of why we are so committed to a strong and unified Queensland that is fair, harmonious and inclusive. The reality is that there is still a lot of racism, there is a lot of vilification and there is a lot of negativity directed towards people from vulnerable groups who are made to feel alone, isolated and less than.

Given this reality, prior to the last state election we made a commitment to refer the Cohesive Communities Coalition's options paper to a parliamentary committee for further review and consultation. In April last year we delivered on that commitment and referred the matter of serious vilification and hate crimes to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee. Madam Deputy Chair, I would like to acknowledge your contribution as well as all committee members. It is a firm example of real action to make sure that Queensland's vilification and hate crime laws reflect our commitment to a fair and inclusive community for all Queenslanders. We do have existing laws and frameworks to deal with hate crimes, racism and discrimination, but still it persists in our community. Every Queenslander should feel that reporting hate incidents and crime is worth the effort and will lead to some kind of outcome. To ensure that, we need to make sure our laws are effective and provide the right protections.

We are also committed to ensuring that all voices are heard and that any potential changes to our laws in Queensland are properly informed by the views and experiences of a diverse range of Queenslanders. I would like to congratulate and thank the individuals and organisations that took the time to participate in the inquiry. I will mention one organisation and one person in particular: Beny Bol from the Queensland African Communities Council. Beny was a submitter to the committee. I have the privilege of having the QACC in my electorate at Redbank Plains. I have a strong relationship with Beny Bol, who is a wonderful African community leader and who does incredible work both in the African community and the broader community in fostering a real sense of sharing and understanding.

It was so confronting—and unfortunately familiar in some respects—to read about the impacts of hate crimes and vilification. We have heard specific examples from some of the previous speakers. The report revealed that impacts include things such as stress, difficulty sleeping, heart palpitations, hopelessness, suicidal ideation, feeling anxious, feeling less than, impacts on mental health, not feeling safe, not feeling valued and definitely not feeling respected.

The victims of vilification and hate crimes are left feeling intimidated, vulnerable and in fear for their own safety and the safety of their families whilst being made to feel guilty and like outsiders. They are made to feel like they do not belong in our society when they absolutely do. There are genuine, actual and psychological impacts as a result of these crimes that leave victims with ongoing trauma. In some cases I was absolutely horrified—but not surprised—to learn that people have resigned from their jobs, are afraid to go out or are diagnosed and medicated for mental health disorders as a result of the suffering and vilification they have experienced. I very much look forward to contributing to the legislation when it is brought forward in this House.



Ms McMILLAN (Mansfield—ALP) (3.29 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee report No. 22 titled *Inquiry into serious vilification and hate crimes*. I have a growing multicultural community, with many of the new members of my community being of Asian or Indian heritage. These families are choosing the Mansfield electorate as their home to access the outstanding schools in my community. These families value education and in many cases have migrated to our country to ensure that their children have the life opportunities that they as parents have not necessarily been afforded.


Further, my community is home to one of the largest mosques in the Southern Hemisphere. Many Muslim families also call my community home. We were all heartbroken by the event that occurred in Christchurch on 15 March 2019. I know that my local Muslim community were incredibly fearful after this event. In fact, I and other community leaders ensured our presence at their mosque for the following weeks to reinstall their confidence and to stand with them united during such a tragic period. My community is also home to the only Jewish school and Jewish community in Queensland.

I commend the Attorney-General for her review of the Anti-Discrimination Act. I commend the chair of the committee, the member for Toohey, and all members of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee. The recommendations published in the serious vilification and hate crimes report are so important to my community.

My community witnessed recently the hurt that can be caused by divisive practices and policy positions when the Citipointe Christian College implemented their student enrolment contract. The response of my community was overwhelming. My electorate of Mansfield made their position very

clear: hate and vilification of certain groups in our community will not be tolerated. This is not the Queensland that they want to see. Further, the Queensland and Australian community expressed their disgrace at the treatment of the Murugappan Tamil family from Biloela.

Hate crimes have no place in Queensland. We will make sure our laws protect our diverse community. I would expect nothing less of this Labor government than its consideration of all 17 of the recommendations made by the committee. The Attorney-General and the member for Toohey have been at the forefront of our work as a government—our work to address equity, acceptance of diversity and equal opportunity. I am confident that only a Labor government will embrace the policy settings needed for a multicultural, diverse and progressive Queensland. I am very much looking forward to contributing to the bill when it comes to the House. I commend this report to the House.

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (3.31 pm): I rise to support the committee report No. 22 of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee into serious vilification and hate crimes. I would like to congratulate the committee for their work. Although I am not a member of the committee, I want to commend them for their hard work on this very important report.

I believe this inquiry into serious vilification and hate crimes and the report that the committee has provided to the parliament are a living testament to the former member for Stretton, Duncan Pegg. Duncan was a proud supporter of multiculturalism, but he went further than that. Even though my electorate is a multicultural success story, sometimes unfortunately people do the wrong thing. Duncan spoke out against the 'no mosque' signs that went up along Warrigal Road in Runcorn at Warrigal Farms across from the Runcorn State High School. He spoke passionately about that in this place, and I remember being here and watching it. It brought him to tears, and I know many people in this place were close to tears—hearing how those Muslim students must have felt going to school right past those signs that were put up.

In addition, Duncan stood up for a very well-known local Muslim woman who was being harassed at a local restaurant. This was something that Duncan was publicly recognised for by members of my community at his farewell at SunPAC. I would like to thank the chair, Peter Russo, for recognising Duncan's work standing up against racism in his time as the member for Stretton.

Multiculturalism works and it benefits us all. The diversity that it brings is a strength to my local area and it is a strength to the whole of Queensland. The Stretton electorate is a multicultural success story made up of fantastic, hardworking people of many different backgrounds, cultures and religions. People have come from all over the world to settle in our vibrant, diverse and multicultural suburbs deep on the south side of Brisbane. In fact the Stretton electorate has the highest proportion of people born overseas in the state, and it also has the highest proportion of people who speak a language other than English at home. These are people who value hard work, family and, importantly, education. This can be seen in the census figures. Along with the diverse range of backgrounds and languages, people in Stretton outperform the Queensland average when it comes to higher education or household income.

For many in my local area, their journey here was about securing a better life. That is true of so many people I know in Stretton. There are people from many different backgrounds—Chinese, Taiwanese, Korean, Japanese, Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Middle Eastern, South-East Asian or European heritage. They all tell me the same story; they all tell me how proud they are that their children are doing very well at school and they all have ambitions and hopes for their children to go on and have successful jobs, start businesses or whatever it might be.

It is a place where I see multiculturalism working. It is a place where people of all different backgrounds can celebrate Christmas, Eid, Diwali, Chinese New Year, Onam or Buddha's birthday. One of the only side effects of being the member for Stretton is that there is too much delicious food on the menu and sometimes I find that I overeat. I am encouraged when I see many different groups from all different backgrounds celebrating together—such as people from the local Islamic school celebrating Chinese New Year and people from the many different Chinese community groups celebrating Eid. It works really well.


However, unfortunately, there are some people who do not do the right thing. I am sorry to say that, even in my community, people can be targeted simply because of the colour of their skin or their religion. That is why we need laws that deal with serious vilification and hate crimes. Duncan supported that and I do too. An example of this was raised by a well-known Islamic leader from my community, Ali Kadri, who highlighted that there had been instances where mosques had been targeted by people but they were only charged with wilful damage because there was nothing in the Criminal Code that identified that kind of hate crime.

The report outlines 17 recommendations, including widening vilification provisions and ensuring laws cover religion, race, sex, gender, disability and medical status. I look forward to the government's close consideration of all of these recommendations. Finally, as the member for Toohey and chair of the committee said—

This report is dedicated to the memory of Mr Duncan Pegg ... the former colourful and 'colourblind' Member for Stretton, who believed that all people should be treated as equal, regardless of the colour of their skin, their ethnic background or their religious belief.

We hope that it—

... embodies the spirit of equality, community, acceptance and inclusivity for which Mr Pegg was so well renowned in his electorate.


 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (3.36 pm): I start by thanking the committee for their report. Obviously, it would have been quite a task to hear the stories that came out in that, and I congratulate them for the 17 recommendations. I also congratulate them for the collegial manner in which the whole committee—the opposition members, the member for Toohey and the government members—worked together to produce this report.

Racial and other vilification is a scourge on our society. As many members have said, it can have long-lasting effects on those people who are affected. I have had a small taste of it myself in my own electorate office for the stands that I have taken in the past. The first was during the plebiscite for marriage equality and what occurred there. The second one occurred earlier this year when a Nazi symbol was painted on my office because of the stance I took in regard to the vaccine rollout and the vaccines themselves.

Ignorance drives this. These incidents did not affect me but they affect others in my community. I want to thank those who reached out to me because it gave us a chance to have a conversation about how it affected them. This was especially the case after the Nazi symbol was painted on my office. I want to thank the Jewish community leaders who did reach out because it gave me an opportunity to have a chat to them. I know how painful these incidents are because they raise things that should not have to be raised yet again.

I look forward to hopefully later in this term when these recommendations are brought into legislation. Many speakers have raised important points about how these matters are addressed in our Criminal Code and that they do not get the respect in terms of the extra pain caused by these types of hate crimes and vilification.

I also want to acknowledge and thank the former member for Stretton because this report and these recommendations would not be needed if everyone was like Duncan Pegg. If everyone saw the world the way Duncan did, these recommendations would not be needed. Duncan had a great outlook on life and he took everyone in. He did not see the colour of their skin or their religion. He saw what brought them all together in common. He was a fantastic representative for his local community. I am so glad that the chair and the committee acknowledged his work, and his work continues to live on in this place. I look forward to the further changes that we will make in regards to this. I am glad that he was acknowledged in this report and no doubt he will be acknowledged again when the legislation comes to parliament.

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (3.41 pm): I would like to start by acknowledging the committee members who brought this report to this chamber. It demonstrates the good work that committees do in this House. I particularly acknowledge the chair, Peter Russo, alongside all the members on that committee who brought forward the inquiry into serious vilification and hate crimes.

Following the member for Capalaba's comments just now, I pay my respects and also reflect on the good work that the previous member for Stretton delivered. It is fitting that this report is dedicated to him because he did so much in the area of Stretton and had a solid heart and commitment in terms of representing the multicultural society and community of Stretton. When Duncan passed away, we lost a champion in this place. We lost someone who was dedicated to multiculturalism. However, there are other champions coming up through the ranks now whom I see in this chamber and through their contributions I have heard today whom I respect, and we will see people flowing on from that.

I reflect on a couple of examples that I have experienced in my term in public office in both the Senate and this House. I reflect back to a time in 2014 where I was in the chamber of the Australian Senate sitting next to Senator Nova Peris, an Indigenous senator from the Northern Territory. To our disbelief, the then attorney-general for Australia stood up and claimed that people have a right to be

bigots. In attempts to amend the Racial Discrimination Act, he was suggesting that there should be sections provided in that act to allow people to have a say—to be bigots. Both Nova and I were gobsnapped when we heard that.

Another reflection I have is from 2016. Prior to entering the ministry, I was up in Cairns seeing my family there. For some time I had always wanted to go to Cooktown. We drove up to Cooktown for a visit and drove through Wujal Wujal. We saw amazing communities up there. We met the then mayor, a beautiful person. We got to experience very briefly a bit of the community and understood the beauty of a remote Indigenous community. My departure involved me flying back to Cairns, then flying home to Brisbane. At the Cooktown airport—it is a very small airport—you talk to people, as you do, and the chap who was conversing with me there said, 'Where have you been? What are you up here for?' I said, 'I have just come up here to see family and we thought we would pay a visit to Cooktown and pass through Wujal Wujal.' He said, 'Oh.' I said, 'Why do you say that?' He said, 'Well, I don't like the colour scheme down there.' I was so angry. I had to restrain myself from doing something probably unlawful to that particular person for his comments. This is the type of racial vilification that needs to be ruled out in our society—right across this state—and right across this nation. That is why we need leaders and champions to stand up and speak out against it.

Over the period of the last election in 2020, once again I met a One Nation candidate who in fact ran against me in the electorate of Ferny Grove. I saw his Facebook posts and I screenshot many of those before he identified himself as a One Nation candidate. His posts were consistent with the procedures and examples that Pauline Hanson uses and has been using since she was first elected to the Australian parliament as a member of the House of Representatives. He was claiming, 'It's right to be white'; 'It's great to see Tony Mundine on the canvas. That's white victory'; and those sorts of comments. These are the types of matters—online vilification—that are addressed by recommendation 1 in the report. We should do as much as possible to identify and rule this out, because we do not need any more Pauline Hansons in our society and we do not need any more George Brandises who believe that people have a right to be bigots. We need to stand up and talk about vilification and the wrongs of racism. Only then will our society be better. Only then will we be positioned to call out the harm and the hurt it does to people, whether they be from multicultural backgrounds or Indigenous backgrounds, to make sure we live in a harmonious, proper and prosperous society for the future.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ECONOMICS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note



Mr POWER (Logan—ALP) (3.46 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the Economics and Governance Committee Report No. 26, 57th Parliament, *Inquiry into the report on the strategic review of the functions of the Integrity Commissioner*, tabled on 3 June 2022.

I rise to take note of the Economics and Governance Committee's report into the statutory review undertaken into the functions of the Integrity Commissioner by Mr Kevin Yearbury. The committee supports and endorses the recommendations of the Yearbury report as sensible, steady improvements to the role of the Integrity Commissioner. We note that the role of the Integrity Commissioner is primarily a role of integrity adviser to MPs and other designated persons. This act sets out these functions clearly to give written advice on ethics and integrity issues in writing to defined designated persons, and also to meet with and give advice to members of the Legislative Assembly on interests and ethics issues.

MPs used to, before the creation of this role, seek out a personal lawyer for this type of advice. This role provides a consistent and experienced source of advice which I know many members value. It is also to keep the lobbyists register and, finally, to raise public awareness of ethics and integrity by contributing to public discussion of ethics issues.

The process of review and timing is defined in legislation and Mr Yearbury was, by statute, asked to review the performance of the functions I mentioned to see that they are performed economically, effectively and efficiently, and to examine the structural and operational aspects of the Integrity Commission and its relationship with public sector entities, ministers, members of the Legislative Assembly and the Economics and Governance Committee. We thank Mr Yearbury for this work and

the way in which he diligently conducted an independent review. Mr Yearbury made 27 recommendations which the committee supports. Mr Yearbury's recommendations are careful and incremental, and they deserve the support of this House.

I recognise that all the members of the committee, especially the deputy chair, followed Mr Yearbury's lead to be constructive about this process, and they were both positive and productive in supporting the whole report. This is in stark contrast to some of the opposition frontbench who have shown a distinct lack of integrity regarding this important office. No-one forgets that the member for Maroochydore badgered the previous integrity commissioner by insisting that they were being investigated, despite it being repeatedly denied by the commissioner and with no basis in fact. This is a consistent pattern from the opposition, to undermine and attack this important role. We saw this again at the last estimates where the member for Maroochydore once again continued to insist on 'false facts' to undermine and accuse the current Acting Integrity Commissioner in what I think is a truly disgraceful manner.

This is a highly respected independent public servant who, of course, had senior roles in the Newman LNP government and did not deserve this disgraceful behaviour. However, this is a pattern of behaviour by the LNP. They show no integrity whatsoever nor care or concern over wild and baseless claims on these issues. They do not care and they run out these accusations fully knowing the committee or the relevant minister is unable to answer these false charges and so then they are reported. However, I note that journalists are beginning to feel betrayed by the LNP's wild and baseless accusations.


This is never more true than in the disgraceful attacks led by the misleading troika of the members for Broadwater, Kawana and Maroochydore. They are a troika of confusion and misinformation. I use those words specifically because they are a quote. They disgracefully made lurid and false accusations of a 'seized' laptop in a 'raid'. Those words are not accurate. Those were the quotes that were misleading. They knew that this referral to the CCC would generate the headlines they wanted and leave a proper government which did the right thing to simply answer that the CCC should be left to do their job. Of course, none of these accusations was found to be true and the events were described by the CCC as 'wholly unremarkable'.

The CCC found these baseless accusations so damaging in eroding public confidence they felt duty bound to create a public report into their investigations. They stated clearly that the accusations orchestrated by the LNP were 'misinformation' and with 'no evidence'. People should all turn to the summary of the public report where they said there was no evidence of improper disclosure; the circumstances were not a raid or a seizure, but were entirely 'unremarkable'; and there was no evidence the laptops were wiped.

Ms Pease: Did we hear an apology?

Mr POWER: We have not yet.

I endorse the EGC's report to improve aspects of the role of the Integrity Commissioner. I cannot endorse the disgraceful behaviour of the LNP—apart from members of the EGC, who worked so hard—during this process. They have been caught out by the CCC report.

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (3.51 pm): In speaking to this report titled *Inquiry into the report on the strategic review of the functions of the Integrity Commissioner*, I am very pleased that a very respected public servant in Mr Kevin Yearbury has covered very important aspects of the role of the Integrity Commissioner. I say to the House that I have used the Integrity Commissioner myself on three occasions from memory for vital advice which I followed to the absolute letter in this House.

The Integrity Commissioner's role is a very important one in our new, modern parliament. I support the work that Mr Yearbury did 100 per cent. He was very communicative with the EGC. He did not address some of the matters that we would have liked him to address. However, that was his decision in relation to this report. He has come back with a report that should be adopted by this government and this parliament.

The report contained some unfortunate pieces in terms of some of the words that the former integrity commissioner herself articulated in relation to her role. It is extremely important that the role be maintained on an independent basis. Quite clearly through some of her proclamations, the former integrity commissioner's office, resources, assets and phone records are matters of great concern to her. She articulated this in several instances. Basically, we cannot have a repeat of that situation.

One of the recommendations from Mr Yearbury's report is that that office be staffed and funded as an independent body to keep it at arm's length from the government and the Public Service. We would like to see those recommendations being adopted as quickly as possible when we formally get a brand new Integrity Commissioner. As I understand it we have an acting Integrity Commissioner at this time. It is imperative that that office remain free from influence.

We know that the influence of lobbyists concerned the previous integrity commissioner, particularly the lobbyists that ensconced themselves in the so-called tower of power during the election period. It was unfortunate that matters of her investigative powers and her noting of the Register of Lobbyists and their activities were of concern. Perhaps we need to look at those sorts of matters. We do understand there has been some movement by the Premier of lobbyists away from particular roles that they may or may not have had in the future, but that was not the case that worried the former integrity commissioner and that has brought about a very unedifying outcome for the role of the Integrity Commissioner in the 57th Parliament.


We endorse completely the recommendations made by Mr Yearbury in relation to this report. We look forward to an Integrity Commissioner being put in place as soon as possible. Of course, there will be reference made to the EGC in relation to that role. However, we have no particular role in actually choosing the new Integrity Commissioner.

Mr Krause interjected.

Mr STEVENS: Our responsibilities are very limited. I take the suggestions from the PCCC chairman and member for Scenic Rim that it may well be a proper role for—and the Clerk also mentioned it in his speech on the Parliamentary Service—that should be further transferred across to the EGC—

Mr Krause: And Coaldrake.

Mr STEVENS:—and the Coaldrake report; I take that interjection as well. It may well be a better manner of ensuring the independence of that particular role. That is a very important outcome for this parliament and parliaments to come. I value the Integrity Commissioner's position. I follow the Integrity Commissioner's position. Everyone else in this parliament should adhere to the directions they give.

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (3.56 pm): I rise to speak to the Economics and Governance Committee report No. 26 titled *Inquiry into the report on the strategic review of the functions of the Integrity Commissioner*. I advise the House that I have sought advice from the Office of the Integrity Commissioner on a number of occasions.

For the information of members of the House, the Integrity Act requires that a strategic review of the functions of the Integrity Commissioner be conducted every five years. We are here to talk about the most recent strategic review. Mr Kevin Yearbury was appointed in March 2021 to conduct the strategic review. The committee was consulted on Mr Yearbury's appointment and was also consulted during his review. Mr Yearbury's strategic review was presented to the Premier in September 2021 and tabled in the parliament in October 2021. The strategic review made 27 recommendations pertaining to the Integrity Commissioner's advisory functions, lobbying regulation functions, public awareness functions as well as organisational arrangements. Under the Integrity Act the report was automatically referred to the committee for its inquiry.

Since the committee tabled report No. 26, the government has released its response to all 27 recommendations which either supported the recommendations or supported them in principle to be considered in conjunction with the Coaldrake report. Notwithstanding the worthy recommendations made and to be implemented, there is actually nothing remarkable about the process that occurred here. It was a strategic five-year review conducted in accordance with an act; improvements in administration and structure were recommended and ultimately supported by a government. This happens across a number of government departments and oversight bodies regularly.

It was unremarkable really—until the 'unremarkables' across the aisle tied themselves up in knots over the day-to-day minutiae of the Public Service. Somehow concerns raised by the Integrity Commissioner made their way into the public domain and subsequently into the lap of the member for Kawana, who took the opportunity to conduct one of his performative CCC complaints via the media. While I have no idea how this information came to be public, it is clear that what has been demonstrated is an extremely unintelligible understanding of how Public Service secondments work. We heard incessantly from those opposite words like 'raid', 'seizure' and 'wiping of information'. Even the statement of reservation in the committee's report continues to refer to the 'seizing' of a laptop from the Office of the Integrity Commissioner.

The CCC, through Investigation workshop, found that this is a mischaracterisation of what occurred. They found the removal of the laptop and subsequent repurposing of said laptop wholly unremarkable. What else would we expect from the wholly unremarkable member for Kawana, Queensland's worst attorney-general? What is clear from this LNP saga of confected outrage and outright mischaracterisation is that Queensland's worst attorney-general should not be allowed anywhere near a legislative instrument, let alone be concerned with drafting one. The use of the words 'seize' and 'raid' imply the use of powers by an enforcement body. The reality is that it was 'old mate' from the IT department collecting a laptop to redistribute to another public servant where there was a shortage of devices. No government wastage here! A laptop was sitting idle and it was repurposed. You cannot win with this lot.

Speaking of an inability to understand a word—or, more precisely, the misuse of words can also be found in the statement of reservation. For the interest of members, contrary to what the statement of reservation outlines, the former integrity commissioner did not call for a royal commission into integrity issues in Queensland. A simple look at the transcript shows this. The former integrity commissioner was asked whether she would support a royal commission into integrity issues in Queensland. She said—


I would support a commission of inquiry into the various matters.

The LNP turned that statement into a call for a royal commission. There is not a word or statement that they have not twisted in order to play political games. What a sideshow and circus we have seen from those opposite—a display that has so far seen no apology to the people of Queensland. At best, they could not be bothered to provide a considered or informed comment. At worst, they deliberately misled them. There was not a skerrick of an apology to those public servants who were maligned and framed with allegations of nefarious or conspiratorial actions. This has detracted from a worthy body of work from Mr Yearbury. There are recommendations which will make the office more effective and efficient. I commend the committee's report to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mrs McMahon, adjourned.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Portfolio Committees, Reporting Date and Referral of Auditor-General's Reports


 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Acting Leader of the House) (4.01 pm): I seek to advise the House of the determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved pursuant to standing order 136 that the Economics and Governance Committee report on the Major Sports Facilities Amendment Bill by 7 October 2022. The committee has resolved pursuant to standing order 194(b) that Auditor-General's Report 1 of 2022-23, titled *Delivering social housing services*, be referred to the Community Support and Services Committee and Auditor-General's Report 2 of 2022-23, titled *Improving grants management*, and Auditor-General's Report 3 of 2022-23, titled *Managing Queensland's COVID-19 economic response and recovery*, be referred to the Economics and Governance Committee.

TRADING (ALLOWABLE HOURS) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 2172, on motion of Ms Grace—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (4.03 pm), continuing: The IGAs in Roma, Charleville, St George, Chinchilla and Cunnamulla, the SPAR supermarket in Injune and the FoodWorks in Mitchell, Dirranbandi, Roma, Miles, Tara, Thargomindah, Quilpie, Dalby and St George are all critical small businesses in these communities. To quote Frank Spano, the IGA retail chairman who submitted to this legislation—


These businesses make a significant contribution to the communities in which they operate. They provide considerable support to their local communities through local fundraising initiatives that support schools, kindergartens, hospitals, clubs and so on. Most importantly, they are major employers within their communities.

We have not seen in regional Queensland a return to normal market conditions across the regions. In some cases these family and small businesses have had to deal with drought, the impacts of the pandemic, particularly through border closures, and repeated natural disaster events—not to mention the staff shortages. They advertise positions but no-one applies. There is a very significant staff shortage in regional Queensland.

Removing the moratorium in August 2022 will not support family and small businesses. In fact, it will remove their competitive advantage. The Labor government legislation is intent on removing the moratorium and this support for small businesses. Currently the moratorium provides economic certainty for these businesses that in turn, make great contributions to their local communities through employment opportunities and support of suppliers and community groups.

The LNP amendments—I commend the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for these amendments—seek to extend the moratorium for five years. This will extend support to family and small businesses. Many of the small business employees include working mothers, women and young people whose income is essential to the economic wellbeing of themselves and their families. This legislation is not evidence based. There is no overwhelming consumer outpouring of community sentiment requesting a change.

I am concerned by recommendation 1, whereby the QIRC will be able to declare special event applications. It is all very well to have trade during special events; it is all very well for the QIRC to approve a special event. However, business cannot trade unless they have staff. Given the staff and skills shortages currently being experienced in regional areas, they will struggle to find staff during special events. The staff simply are not there for them to open and trade during those particular events. I will be interested to see whether this particular recommendation makes any difference at all. Family and small businesses deserve better from this Labor government than this ideological legislation, and Queenslanders deserve better. I call on the members opposite to support the LNP amendments. They are a significant improvement to this legislation and will support the family and small businesses in regional areas.

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (4.06 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Trading (Allowable Hours) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, specifically to the amendments to the Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005 and the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006. This bill contains minor amendments to those acts to make permanent particular reforms that were temporarily in place through an extraordinary regulation made under the COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020 during the COVID-19 health emergency. The amendments allowed meetings conducted as part of investigations by the Queensland College of Teachers under the QCT act and Parents and Citizens' association meetings required under the education regulation to be conducted through communication technology, like Zoom or Teams, in addition to being held in person. The amendments allow for production of documents as part of a QCT investigation to be provided electronically or by post, in addition to providing these through in-person attendance.

The amendments are being made permanent after consultation with stakeholders, including the Queensland College of Teachers and P&Cs Qld. In consultation on the bill, QCT advised that the ability to conduct meetings as part of investigations via communication technology has enabled efficient and effective investigations and would have continued value given general changes in use of communication technology, Queensland's dispersed geography and the various reasons that may otherwise prevent someone from attending a meeting. The QCT has an important role in ensuring the integrity of the teaching profession in Queensland, and being able to conduct meetings as part of an investigation is essential. The ability to use communication technology to facilitate such meetings will support the QCT in its integrity role.

Further, P&Cs Qld has advised that a continued ability to conduct meetings via communication technology would be helpful, given physical attendance can be hampered by distance, on-farm commitments, poor roads and natural disasters. P&C associations provide a valuable support network to schools across the state, and they are required to hold meetings annually under the legislation. The increased flexibility these provisions will provide will reduce the burden for P&C associations and their members, particularly those in remote areas. While it is expected that meetings will often continue to be attended in person, the flexibility to utilise communication technology, particularly when there are natural disasters, health issues or significant distance to travel, will ensure these entities can comply with their regulatory obligations in an efficient and effective manner.

The consultation identified that these amendments would have value if permanently in place due to Queensland's dispersed geography and the various reasons that may otherwise prevent someone from attending a meeting. With technological advances and changes in society due in part to the

pandemic, people are increasingly using communication platforms for meetings, so these amendments ensure the legislation reflects contemporary practice. The integrity of QCT investigations and meetings conducted by P&Cs will not be impacted.

I thank the stakeholders who were consulted as part of this bill including the QCT, P&Cs Qld, Isolated Children's Parents' Association and principal associations including Queensland Association of Outdoor and Environmental Education Centre Leaders, Queensland Association of Special Education Leaders, Queensland Association of State School Principals, Queensland Secondary Principals' Association and Queensland Association of Combined Sector Leaders. I note that there is overall support for the amendments to the E(GP)A and QCT act. I commend the bill to the House.



Ms SIMPSON (Maroochydore—LNP) (4.09 pm): I am pleased to rise to speak to the Trading (Allowable Hours) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 and I support the amendments proposed by my colleague the member for Kawana, our shadow minister for industrial relations, who is responsible for our response on this side. This is about ensuring there is a balance because there are competing interests, but when some of the players in the market are so large government has a role to ensure that regulation not only supports the customers' needs but also is fair and balanced to those who are supplying those needs and meeting them with their services.

We unashamedly stand up and support small businesses in our communities. They are the backbone of communities, as many of my colleagues have outlined, but particularly so in regional communities where it may not be as lucrative for some of the larger operators to offer the sorts of services that small and medium-sized family businesses deliver, but what they do is essential. They go the extra mile, and that is true in all communities. The people who are sponsoring many sporting events, our schools and other worthy activities are often the small business people in our communities, and they deserve our support. With the extension of trading hours, particularly in tourism areas, there is a demand for customers to have flexibility. It has been difficult to find the right balance and we recognise that different areas have different requirements and different sustainability of those arrangements. That is why there is a role for government to play with regard to trading hours and there is a role for government to play with regard to regulation and how it applies.

As the Liberal National Party we are the party that does not support unfettered red tape and the impractical application of red tape that is a burden to everyone in our community. It is about ensuring that where there is regulation it achieves the purpose of supporting a public good, and there is a strong public good in ensuring that our small businesses have a fair go and are able to stand up against predatory practices or the fact that others are able to come to their areas and remove those profits from that area and not reinvest them back into the community. We believe that this is about ensuring the balance is right. There is much that is good in this bill, but we feel that it does not go far enough.

A moratorium of only 12 months to prevent some of those larger operators challenging trading hours through the QIRC is not enough. In the last few years with COVID there have been particular stresses in our community upon so many businesses and it is naive to think that we are coming out of it. I think that we had hoped that that would be the case, but we are now seeing—and I know this is true in my own area where we are fortunate to have strong tourism traffic from Brisbane and other areas—businesses going under that I never expected would. They survived some pretty rocky times during those first few years of COVID but, with the situation where they are at now with capital resources depleted and the other challenges they face, they are, in some ways, in a more perilous position than they were previously. When travelling throughout many parts of Queensland we find that that story is repeated and in fact exacerbated.

Not everyone has the same story. As it was said to me early on in the pandemic, we are all facing a storm but the impacts of that weather are different, talking metaphorically about the impacts of COVID. Some businesses have done okay because of their types of businesses and the services that they offer, but that is not true of many others. There has been a depletion of their capital resources and there has been weariness of being able to access staff in a timely way in a very competitive space. There are some that have found that their confidence has really been shaken and that is impacting their ability to continue to deliver that service or need. There are good stories, but there are also stories unfortunately emerging where businesses are closing. Now is not the right time to remove this moratorium. We need to ensure, particularly in our regional areas, that our small family businesses are able to keep operating and do not find themselves with yet another attack in the landscape in terms of their trading hour opportunity to make a buck and to service their community. They need to have the opportunity of doing that without others coming into the community and removing profits from that community.

It has been acknowledged that one of the other amendments in this bill is a provision to allow P&Cs to meet online which was undertaken during the time of COVID, and that is just a practical measure. We all can reflect on how things have changed with the opportunity of using technology in a way that allows people to have access by meeting online when they may not have had access before. As members of parliament we have probably embraced that, but there is no doubt though that talking to people in person brings about the richness of opportunity of conversations that go beyond just the agenda that ensures that people have strong working relationships and are able to communicate about many things that are in the interests of their community organisations or their business. This is a practical measure that we certainly support.


Returning to the amendments that we propose to move, there should still be a five-year moratorium for the provision of extended trading hours for the larger operators. There is ample opportunity in the legislation that is proposed and previously to take into account the needs of special events in tourism areas. There is ample opportunity already to meet the needs of customers and get that balance right, but we believe that the case is still there to have that extra time to ensure that those small and medium businesses in our regional areas that are still facing huge challenges are not wiped out.

I want to close with a comment with regard to regulation. It is unfortunate that this government removed the Productivity Commission—took it in-house and it has virtually disappeared from public view. It is supposed to be doing a job in-house but it is no longer that independent authority that had the opportunity of fearlessly reporting about issues of productivity. We do need to see these provisions returned. It is in all of our interests to ensure that government is productive and does not impose measures upon people that are unproductive at a time when we are facing increased inflation. Government regulation should be held to a higher standard to assess the cost of it and to ensure that when regulation is necessary to apply regulations and administrative measures are done in a way that is not unnecessarily burdensome. That is why it was important to have a Productivity Commission. We should never be afraid to ensure that someone is able to speak about these issues and to challenge those issues where there are policy matters involved, but to simply take it in-house, remove and blunt the independent voice of the Productivity Commission by simply putting it under a bureaucratic cloak of invisibility is not good enough.

We need to see better regulation in this state. We need to see productivity that respects the customers, respects businesses and respects the taxpayers, because regulation by itself without that independent measure to ensure productivity, the value of taxpayers' dollars and the imposition on business is tested is unfortunate. We will continue to say that these matters should be publicly espoused. That is why we do talk about regulation at this point because this was something that was raised—that is, the impact of red tape upon costs in Queensland.

The Productivity Commission in 2020-21 estimated that it was costing Queensland businesses up to \$7 billion a year to comply with state regulation and the cost to the Queensland government for administering and enforcing regulation was likely to be in the order of \$2.6 billion to \$3.1 billion per year according to the Queensland Productivity Commission, when it existed.

In June 2020-21 the QPC was transitioned into Treasury to establish the Office of Productivity and Red Tape Reduction and back under the cloak of invisibility of the bureaucracy. That was unfortunate. Now is the time more than ever to have independent and strong voices about productivity, particularly when Queenslanders are paying so much for services. There is an inflation rate of over seven per cent in Queensland, and that is when government should do everything it can to ensure it is not putting an unreasonable burden on business, on houses and on those who are paying so much just to do their job, just to keep the lights on and just to feed their families.

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (4.19 pm): I am pleased to make a contribution to the Trading (Allowable Hours) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. There are now more than 448,000 small businesses in Queensland, which account for 97 per cent of the business sector and contribute around \$117 billion to our state's economy.

The Palaszczuk government understands that small businesses are the backbone of the Queensland economy, working across every industry sector and employing almost one million Queenslanders. We also know that supporting Queensland small business means helping local families and communities to prosper. Small businesses are our families, they are our friends and they are our neighbours. When it comes to the small business retail sector, it is comforting to see that since June 2021 retail trade turnover has increased by 11.6 per cent, well and truly surpassing its pre COVID-19 levels. Whilst this certainly speaks to the resilience and energy of the sector, and I certainly see this in

my own electorate of Jordan, I also appreciate that it does not always reflect the ongoing challenges that small retailers face, particularly when facing competition from some of those bigger and global retailers in our communities.

I recognise that there is always significant interest when trading hours are being reviewed. This was reflected in the number of submissions received by the committee from all relevant stakeholder groups, including employer and employee representatives, tourism groups, industry and regional bodies as well as local councils. I commend the committee for their dedicated consultation on this bill, including facilitating four public briefing sessions and seven public hearings in metropolitan and regional areas in Queensland. Overall, the committee found the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990 operates effectively to regulate trading hours arrangements and the 2017 reforms have provided consistent and stable trading arrangements benefiting the retail sector as a whole, as well as small businesses, employees and consumers.

The committee did not identify a need or demand for substantial deregulation of trading hours arrangements. However, the committee recommended a range of amendments aimed at further reducing the regulatory burden and complexity for industry stakeholders, including streamlining the categories of core trading hours for non-exempt shops by reducing the number of categories from five to four and re-categorising the Mossman and Port Douglas tourist area to support the local tourism industry; clarifying some powers of the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission in relation to special event declarations and making orders for non-exempt shops; ensuring consistent voluntary work protections for employees from working extended hours, including where extended hours arise due to an order or special declaration of the QIRC, unless the employee has freely elected to work those extended hours; extending two existing moratoriums for a further 12 months until 31 August 2023 to ensure ongoing stability for the retail industry and community; and retaining previous reforms that have been found to be working effectively. The bill before us reflects the committee's recommendations through the amendments proposed.

The 2017 reforms included those two transitional arrangements for five-year moratoriums, both expiring on 31 August 2022 to exempt all shops in the Mossman and Port Douglas tourist area from trading hour restrictions; and restrict making applications for, and the QIRC's powers to make, trading hours orders under section 21 of the T(AH) Act. I am pleased to see the government has accepted the committee's recommendation to extend both moratoriums for a further 12 months. This will ensure ongoing stability and certainty for the retail sector and our communities. This was an important matter raised with me by local small retailers and I know they feel some assurance with what is being proposed. To achieve this objective the bill includes two transitional arrangements to extend both moratorium periods for a further 12 months until 31 August 2023.


Another important provision in the bill inserts a new section, section 36BA, including a corresponding offence and penalty provision, which protects voluntary work by employees during extended trading hours. This was supported by the majority of submitters, including the National Retailers Association and the Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees Association, Queensland Branch, which is a real union.

The SDA told the committee that over the last two years they had received a number of complaints from workers, especially casual and part-time employees, who were threatened with being rostered to work less in future if they did not elect to work during a period of extended trading hours. As they explained, for the workers who are very vulnerable, the flow-on effect of that is that if you are offered hours during extended trading later on down the track, you take them because you saw what happened to the person last week who did not and they are now not getting shifts. The SDA submitted that the insertion of the new clause, 36BA, will enshrine the protections to employees that have to this point been based on non-enforceable handshake agreements between the employers and union groups and unable to be empowered by way of formal order of the QIRC. These changes will positively protect the working lives of Queensland retail workers.

In speaking to this bill I must acknowledge a couple of wonderful small retail traders in my own electorate of Jordan. Firstly, the Springfield Lakes IGA. It is a very popular store. Owners Terry and Frances Slaughter are two wonderful people and so community minded. I do agree with comments by the member for Traeger that smaller retailers tend to be more connected to their local communities. I certainly saw this when we had the hailstorms in Springfield Lakes in 2020. Terry and Frances were there offering free food, water and a range of supplies to locals who were impacted. During the recent floods they donated a heap of hard-to-find wheelbarrows and cleaning products to support the Goodna community—so not even in their own patch. I am very grateful to them and all that they are doing for our community.

Those wheelbarrows came from another great local small business, Gales Home Hardware. In early July this wonderful store celebrated 50 years in our Gales community. It is hard to imagine any business being open for 50 years, but Ian and Marina are no ordinary people. They will go out of their way to help customers and find them the right product for their need. The individual customer service they provide from this little hardware store in Gales is second to none. It is rare to get that kind of service from your big hardware stores. It is why they have been so successful and why the community continues to support them and have supported the family for half a century. Being in business is hard. I am in awe of those who take that step, but particularly our small retailers and especially in these past few years. The legislation today gives them further certainty at a time they need it.

Finally, I wish to comment on some of the speeches we have heard from the opposition in relation to small business. You can certainly feel a rising panic in the LNP. What was once a clear and certain voter base that has been taken for granted for many years is splintering. The respectful and meaningful engagement that our government is having with chambers of commerce, business groups and individual businesses is growing every day. Our small business minister is well regarded and hardworking and members on this side of the House are strongly involved and engaged with businesses in their electorates. You can hear the LNP becoming more shrill and blatant, full of bogus claims and scare tactics. It is not working because the business community are not fooled. They want support, they want encouragement and they want certainty and that is what they are getting from the Palaszczuk Labor government. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (4.26 pm): I spend a little bit of time driving through the electorate of Jordan and in Springfield and other parts of the electorate. I do not know where the member for Jordan is getting that feedback from the business community. It is certainly not reflected in the feedback that I receive from small businesses in my area and the greater Ipswich area. They cannot stand the Labor government and the way they impose regulation and additional costs. There have been at least 10 additional or increased taxes since this government was elected, which always make their way through to the consumer and tap into the back pocket of small business. There is no revenue stream that the Labor government will not tap when they stay in power, and that includes from the small and family businesses that make up over 90 per cent of the economy in the Scenic Rim electorate. The last comments from the member for Jordan in her contribution to this bill were, I think, wishful thinking.

The LNP will always stand up for small and family businesses in Queensland and in Australia. We need to reduce the red-tape burden, the tax burden and the regulatory burden on all small and family businesses to unleash the potential of our state and our nation. There are so many hardworking small and family businesses, not only in the Scenic Rim but around the state. Their economic potential could be so much enhanced if government simply made it easier for them to employ people and to grow their revenues rather than constantly having burdens placed on them.

For some time it has been apparent that Labor is all about big government. Not only that, they are about big unions and the benefits that they can legislate for big unions. We see that in some of the moves they are making to try to ease other industrial associations out of the scene when it comes to negotiation.

They are all about big business. I heard the word 'troika' used earlier today. For Labor, the troika is big government, big unions and big business. When we talk about trading hours and the changes that have been made, in some respects they favour big businesses such as the Woolworths, the Coles and the Aldis of the world. Whom do we have in those workplaces? We have big unions! If something benefits big business, it also benefits big unions. We see the Labor Party always doing things that benefit big unions because the benefits from big unions come back to fund Labor Party campaigns. All of the members opposite benefit from big union campaigns.

Do not let it be forgotten that the LNP will always stand up for small and family business. The Labor Party stands up for big government—

Mr Saunders interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Pause the clock. Member for Maryborough, if you are going to interject then you will need to return to your seat. Either return to your seat or stop interjecting.

Mr KRAUSE: The Labor Party will always be there for big government, big unions and big business.

This bill reiterates support for the present trading arrangements for local car retailers. During the last review of these trading hours provisions, I well remember the alarm—in fact, the abject horror—expressed to me by car dealers in the Scenic Rim area at proposals to deregulate car retailer trading hours. At that time, the very clear case was made to me that there was only so much money to be spent in that particular part of the economy. I was told that extending trading hours across seven days,

especially in major metropolitan areas, would put additional pressure on car dealerships in smaller areas such as the ones I represent. Instead of increasing economic activity, it would be a drag because there would be more costs involved in having to staff a dealership for the extra day, which would be Sunday, with no additional increase in revenue for that part of the world. Therefore, I am glad to see that the recommendation of the committee is that the present trading hours situation for car dealerships remain as it is.


The member for Kawana has proposed amendments in relation to the definition of a small retailer, which I support. Like many other members' electorates, the electorate that I represent has a great deal of very hardworking small retailers. Quite often those are family businesses that extend across generations. You might have a mum and dad who work with their children and often the generation prior also works in the business.

The commitment to keeping some of the restrictions in place for small business is welcome because small retailers in communities such as the ones that I represent are often massive contributors to their local community through sponsorships to local sporting clubs, P&Cs and other community organisations. I would hazard a guess that those small retailers contribute more per dollar of turnover to the local community than the bigger retailers do in the areas in which they operate. It is the nature of small and family business.

Mr Boothman: They give more to the community.

Mr KRAUSE: I take that interjection: they do give more to the community. That is the nature of small and family businesses in smaller communities and we need to recognise it always. That is why we have trading hours regulations. We do not have a complete deregulation of these things because that would really sacrifice on the altar of laissez faire economics those small and family businesses. I know that there are people who believe—and some of the contributions to the committee, including that of the Australian Retailers Association, recommended—that there be complete deregulation. However, if you did that you would be sacrificing a huge number of small and family businesses.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Member for Scenic Rim, please take your seat. It being 4.35 pm, under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House, I call the minister to reply to the second reading debate.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (4.35 pm), in reply: I thank the members of the House for their contributions to the debate. Obviously, I am a little disappointed, given all of the processes that we have been through. There has been the parliamentary inquiry to which submissions were made. Hearings were conducted by the committee through the parliamentary process, as you would know, Mr Deputy Speaker, as the deputy chair of that committee. The report was handed down. The recommendations were taken on board—recommendations that balanced all of the interests raised by stakeholders from throughout Queensland. I thank you all for a very thorough job and I acknowledge the chair and the deputy chair. Therefore, I am disappointed that this debate has come down to who supports small business more: is it us or is it them? What a pathetic argument and it has been raised time and time again in this House.

I remind those opposite of what small businesses were facing before Labor changed the trading hours arrangements in 2017. We had to drag the LNP kicking and screaming all the way because they were happy for things to continue as they were. We had the intestinal fortitude to really support trading hours reforms for business in this state. My goodness, hasn't that served the industry well in the past five years! It was extraordinary policy and those opposite had to be dragged along, kicking and screaming all the way.

With all due respect, the bill has been through the committee process, there was no dissenting report, and the committee made one recommendation: that the bill be passed. Now we have all of these contradictory statements. It is as if they want to throw the baby out with the bathwater in terms of all of the work that has been done because of some pathetic stance that 'we support business and those opposite do not.' It is so ridiculous. Other than that ridiculous rubbish statement, there is no substance at all to any of the recommendations or amendments put forward by those opposite. There is no substance whatsoever.

If anyone in this House thinks that I do not speak to the sector then they are sadly mistaken. I want to thank people such as Frank Spano, Terry Slaughter, Roz White and Luke McKenzie for inviting the member for Jordan, the now federal Speaker of the House of Representatives and member for Oxley, Milton Dick, and me to the IGA Expo on 17 July 2022. All of this was out in the open when we were at that expo. I can tell the House that it was amazing to be with them and see what was on offer. I want to declare something: I am an IGA shopper. I love the IGA in New Farm. It thrives, yet Coles is

just the down the road and Woolies is at Gasworks Plaza. Because of their offering and the convenience, I am an IGA shopper and those people know that I am. Recently, Michael and I went to Sunshine Beach and I shopped at the IGA in Noosa Heads. There were lots of other supermarkets around—Coles was right next door—but that supermarket was thriving.

To somehow suggest that because there are other businesses around they are going to fold is disrespectful to the people who run those fine businesses. At the IGA Expo I saw the systematic work that goes into providing a great service, such as that provided by Roz White at Peregian and all of the others who run those businesses. It is disrespectful to those businesspeople to come in here and suggest that somehow this is going to send them to the wall. That is ridiculous.

It makes no sense, other than the pathetic line: 'We support small business.' For goodness sake! After what the committee heard, we cannot take this debate down to that simple, ridiculous line based on pure, base political expediency. It is pathetic.

Mr Watts interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Order! Member for Toowoomba North!

Ms GRACE: Here we go. We have the committee signing off—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, would you resume your seat. Everyone, take a chill pill, please. I want to be able to hear the minister.

Ms GRACE: They do not like it when they know the truth.

Mr Watts interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Toowoomba North! I caution you. I will warn you next time.

Ms GRACE: They do like it when they know the truth. That is the reality of this. Get into the real world and stop playing politics. I know that the deputy chair of the committee has been rolled by the member for Kawana. The National Party has no say anymore on that side of the House. They have been absolutely rolled here.

Mr Watts interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Toowoomba North is warned.

Ms GRACE: There was no talk about any changes. The National Party counts for zilch. Members of the KAP were on that committee and the same recommendations came down. I thank the member for his role. It is history repeating itself: ridiculous statements, ridiculous amendments and a nonsensical throwing out of an holistic package. I just cannot explain how disappointed I am with the debate that has continued versus the fine way in which the parliamentary committee conducted itself in this inquiry. Those opposite always want to trash the parliamentary process when they do not like the outcome—just like the member for Kawana did when his committee recommended that workers not have a barrier to common law. He rode roughshod over them and decided to put in the barrier, denying workers their common-law rights. There is form here by members opposite. I do feel for National Party members opposite, because under this arrangement they have absolutely no say.

Those opposite try to pick a fight about who supports small business more. That is all I heard. I did not hear anything substantial. We will vote down every single amendment because they are nonsensical. The recommendations are crafted as a set to provide a clear, consistent and stable trading hours framework for the retail sector for the years ahead. The member for Southern Downs must be thinking, 'Exactly what is going on here?' The member for Kawana is riding roughshod.

The committee looked at all of the submissions and made eminently sensible recommendations that took into account the views of all stakeholders. They arrived at an outcome that provided certainty and stability for trading hours. The committee found that the current hours served everyone really well. The way that it operated benefited individual businesses, consumers, workers and the retail sector as a whole over the past five years in spite of COVID-19. This government could not have planned it better even if it wanted to. They say that fact is stranger than fiction, and in this case it absolutely is.

I note with interest the final comment of LNP committee members in their statement of reservation when the report was tabled in January. It said—

The LNP Opposition members of the committee generally support the committee reports' recommendations which have resulted from a thorough and searching engagement with interest groups, retailers and public throughout the state. The recommendations seek not to deprive small family retail businesses and their staff of any existing trading hours protections, but rather to adjust and improve the workings of the Act.

That is the LNP opposition's statement of dissent in terms of the recommendations. Here we are today debating baseless, ridiculous amendments and changes not on fact or on information that the committee received but on a pathetic claim of: 'We look after small business. Those opposite look after big business.'

In the areas I visit around the state, a big business in a town often is the anchor that supports many small businesses around it. In fact, those small businesses would not thrive without that large business as the anchor. I can point to many examples. To trash everything that has been done by this committee with some ridiculous statement is nonsensical. I find it absolutely appalling that I have to sit here and listen to this.

What do the amendments propose? The first is that the moratorium be extended for a further five years. It would be 10 years in total since 2017. The moratorium was never designed to be extended in perpetuity. That was not the reason for it. The five-year moratorium was introduced to provide time for the reforms—and they were huge—in 2017. What a job that we on this side of the House did—incredible—to provide a breather for the sector which prior to 2017 had been subjected to an endless revolving door of expensive and time-consuming trading hours applications in the QIRC. These countless applications led to the hotchpotch that we had—100 different areas, 40 different pages et cetera. We cleaned that up. The bill today, based on the recommendation of the committee, refines this further to four clear trading hours areas that will remain fixed in legislation. That was not the case before.

The commission will have a role to play again under the new framework but in a far more targeted and clearly defined way than was the case in 2017. As I have explained to the House, the role of the QIRC will be to consider applications to move from one location to another, but we will not have this mishmash of hours all over the place. We will not be returning to the previous era. These safeguards are built into the act. If we remove those sections, what will happen after the five years? They will be back to where they were—complicated, ridiculous changes without realising the implications. This side of the House will not allow that to happen.

I owe it to those IGA people I respect and those people I meet regularly to protect them from those opposite. Why go on one submission when most of these, as we know, honestly and truly, have ambit claims in them? We know that. It comes from all sides. To go on one submission and to grab it is absolutely nonsensical. Those businesses deserve more respect, because they are darn good businesses. We should not unwind the five years of hard work. The committee in its five-year review found that stakeholders do not want to return to the previous trading hours arrangements set by the QIRC, yet amendments by those opposite will put them straight back there. To support our small and medium businesses, our best course is to follow the commonsense findings and recommendations of the committee and stakeholders who clearly stated the benefit of trading hours being fixed in the legislation and not the confusion of the LNP amendments. They would be horrified to know that is where we are going back to. I know these people very well—

Mr Watts: Very, very well?

Ms GRACE: Very, very well. I will take that interjection. The LNP amendments also seek to increase the definition thresholds et cetera. We have been through all of this. These people can employ up to 200 people. This is who is on the floor at any one time. They do not even understand how it works.

Mr Bleijie: They want 40 and they want 150.

Ms GRACE: Oh, 'they want'—yes, I know. You are talking about small business here. Aren't you the supporter of small business? The definition is usually 15 to 20 workers. That is what it is. Make up your mind which way you want to go. You stand up here saying, 'We're the party who supports small business.' For goodness sake, there has to be more to this argument than that!

Mr MICKELBERG: Family business.

Ms GRACE: And I love them—every single one of them—and they know it.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Order, members! Member for Buderim.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Buderim, I will warn you next time.

Ms GRACE: More so than you, let me tell you that. We want genuine small business, not the ones those opposite propose to support with these amendments, which are absolutely ridiculous.

Finally, I wish to make a few comments in relation to Sunday trading in regional areas which I understand continues to be a topic of great interest. I note that the committee and you, Mr Deputy Speaker Lister, as deputy chair, found compelling arguments for and against the current restrictions.

There are compelling arguments from all sides. There is no doubt about it. Those opposite, it would appear, want to preserve the status quo for a further five years, although, as I said before, it would again be a free-for-all after their extended five-year moratorium.

By contrast, our bill provides a process—after the extended moratorium finishes in August 2023—for these matters to be considered in an orderly, considered manner on application to the QIRC, as the independent umpire with expertise in dealing with these matters. This would then be six years of certainty that we have given these people. That is unheard of. We need to recognise that the views of stakeholders may differ in different communities.

Of the 21 regional towns with no Sunday trading, 15 of them have never had an application to introduce extended hours. Applications that were made for Sunday trading prior to these changes for Goondiwindi, Mount Isa, Kingaroy, Ayr, Mission Beach and Pittsworth were rejected by the QIRC—and twice in the case of Mount Isa. The commission was actually doing its job. Obviously circumstances change. Communities change. Let the independent umpire have a look at this in a systematic way that protects the trading hours in legislation and in a fundamental way where everyone can put their views. That is not to say that they are going to get it, because they are not.

Just before the 2017 changes Stanthorpe was given extended Sunday trading hours. I spoke to some people in Stanthorpe when I was there knowing that this bill was coming before the House. Let me tell you that I shopped at the IGA and it was doing fantastically. Deputy Speaker, I would not doubt for a minute that you would have spoken to them as well. When I spoke to them they said they are doing extremely well. Family members I spoke to there said, 'I don't know how many times I've needed something on a Sunday, and just knowing the IGA is open saves so much hassle, and I know so many locals in the same boat.' 'Love shopping there.' 'Always lots of cars there on a Sunday.' They have not closed. They are doing extremely well. The local community is supporting them.

I spoke to one person and asked, 'How do you think the IGA is going?' They said, 'I think they are doing just fine.' This is one that had extended Sunday trading just before we made the amendment. To somehow suggest that these businesses are going to fold, that they are so flimsy, that they do not have a good business, is disrespectful to this industry. They run a fantastic business. They do extremely well. They offer a different product to their customers, to their communities and to their society.

These are a balanced set of changes to the trading hours legislation. I commend the committee on their work—including you, Mr Deputy Speaker Lister, as deputy chair and the member for Redlands as chair, and all the committee members who did a fantastic job. We are extending the moratorium for 12 months, giving an opportunity for adjustment in the new areas and for setting hours in place. That will be totally trashed by the incomprehensible, complicated, ridiculous amendments that the member for Kawana thinks he is going to get away with in this House. I will tell you that this side of the House will not allow him to do it. We will not have him trash the committee, which did an excellent job. There are processes.

Federally they have trashed the Westminster system with the former prime minister swearing himself into five ministries. Now we have the member for Kawana swearing himself in as ruler of all of the party over there. The poor Nationals have absolutely no say whatsoever.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members! Pause the clock.

Ms GRACE: This builds on our landmark reforms.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms GRACE: I feel sorry for the Nationals—I do.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Minister, you have the call.

Ms GRACE: Once were warriors but no more. There has been an extensive consultation process and a bipartisan committee process. It delivers stable and consistent trading hours. I commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clause 1—



Mr BLEIJIE (4.56 pm): Isn't it a shame that the Minister for Industrial Relations, in talking about trashing parliamentary democracy, has just indicated that she is not even going to consider in consideration in detail any of the amendments. She has already indicated that she is voting against every amendment that we will be putting forward. Then she has the hide to lecture everyone about parliamentary democracy when she is in fact trashing it herself.

I make the point on clause 1—and I reiterate the comments I made during the second reading debate—that the LNP is the only party of small and family business, not the Labor Party.

Ms Grace: Here we go again.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection: 'Here we go again.' I will keep saying it because I am proud of small business. I came from a small business background and I am proud of them.

Mr Mander: Ask small business.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the member for Everton: 'Ask small business.' We do. I know what they say. They say that they would much rather have an LNP government any day of the week than a Labor government.

The minister talks about everything they have done—talks about the committee and the work they did—and that this is all going to be brilliant. If it is all going so well, why are they extending the moratorium for another 12 months? They are extending their own five-year moratorium. The minister would have us believe that the legislation they put in five years ago is brilliant—that no change is necessary: 'We just need a little more time for it to kick in to explain to people what is going on.' Come on, how ridiculous!

Any one minister can come into this place and flap around and put on their low voice. I say to the minister: 'Yes, we do support small business!' As the minister said, 'We do support small business!' I say to the minister that we support small business more than the Labor Party—absolutely more than the Labor Party. The Labor Party is the party of big business. The Labor Party is the party of unions—big unions—big corporate entities.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I hear the Attorney-General over there. I reiterate those comments. I say to the minister, who has already said that she is not going to consider any of the amendments in consideration in detail, that the first amendment I am about to move will support small business more by allowing our IGAs to have 30 to 40 on the floor at any given time and 100 or 150 if they have multiple businesses.

The minister says that the IGAs are all doing well. Why did the Master Grocers Australia put in their submission that if these amendments go through businesses will go broke? The minister does not want to hear that submission or that from the IGA Queensland and Northern New South Wales Board. How ridiculous! You do not care for small business; we do.

(Time expired)

Clause 1, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 2 to 7, as read, agreed to.



Mr BLEIJIE (4.59 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

AYES, 36:

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

Grn, 2—Berkman, MacMahon.

KAP, 2—Dametto, Knuth.

NOES, 49:

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

Pairs: D'Ath, McDonald; Howard, Purdie.

Resolved in the negative.

Clause 8—

Mr BLEIJIE: I move the following amendment—

2 Clause 8 (Amendment of s 16A (Definitions for division))

Page 9, lines 3 to 6—

omit.

I table the explanatory notes to my amendments and the statement of compatibility with human rights.

Tabled paper: Trading (Allowable Hours) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, explanatory notes to Mr Jarrod Bleijie's amendments [1174].

Tabled paper: Trading (Allowable Hours) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Mr Jarrod Bleijie's amendments [1175].

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Honourable members, I note that the member for Kawana's amendment No. 2 proposes to omit clause 8.

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

AYES, 36:

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

Grn, 2—Berkman, MacMahon.

KAP, 2—Dametto, Knuth.

NOES, 49:

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

Pairs: D'Ath, McDonald; Howard, Purdie.

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendment (Mr Bleijie) negated.

Clause 8, as read, agreed to.

Clause 9—



Mr BLEIJIE (5.07 pm): I move the following amendment—

3 Clause 9 (Insertion of new s 16AA)

Page 9, line 7 to page 10, line 5—

omit.

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

AYES, 36:

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

Grn, 2—Berkman, MacMahon.

KAP, 2—Dametto, Knuth.

NOES, 49:

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

Pairs: D'Ath, McDonald; Howard, Purdie.

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendment (Mr Bleijie) negated.

Clause 9, as read, agreed to.

Clause 10—



Mr BLEIJIE (5.10 pm): I move the following amendment—

4 Clause 10 (Amendment of s 16B (Shops to be closed other than during permitted trading hours))

Page 10, lines 6 to 14—

omit.

Amendments Nos 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 22 and 23 that I will be moving later relate to removing recommendation 7 of the committee report, which prevents the situation where applications are made to the QIRC to make orders to vary core trading hours from the hours prescribed in the act once the moratorium has ended.

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

AYES, 36:

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

Grn, 2—Berkman, MacMahon.

KAP, 2—Dametto, Knuth.

NOES, 49:

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

Pairs: D'Ath, McDonald; Howard, Purdie.

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendment (Mr Bleijie) negated.

Clause 10, as read, agreed to.

Clause 11—



Mr BLEIJIE (5.15 pm): I move the following amendment—

5 Clause 11 (Amendment of s 16D (Shops other than hardware shops and shops selling motor vehicles or caravans))

Page 10, line 15 to page 13, line 9—

omit.

Briefly, amendments Nos 5, 6, 7, 14, 20, 21 and 24 that I will move relate to the removing of recommendation 2 of the committee report which reduces the number of categories for non-exempt shops to four. We base this on the submissions by Master Grocers Australia and the IGA Queensland and Northern New South Wales Board. The minister completely rejected those submissions in her summing-up of the bill before. I would have thought Master Grocers Australia—representing all of these IGAs, small independent retailer operators and grocery stores—would know a thing or two about this issue and that is why they would have put their submission forward. They were completely opposed to the four categories being in place. That is what we are basing our opposition on because we are the party for small businesses and we will defend the rights of small businesses in this House today. Hence why I move the amendment.

Ms GRACE: Obviously, we reject this amendment. At the centre of the bill are the four new simplified and streamlined core trading hours areas for larger non-exempt shops modelled on the existing trading hours. The new type 1 trading hours have the most expansive trading hours—being 6 am to 10 pm Monday to Friday, 7 am to 10 pm on Saturdays, and 7 am to 9 pm on Sundays and public holidays except for closed days such as Christmas Day and Easter Friday. There are four types. This rolls them into four core, easy-to-understand trading hours areas. There was one recommendation from the committee—that all of these be accepted. These were largely discussed and agreed to by all of the committee members, and no grandstanding will change that particular point. There was no statement of reservation. There was only one recommendation—that the bill be passed. This is at the core. If we remove this, it is simply a nonsense and this House will not support nonsense amendments.

Mr Lister: We'll tell the MGA you said so.

Ms GRACE: I'll tell them myself.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Southern Downs is warned under the standing orders. Minister, it is not helpful for you to interact across the chamber either.

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

AYES, 36:

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

Grn, 2—Berkman, MacMahon.

KAP, 2—Dametto, Knuth.

NOES, 49:

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

Pairs: D'Ath, McDonald; Howard, Purdie.

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendment (Mr Bleijie) negatived.

Clause 11, as read, agreed to.

Clause 12—



Mr BLEIJIE (5.24 pm): I move the following amendment—

6 Clause 12 (Amendment of s 16E (Hardware shops))

Page 13, lines 10 to 12 and page 14, table before line 1—

omit.

Non-government amendment (Mr Bleijie) negatived.

Clause 12, as read, agreed to.

Clause 13—



Mr BLEIJIE (5.25 pm): I move the following amendment—

7 Clause 13 (Amendment of s 20A (Allowable trading hours for Retail Shop Leases Act 1994))

Page 14, line 1 to page 15, line 8—

omit.

Non-government amendment (Mr Bleijie) negatived.

Clause 13, as read, agreed to.

Clause 14, as read, agreed to.

Clause 15—



Mr BLEIJIE (5.26 pm): I move the following amendment—

8 Clause 15 (Insertion of new pt 5, div 1, hdg)

Page 15, line 19, 'area'—

omit, insert—

hours

Non-government amendment (Mr Bleijie) negatived.

Clause 15, as read, agreed to.

Clause 16—



Mr BLEIJIE (5.26 pm): I move the following amendment—

9 Clause 16 (Replacement of s 21 (Trading hours orders on non-exempt shops))

Page 15, line 20 to page 16, line 27—

omit.

Non-government amendment (Mr Bleijie) negatived.

Clause 16, as read, agreed to.

Clause 17—



Mr BLEIJIE (5.26 pm): I move the following amendment—

10 Clause 17 (Insertion of new s 22)

Page 16, line 28 to page 17, line 19—

omit.

Non-government amendment (Mr Bleijie) negated.

Clause 17, as read, agreed to.

Clause 18—



Mr BLEIJIE (5.27 pm): I move the following amendment—

11 Clause 18 (Insertion of new pt 5, div 2, hdg)

Page 17, line 24, 'area'—

omit, insert—

hours

Non-government amendment (Mr Bleijie) negated.

Clause 18, as read, agreed to.

Clause 19—



Mr BLEIJIE (5.28 pm): I move the following amendment—

12 Clause 19 (Amendment of s 23 (Powers and procedures relevant to proceedings under s 21))

Page 17, line 25 to page 18, line 28—

omit.

Non-government amendment (Mr Bleijie) negated.

Clause 19, as read, agreed to.

Clause 20—



Mr BLEIJIE (5.29 pm): I move the following amendment—

13 Clause 20 (Omission of s 26 (Matters relevant to s 21 order))

Page 18, lines 29 to 31—

omit.

Non-government amendment (Mr Bleijie) negated.

Clause 20, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 21 and 22, as read, agreed to.

Clause 23—



Mr BLEIJIE (5.29 pm): I move the following amendment—

14 Clause 23 (Amendment of s 36AA (Protection for employees—Liquor and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2017))

Page 21, lines 19 to 26—

omit.

Non-government amendment (Mr Bleijie) negated.

Clause 23, as read, agreed to.

Clause 24, as read, agreed to.

Clause 25—



Mr BLEIJIE (5.30 pm): I move the following amendments—

15 Clause 25 (Insertion of new s 36BA)

Page 22, lines 17 to 20—

omit, insert—

non-exempt shop are increased because an amendment of this Act commences; or

16 Clause 25 (Insertion of new s 36BA)

Page 23, lines 23 to 27—

omit, insert—

trading hours immediately before the commencement of the amendment mentioned in subsection (1)(a); or

Non-government amendments (Mr Bleijie) negated.

Clause 25, as read, agreed to.

Clause 26—



Mr DAMETTO (5.31 pm): I move the following amendment—

1 Clause 26 (Insertion of new pt 8, div 7)

Page 24, lines 19 to 21—

omit.

I table the explanatory notes to the amendments and a statement of compatibility with human rights.

Tabled paper: Trading (Allowable Hours) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, explanatory notes to Mr Robbie Katter's amendments [1176].

Tabled paper: Trading (Allowable Hours) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Mr Robbie Katter's amendments [1177].

The reason the KAP has introduced these amendments is quite clear. We have quite fragile communities up and down the coast and inland. These small regional communities have been afforded the protections of the moratorium when it comes to trading hours against the two duopolies that run the supermarkets across Queensland, including regional Queensland. Giving these communities, their IGAs and small grocers an opportunity to fight back and have some sort of protection is something that the KAP has not only advocated for for years but also fought for.

I want to make the point that when I talk to small businesses I ask them what they want. Right now, other than staff, all they keep telling us is, 'We want certainty. We want certainty around planning our business. Our business has to have certainty so we can understand how to invest into the future and continue to grow.'

Unfortunately, we have had the COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions that came with it, which threw into turmoil the business plan of every small business. Honourable members have to remember that our small business owners usually pay themselves last. Staff are paid first. The bills are paid second. Insurances and government charges and council rates are paid and then they usually put a couple of dollars in their back pocket, which in some cases leaves very little for innovation and opportunities to move their businesses forward. They cannot have a five-year moratorium slice through these COVID restrictions and then be expected to have another 12 months to ratchet up and catch up with the supermarket chains. Those supermarket chains have been able to diversify and change their business plans during COVID because they have the capital to do so.

We want to also ensure that five years protection is given to these small businesses so they can actually continue to support our local sporting clubs and our communities. We need to remember places like Mount Isa. I know there are people like the chamber of commerce and the tourism organisation who spoke about this, but Robbie would be very happy to hear that we are advocating on behalf of those small businesses that are the fabric of the Mount Isa community.

When the committee travelled went up and down the coast we heard unanimously from most of those businesses, 'Leave it as it is at the moment. Just let us operate the way we have been.' I think they should be afforded that opportunity for another five years. I would love the minister to let us know why they cannot be afforded that opportunity.

Mr BLEIJIE: We will be supporting this particular amendment because I have an identical amendment, which I was intending to move next. No doubt if this one is defeated by Labor using their numbers in the House, I will not be able to move my amendment. This amendment that the Katter party is moving and that we will be supporting was going to be my amendment 17 relating to the removal of recommendation 9 from the committee report regarding the Mossman and Port Douglas tourist area, in particular the moratorium relating to that area. The reason we put this amendment forward and will be supporting the amendment put forward by the crossbench is that we take a small business view.

The McKell Institute has said there has been a steady decline in small independent operators in grocery and food chain stores across Queensland. We need to do something to stop it happening. The minute these businesses close and leave our communities, particularly in rural and regional Queensland, money will stop flowing to our soccer groups, football groups and the nippers and so forth on the Sunshine Coast. Our community groups are supported by our small and family business owners. That is why we need to do everything we can to ensure they are propped up as much as possible and they have a competitive advantage against the big multinational players. That is what this is about.

If we do not do that we will lose these businesses—small business, family business—and I see the member for Redlands shaking her head. The member cannot argue against that; the statistics show that they have been closing their doors. They have been closing across Queensland. When multinationals move into our regional and rural communities there are businesses that go bust; there are businesses that close down. The McKell Institute shows that in the research they did.

That is why we were proposing to move amendment No. 17, but we will be supporting this crossbench amendment. It is all about small business. As the Liberal National Party—and I will keep saying it until the cows come home—we are the party for small and family businesses in Queensland, not the Labor Party. The Labor Party is in the pockets of big business and big unions who own big super funds. That is who the Labor Party represent now. They represent big corporate, big business. The core constituency of the Liberal National Party is our small and family businesses, and our communities are all the better for having our small and family businesses in our communities. We will do everything we can to ensure they keep trading because the minute they stop trading, local youngsters will lose their employment opportunities and a lot of our local community clubs will lose the financial support that our family businesses give them.

Ms GRACE: The bill extends the moratorium, which has been in place for five years, that currently exempts all shops in the Mossman and Port Douglas tourist areas from trading hours restrictions for a further 12 months, until 31 August 2023. This ensures continued and vital support for tourism in this region, particularly following the impact of the COVID-19 health pandemic. Once the extended moratorium ends, this tourist area will continue to benefit from favourable tourist area trading hours in the type 1 trading area under the bill. The second moratorium relates to the ability of the QIRC to make trading area orders. Extending this moratorium for a further 12 months, until 31 August 2023, will ensure that the QIRC and industry have sufficient time to adapt and understand the requirements of trading area orders.

It is a bit nonsensical to stand here and say that removing this clause is somehow going to protect small businesses in those areas. These are trading hours laws. These are not laws that govern where a business can set themselves up. They can set themselves up in any town in Queensland, wherever they may be and whenever they want. The definition is based on what type of business they are and the trading hours. Nothing protects a small business from a large, medium or small business—whatever business is operating in an area. These are trading hours laws. They do not stop a business from trading. You actually cannot do that under the Constitution. Members opposite are conflating or misunderstanding a trading hours moratorium which was put in place because of a collapsing of nearly 100 different trading hours and different regions which were all put together to stop that merry-go-round of change.

We have now cleaned the barnacles off the whale and have a set of core trading times. It will not stop any large business going into an area. Remember—they are nonsensical—these are trading hours laws. We support the clause and reject the amendment.

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

AYES, 36:

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

Grn, 2—Berkman, MacMahon.

KAP, 2—Dametto, Knuth.

NOES, 48:

ALP, 48—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Madden, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

Pairs: D'Ath, McDonald; Howard, Purdie.

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendment (Mr Dametto) negated.



Mr SPEAKER: I note that the member for Kawana's amendment No. 17 is identical to the member for Hinchinbrook's amendment No. 1 and therefore cannot be moved under standing order 150.

Mr BLEIJIE: I move the following amendments—

18 Clause 26 (Insertion of new pt 8, div 7)

Page 24, line 24, 'provisions'—

omit, insert—

provision

19 Clause 26 (Insertion of new pt 8, div 7)

Page 24, line 25 to page 25, line 23—

*omit, insert—***65 Extension of moratorium on trading area orders and restriction on making applications**

Section 59 applies as if the moratorium period mentioned in that section ended on the day that is 5 years from the day of the commencement of this section.

Amendment 19 removes sections 65 and 66 as inserted by the bill. The effect is that the Mossman moratorium in existing section 56 will end on 31 August 2022 and is not continued, in effect. A new section 65 is inserted that will extend the operation of the moratorium on the making of trading hours orders in existing section 59 so that it ends five years from the commencement of this bill. Because amendment No. 19 replaces new sections 65 and 66 with just a new section of 65, amendment No. 18 amends the subdivision heading of the subdivision it sits in so that the heading is a singular—that is, 'provision'.

In a nutshell, the government, on the recommendation of the committee, has proposed that the moratorium be extended by 12 months. This amendment will extend the moratorium to five years. As I said in my speech during the second reading debate, the reason we are moving this amendment is that, as half of the five-year moratorium has been knocked out because of COVID, there has not been an appropriate time for businesses to see the outcome of these new regulated trading hours.

We are seeking this extension on behalf of our small business community and on behalf of Master Grocers Australia, which made a submission and recommended to the government that it proceed with a moratorium extension of five years, not 12 months as proposed in the report and accepted by the government. They stated that if these recommendations are not moved and supported by the Labor government then we will see small businesses crumble under the pressure of the big corporate giants. I would hate to be the industrial relations minister—it will be Minister Grace—who oversees the destruction of small and family businesses across Queensland.

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

AYES, 36:

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

Grn, 2—Berkman, MacMahon.

KAP, 2—Dametto, Knuth.

NOES, 48:

ALP, 48—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Madden, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

Pairs: D'Ath, McDonald; Howard, Purdie.

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendments (Mr Bleijie) negatived.



Mr DAMETTO (5.52 pm): I move the following amendments—

2 Clause 26 (Insertion of new pt 8, div 7)

Page 25, line 2, 'moratorium period'—

omit, insert—

period starting on the commencement and ending on 31 August 2023

4 Clause 26 (Insertion of new pt 8, div 7)

Page 25, line 22, 'moratorium period'—

omit, insert—

period mentioned in subsection (1)

I want to speak to something that the minister said earlier: this does not change where these small businesses and big businesses can set up, but what it does change are the times that they can open. This gives these small businesses—the small greengrocers and IGAs—an opportunity one day a week to trade without the big supermarkets breathing down their throats which beat them at nearly every turn—price, transport costs, availability. Guess what those big supermarkets do when they are a big anchor tenant? They have the ability to negotiate their rents down. They use that as their big pull to try to get other little speciality stores into those shopping centres.

Something else that is interesting to understand is town planning developments and how they work these days. For example, in the Northern Beaches of Townsville there is North Shore. It is a beautiful place and a good spot—it is actually where I live—but who can afford to move in there as a commercial entity? Definitely not the small coffee shops, and if they do they are stuck at the shopping centre where it costs an absolute fortune to pay rent. There has been a situation play out just across the road from where Woolworths was set up for years. It has now decided that it is commercially better to be across the road. Guess who is left over there now with no Woolworths? They are down to one shopping centre. The big supermarkets do not seem to care when it comes to consumers; it all comes down to profit. These small businesses get an opportunity to service the areas and they get to give back. I just had to speak to that firstly.

Secondly, I want to know what has happened with the Labor Party. That is a good question. Five years ago it seemed to be a really good idea to look after small businesses. It seemed to be a great idea to create a moratorium for five years to give them some breathing space from the big businesses. What happened after five years? What has changed the tune of the Labor Party so that it is now making sure that Woolworths, Coles and the other duopoly supermarkets get an opportunity to have a competitive advantage every day of the week over these small businesses?

Mr SPEAKER: Under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House, the time allocated for consideration of the bill has now expired. In accordance with sessional order 4, the House must now consider clauses or remaining clauses, schedules and any amendments circulated by the minister in charge of the bill.

Question put—That clauses 26 to 29 and schedule 1, as read, stand part of the bill.

Motion agreed to.

Clauses 26 to 29 and schedule 1, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

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


Motion agreed to.

INSPECTOR OF DETENTION SERVICES BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 22 June (see p. 1629), on motion of Ms Linard—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (5.56 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Inspector of Detention Services Bill. I do declare at the outset that many corrective services staff reside in my wonderful community and I also sit next to one in this chamber. In Wacol there is the remand centre, the men's prison, the women's prison and the youth detention centre. The corrections precinct in Wacol is a substantial employer in my electorate and there are also a few more that sit just outside that precinct. As I said, this precinct sits just outside my electorate. However, since I was elected I have had the absolute privilege of visiting all of these facilities, often more than once, for formal and informal events as well as for graduation and induction events for new staff.

It is in this context that I have had the opportunity to speak with the staff in our facilities and I can speak really happily and with great pride about the dedication they have to the respectful treatment they endeavour to give people in these detention facilities. During some of the special events that I have attended the staff there often reflect on the fact, with a degree of sadness I would say, that many people in our community have no idea what happens inside our corrections precinct. Most of the staff that I have met would actually love to see this changed. It was only once I went into the precinct for the first time that I realised that in our women's prison some of our corrections staff help facilitate a really lovely program where they partner with the RSPCA across the road which allows some of the female inmates

to look after kittens and foster kittens. It is part of the rehabilitation process. I think it is a really beautiful program, and that is just one of the great things that is happening behind closed doors in our Wacol women's prison. That was really beautiful to see.


This bill is going to go some way at least to shining a light on the great work that is happening behind closed doors in our corrections facilities. I want to make a couple more comments about what I have learnt from the staff as it pertains to this bill specifically. The first is that, as I have said, the work of our corrective services officers happens behind closed doors, and that is for good reason—that is, for the safety of our community—but it means that members in our community, unless they know or sit next to somebody who works in the corrective services industry, unfortunately have very little opportunity to see or find out what the role of our corrective and protection officers actually entails. Unlike the police, who also play a vital role in community safety, corrective officers do not have that community engagement or interaction with the public on a day-to-day basis. Conversely, members of the police are constantly interacting with the community, so they also have that additional layer of oversight to their role because everything they do is in public view. Due to that lack of visibility, our corrective services teams really are the unsung heroes of community safety because, as I said, we do not often see them.

As a community we get a really clear breakdown of how police allocate their time in the community. Members of this House and many members of the community would be very familiar with the statistic that around 40 per cent of police time is allocated to DV incidents.

Debate, on motion of Ms Pugh, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Gympie Hospital

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (6.00 pm): Last month more than 100 families, patients and local doctors attended Gympie's health crisis town hall meeting. Right across the board services are under stress at Gympie Hospital. Patients are transferred or told to travel 100 kilometres to the Sunshine Coast for basic healthcare treatments. Almost daily I am told of problems.

In June the fracture clinic was closed with no warning. Patients were sent away from booked appointments and told to either see their GP or travel with broken limbs to the Sunshine Coast University Hospital. A petition against the closure already has more than 6,100 signatures. Last year it was the paediatric ward. That only reopened after several months following strong community outrage. It is only open from nine to five. One patient has told me Queensland Health has advised her that the fracture clinic has reopened, but only one day a fortnight. It is a joke. Patients must ensure they need the clinic on the day it is open otherwise they must go to the Sunshine Coast.

A Potemkin village was a fake portable village built to impress Catherine the Great as she travelled through the regions. This is Queensland Health's version—a clinic in name only. Implying it exists without providing a reasonable level of basic service is spin and weasel words. Local doctors have spoken of dangerous situations, treating patients who should be in hospital. Doctors are at breaking point as they try to pick up the slack. They are spending hours on the phone trying to get their patients treated. Vulnerable residents on fixed or low incomes cannot afford to be discharged late at night or be transferred to the Sunshine Coast. They cannot afford to travel for treatments.

I am still waiting for a response from the minister about the unannounced removal of administrative assistance to help patients access the Patient Transport Subsidy Scheme. Many patients do not and cannot access the internet. They find the paperwork onerous, confusing and overwhelming. It is the second time the service has been removed. It has been replaced with an inadequate phone line that is often not answered.

Our master clinical services plan was delayed by 20 months—perhaps because Gympie needs a new hospital. It said that the facilities are old and not fit for purpose with services fragmented, spread across multiple buildings. It is falling apart. Last year I was told patients use their mobile phones to ring for attention. Now I am told patients are given phones to ring the nurses station. Staff have scavenged discarded equipment from Nambour Hospital. They brought back better equipment than was being used at the Gympie Hospital. The roof leaks. During heavy rains water was leaking into live power points in the maternity ward and other areas. They lost two rooms in the maternity unit because it rained. Parents are given a blanket to sleep on the floor beside their teenagers who are admitted to the hospital. It is not good enough.

4MBS Festival of Classics



Mr KELLY (Greenslopes—ALP) (6.03 pm): There is a humble building on Old Cleveland Road that is home to a Queensland great, 4MBS, a community radio station that broadcasts classical music statewide.

Ms Pease: I love that!

Mr KELLY: I take that interjection. There is a lot to love. While it is a great radio station which has been running for 29 years, I want to talk about the 4MBS Festival of Classics which has been running for 29 years. The festival offers a program of over 30 events spread across South-East Queensland and two weeks of a Shakespeare Festival which is based in Sandgate and other locations. This festival is truly also a Queensland great. It employs solely Queensland musicians, actors and support crew. Only Queensland performers are employed. In 29 years there have been over 1,000 events that have been enjoyed by over 125,000 people. It has provided opportunities for 20,000 Queensland performers, many of whom have gone on to worldwide fame in both music and acting. The performances have seen the work of 30 Queensland based composers performed, including six works that were commissioned exclusively for the Festival of Classics.

Every year I attend at least one performance. This year, thanks to an invitation from the former member for Mansfield, Ian Walker, it was the performance by the Queensland Youth Orchestra conducted by Simon Hewett at the QPAC Concert Hall. The QYO performed the world premiere of John Rotar's *Symphony No. 1*. He is an exciting young Australian composer. It was a jaw-dropping performance, from a music lover's perspective, perhaps on par, if not surpassing, game 3 of this year's State of Origin series. That is how good it was.

This world-class youth orchestra is based at the Old Museum in Bowen Hills and was established in 1966. It provides outstanding training and performance opportunities for over 500 young musicians every year, including 10 who live in my community. The QYO welcomes the commitment by the Palaszczuk Labor government to invest \$1.6 million into investigating the feasibility of restoring fully the Old Museum. An anonymous philanthropist has given \$20 million towards the cost of achieving this work. That combined support provides an exciting opportunity to reimagine how the Old Museum can continue to serve not just the QYO but our entire community. It is a real investment in classical music in this state.

It is so important that we continue to support the development of young classical musicians and actors. I will always support and strongly advocate for more funding for 4MBS and the Festival of Classics because it does just that: it takes people from Queensland and gives them an opportunity to springboard to a world stage. Next sitting week, some of the fine performers who have cut their teeth at the festival and are now international stars will be performing in the red chamber, and I would encourage all members to come and listen to these wonderful performers and learn more about 4MBS.

Walk for a Cure



Mrs GERBER (Currumbin—LNP) (6.06 pm): One Australian is diagnosed with brain cancer every five hours. Eighty per cent of patients diagnosed will die within five years. Brain cancer kills more children in Australia than any other disease. There is no cure. Earlier this month my family and I led a community initiative to raise funds and awareness for those battling brain cancer. My family recently lost our beloved Peter Hudson to brain cancer. Alongside my dad, my Uncle Pete was one of the most important male figures in my life. He was the most brilliant, kind man and this world is much poorer for him not being in it. He was a loved husband, father, poppa and friend. He was taken far soon from us because of a brain tumour.


I know that my family is not alone in our grief and desire to see the brain cancer survival rate improved. We decided to organise a walk through the Cure Brain Cancer Foundation to bring together our community and raise much needed funds for research into the causes and treatments and ultimately to find a cure for brain cancer. Close to 100 members of our community came out and supported our walk. So far our efforts have raised \$7,235. To everyone who walked and donated, including locals and beachgoers who got involved on the day, a huge heartfelt thank you.

Walk for a Cure allowed so many to connect and I met so many beautiful people and heard their stories. Bianca lost her six-year-old son, Slater, after he was diagnosed at six months with brain cancer. Slater was a warrior for the cause, raising enormous amounts of money for brain cancer while he battled the disease. Bianca walked to continue his legacy. I met Kim, a mum of four diagnosed with a GBM brain tumour who recently underwent treatment, and I met Rachael, diagnosed at 28 years of age, not long after her baby was born. Rachael walked to raise funds for research for a cure because she wants to live to see her son grow up.

I want to thank all the volunteers who generously gave of their time to make our walk happen: my family, Sue Hudson, Jenna and Tim Fearnley, Elyssa Hudson and James Hudson; my wonderful staff, Kate, Josie and Bronte and their own families, including Kate's mum, Pauline, and the fantastic youth member for Currumbin, Olivia Watkins, who all helped with the organisation and running of the event; Taylor Birchnell and Zac Revere who also helped on the bbq; Naomi Watson who joined us as our first aid officer; and the wonderful Rainbow Bay Surf Life Saving Club for supporting us with the BBQ equipment. Without these beautiful people and the time they gave to the walk the event would not have happened and it would not have run smoothly.

We organised marathon bibs so that people could write on the bibs who they were walking for, whether it be for themselves or for their loved one that they have lost or just for a cure. It allowed everyone to connect and allowed everyone to share their stories and feel supported during a very difficult time. A lot of people are suffering with grief and loss. Overall it was such a beautiful day and we hope to make it an annual event, bringing our community together and advocating to give hope and time to those young and old suffering with brain cancer.

Sri, Councillor J, Housing

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (6.09 pm): I rise to speak on a matter that, like most Queenslanders, I find absolutely shocking. At a time of unprecedented pressure on the housing market, Brisbane City Councillor Sri and the Greens political party are advocating for people to break in and squat in homes across the inner city. That is simply irresponsible.


As I am sure the councillor knows, there are a broad range of reasons that properties may not be occupied. Queenslanders have had to endure over two years of COVID impacts, multiple flooding events and the rising cost of living. If Councillor Sri gets his way, residents who have temporarily relocated during flood recovery will be coming home to people squatting in their living rooms. The same could happen to somebody who is away from their home seeking treatment in a hospital or visiting a sick loved one. The Greens political party is all headlines and no substance. If they were serious about housing solutions for their constituents, they would work with the Palaszczuk Labor government on rolling out our record \$2.9 billion social and affordable housing investment.

It is frankly disturbing that the councillor for the Gabba ward, who is from the same Greens political party as the member for Maiwar and the member for South Brisbane, is actively promoting places where people will, and I quote Councillor Sri, 'be able to find a suitable place to squat'. An elected member using their position of privilege to incite people to break the law is absolutely reprehensible. The suggestion by the councillor that vulnerable people put themselves in a situation where they may be criminalised for squatting in someone else's house is not only ridiculous but also, quite frankly, negligent.

The member for Maiwar and the member for South Brisbane, the representatives of the Greens political party in this place, should immediately make clear their position on this matter. What a slap in the face this is to their own constituents who have had their properties impacted by multiple flooding events and some of whom are still dealing with major rebuilds. Do the Greens members support the outrageous statements by Councillor Sri? Do they encourage illegal activity and illegal squatting?

Instead, they should be supporting sensible policy like the Palaszczuk government's Help to Home initiative. We are calling on home owners to make their properties available to rent to help support Queenslanders who are struggling to find a home. This is part of our \$40 million Help to Home initiative that will see us deliver up to 1,000 housing solutions through headlease private market properties. Help to Home is a win-win for property owners and tenants. It will help people on our social housing register to secure safe and affordable housing in target areas of high demand. This is a sensible way to manage housing in this state. Encouraging people to break in and squat in people's homes is not. That is absolutely ridiculous and the Greens need to stand up right now and denounce it.

Kingaroy Hospital

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (6.12 pm): On Tuesday, 9 August a record crowd of just over 200 people attended the South Burnett health crisis meeting, including community members and, very importantly, nurses—heaps of them. They all wanted to share their stories about how bad the Queensland health system is and what it is doing to the lives of people who live in and around the South Burnett. I want to thank the shadow minister, Ros Bates, and the leader of the LNP, David Crisafulli, for coming to Kingaroy to listen to my community's concerns. There are huge concerns in relation to this.

Shannon spoke about the lack of security at the Kingaroy Hospital. She and her nine-year-old son were left in a very dangerous situation when a violent patient was in the emergency department. Lee spoke of her terrible experience during her husband's final days in palliative care in Kingaroy. I give a big shout-out to Nick Castle, who drove from Emerald to Kingaroy to attend that 20th town hall meeting. He did that because he needed assistance to get his son's operation put back on the list as he had just been taken off it. These are horrible stories.

The meeting was an opportunity to support our stressed and overworked doctors and nurses and to shine a light on the problems that they face in Kingaroy. Those people opposite do not understand. They have stopped listening, if they ever were listening. I have had 12 nurses in my office crying because this government refuses to support them. It refuses to give them enough staff.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I hear the education minister. This tin eared government does not understand the effect when a young—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Order, members.

Ms King interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: When the member for Pumicestone sits in this House and says that I hate nurses that is an absolute insult and I ask the member to withdraw. I take personal offence and I ask her to withdraw.

Mr POWER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Pumicestone made no comment. I was sitting right next to her. She did not make any comment. I did not hear her say it.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Everyone will cease quarrelling.

Mr POWER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I want to apologise. I may have got that incorrect. I did not hear it.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Logan. Member for Pumicestone, I did not hear the comment but the member for Nanango has asked that you withdraw. Do you withdraw?

Ms KING: I withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. That allows us to move on.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I am exceedingly proud of my daughter Lucy who is a graduate nurse working in Blackall right now. She is volunteering to go to the Birdsville Races so that if people are injured or hurt she will be there to help. I am proud of her.

Gayler, Mr J



Mr HEALY (Cairns—ALP) (6.16 pm): It is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend John Gayler, the former federal ALP member for Leichhardt—

Honourable members interjected.

Ms PEASE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There is a speaker on his feet and the member for Mudgeeraba is quarrelling with someone, although I am not really sure with whom. Could we call it to order?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Thank you, member for Lytton. That is not a point of order. Before we continue, I ask all members to keep it down so we can listen to the member for Cairns.

Mr HEALY: John Gayler was the former federal ALP member for Leichhardt. He passed away on Wednesday, 27 July this year. John was first elected as the member for Leichhardt in 1983, in the election that saw Bob Hawke become prime minister. He retired in 1993, having successfully served for 10 years and having won four elections. John was certainly a colourful addition to the federal parliament. He not only served the large electorate of Leichhardt but was also appointed a member of the council of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies from 1985 to 1990. He served on the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence from 1983 to 1987, and in 1985 he served on the House Select Committee on Aboriginal Education, which he was passionate about.


John took a keen interest in the protection of the Daintree Rainforest within his electorate. He supported the listing of the Wet Tropics of Queensland as a World Heritage site and drew attention to illegal logging. He was also instrumental in fostering strong and enduring relations with Japan, which

helped build the city of Cairns and contributed significantly to our region's strong and growing tourism industry. John served our party, representing the people of Leichhardt extremely well. He loved the electorate and knew it like the back of his hand. He had a great relationship with the then state member for Cook, Bob Scott. The two of them often travelled around the cape and the Torres Strait, with John making promises that Bob would have to follow up on.

John grew up in Babinda. He was a true North Queenslander. I have been told that he was a pretty good footballer in his day. Babinda always held a special place in John's heart. He was a solicitor prior to entering into politics—and was well liked, regardless—forming a dynamic partnership with the late Mal Cleland. John was also on the side of the little guy and was widely known in legal circles as 'Not Guilty Gayler'. He represented the infamous Cedar Bay 12, who were arrested on drug charges after the expensive military style raid orchestrated by the Joh Bjelke-Petersen government on the isolated hippie commune in the thick scrub between Cairns and Cooktown.

John was a larger-than-life character and he was an absolutely solid man. He loved to talk politics, horseracing and footy. He was extremely knowledgeable, was very keen to give expertise and knowledge and was prepared to discuss any topic. He was especially keen on politics. John could enter any room and talk to anybody at any level, whether a prime minister or a ringer who has just come off the paddock. I am sure all members will join me in extending my sincere sympathies to Mary, Sean, Fiona and their families on John's passing. Vale John Gayler. Elections will certainly not be the same without you.

Coronavirus, Vaccination and Quarantine

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (6.20 pm): Vaccination mandates segregated a section of our society simply because of their belief in their right to make a personal choice. Queenslanders' rights were trampled upon during this period. I have no doubt that the loss of valuable healthcare workers and long-term mental health issues because of lockdowns and mandates will cost our economy millions, if not billions, over the years to come.


The other issue we faced over the past two years was forced hotel quarantine. I have spoken to a number of North Queenslanders who have failed to be granted a quarantine fee waiver after being told verbally that they would receive one. Even worse, when they have applied for a review of their fee waiver application, it has taken up to 10 months before being knocked back and issued with a 14-day payment demand notice of thousands of dollars. I will outline one such case and the ridiculous circumstances surrounding their forced quarantine.

As part of Brett Drockman's employment, he was working on a project at Olympic Dam in South Australia for which he was required to travel from Cairns to Adelaide. While he was in the air travelling, the South Australian and Queensland governments changed their COVID restrictions for travel. On being informed of changes upon landing at Adelaide Airport, Brett arranged with his employer for the earliest available flight back to Cairns, which was the next day. Brett stayed overnight in a hotel which is directly linked via sliding doors to the Adelaide Airport terminal, so he never left the airport. Brett applied for a border pass into Queensland that day and received his approval to fly back to Cairns.

While waiting to board the flight, passengers from Adelaide and surrounds were arriving at the airport in private vehicles which had travelled through hotspots to the airport. Brett confirmed during conversations with some passengers while waiting to board that these same people were not detained for quarantine at Cairns Airport. Upon landing at Cairns Airport, as Brett was walking into the airport terminal building, police were assessing travel movements and place of residence. After checking his driver's licence for his place of residence in Queensland and his travel movements in the previous 24 hours, he was informed that he would have to go into forced quarantine for 14 days, costing him thousands.

I also know of one elderly lady in her 80s who is losing sleep because she fears she will go to jail after receiving constant invoices demanding payment for her forced hotel quarantine. I call on this government to review all forced hotel quarantine charges.

Yeppoon, CQUniversity Village Festival

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (6.23 pm): Arts, music and culture are the beating heart of the Capricorn Coast. Last week our heart exploded with some off-the-hook tunes, seriously fine art, street theatre, workshops, food and market stalls, tasty beer and good vibes at the 19th annual CQUniversity Village Festival. Set on the Yeppoon foreshore with the sparkling blue water, Woppaburra land and sea country and the southern Great Barrier Reef forming the festival's world-class backdrop, the village festival lights up our coastal town, our home Yeppoon.

The week-long festival kicked off with the Speakeasy Prohibition Party. Can I just say that when someone says 'dress-up party in Yeppoon', we really take it seriously! We were entertained by wailing guitars, funky basslines and smooth grooves supported by the heavenly vocals of charismatic frontwoman Amelia. Emu Park was abuzz for Park Sessions, with the very talented Brad Butcher, Anna Farquhar, Amanda Heartsong and Murphy Road putting smiles on so many faces.

Through the week artists like Kate Mahood delighted at Tides and Tunes as we slid into the festival's headline weekend. The eighties and nineties tribute band took us right back to our youth with their stacked two-part set on the Friday night, supported by talented locals like the beautiful Sophie Rose Blackman and her band Raining Roses, Zac Cross and Chris Bax.

Accomplished local artist Helen Kavanagh hosted a welcome to watercolours workshop and kids workshop at the Fig Tree Galleries on Saturday; an hilarious cast of comedians had us all belly laughing at the Funniest Night in the Village; and the liquid gold was flowing at the Crafternoon Village on the foreshore, showcasing Yeppoon's very own Yepp Brewing Co.

New Nectar, Forty-Five K and Dawn and the Sax kicked off the afternoon as locals and visitors filtered down to the foreshore amphitheatre. One of my personal favourites, Side Hustle, absolutely lifted the roof off the amphitheatre, followed by Core, Lunar and, as the sun set in the west, 10-piece high-energy cover band Indigo Electric, with lead vocalists Angelo Conway and Amanda Hock, took centre stage. Local band Maddi and the Hoopers hit all the right notes and proved just how topnotch our local talent is.

Local band Relic, made up of Chris Bloxsom, Howard Johnston, Con Galvin, Mark Steedman and Eric Denham, got the frenzied crowd jumping as they knocked out some seriously good retro rock anthems. The amphitheatre was packed and the anticipation was high for Australian rock legends and festival headline act Choir Boys. Yeppoon definitely 'ran to paradise'.

This not-for-profit community festival, which attracts over 20,000 people over the week, is run and managed entirely by volunteers. It would not happen without the team of the dedicated festival board including: the affable chairman Danny Carr; Tanya Lynch and Callan Buchholz; and committee members Emily Van Riet, Veronica Campbell, Nathan Harold, Maddi Kovac, Skye McLauchlan, Tim Loydell and Peter Delaney. I thank all of the festival partners and sponsors. The 19th village festival was absolutely amazing and I cannot wait to celebrate the festival's 20th anniversary next year. It is going to be big!

Warrego Electorate, Road Infrastructure



Ms LEAHY (Warrego—LNP) (6.26 pm): I rise to inform the House of the state of the roads following successive wet weather events across my electorate. We have not just had one event; the Balonne shire has had five floods. The shire was disaster activated for 301 days out of 344 days in the 2021-22 financial year. The wet weather and floods have taken a toll on the electorate's roads. The impact on the roads has been compounded by the Palaszczuk Labor government's deferred road maintenance backlog of \$1.3 billion in the Darling Downs south-west region. The roads were not in a good condition prior to these events. Disappointingly, the Labor government has no plan to address this maintenance backlog.

Further, if the government had not wasted \$237 million on a mothballed quarantine facility at Wellcamp, it would have the funds to repair and raise the culvert 38 kilometres south of Dirranbandi on the Castlereagh Highway. This road has been closed for 64 days from December to May. Frank Deshon's business stands to lose \$15,000 a day in revenue due to this road closure. He said, 'It's an absolute disgrace. The road is closed and they can't repair a pothole with less than 20 centimetres of water. I bet that if George Street were closed for 64 days it would be fixed in a jiffy.' I table a photo of the culvert.

Tabled paper: Photograph of a culvert [\[1178\]](#).

Further, there is the Roma Condamine Road 12 kilometres west of Condamine. I have just driven along this road and agree with Luke and Jennifer Philp, who wrote to me describing this road as a goat track. There would be bicycle tracks in the minister's electorate that are wider than this road. If this Labor government had not wasted \$237 million on Wellcamp, it would be able to widen the road and support the millions of dollars of beef and grain production and resources in the area. This area contributes millions in revenue to the state government. It deserves its fair share to be spent on widening this road—not taxpayers' money wasted on 'Wastecamp'.

Then there is the Jackson Wandoan Road Tchanning Creek crossing at Noonga. I table a photograph of the couple's brand new ute and caravan washed off the Tchanning Creek crossing this year. They were lucky they were not drowned.

Tabled paper: Photograph of a flooded road and semi-submerged vehicle towing a caravan [1179].

What did the government say when I sent these pictures? 'It's a priority, however we are in the process of identifying funding opportunities to construct an upgrade.' Maybe if the government had not wasted \$237 million on 'Wastecamp' it might have the taxpayers' money to invest in upgrading the Tchanning Creek crossing. Queenslanders deserve better.

Vietnam Veterans' Day



Mr MELLISH (Aspley—ALP) (6.28 pm): On this day in 1966, on a rubber plantation near the village of Long Tan, Australian soldiers fought one of the fiercest battles of the Vietnam War. The men of Delta Company, 6th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment, faced approximately 2,000 North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops. By the end of the day, 17 Australians had been killed in action and 25 were wounded. That was the Battle of Long Tan. Today is the 56th anniversary and so every year on 18 August Australia commemorates Vietnam Veterans' Day.

Ms Bates interjected.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Pause the clock. We will wait for silence.

Mr MELLISH: Today we honour approximately 60,000 Australians who served. We remember the sailors of the Royal Australian Navy who supported the extensive land operations carried out by the Australian Army. We also remember the Royal Australian Air Force personnel who served in roles including combat and transport. We pay our respects to the 521 Australians who lost their life as a result of the war and to the 3,000 service personnel who were wounded.

In 2022 we also mark 60 years since Australia's first involvement in the Vietnam War. Last month I was proud to attend a memorial service held by the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam Association, or AATTV. The service commemorated the 60th anniversary of the initial deployment of AATTV personnel to Vietnam in 1962. It was a touching and respectful event, with a very moving address by Major General Stephen Day, the Queensland RSL President, and very well organised by Colonel Kerry Gallagher AM, National President of the AATTV. I am happy to wear their tie today which Kerry was kind enough to gift me.

The AATTV, led by Colonel Ted Serong, was the first Australian Army unit to serve in the Vietnam War. They were involved in training, advising and leading a variety of Vietnam forces. There were approximately 1,000 servicemen in the AATTV. Of those, 33 were killed and 122 were wounded. It became the most highly decorated Australian unit to serve in the war. Four Victoria Crosses were awarded to AATTV personnel, and there were numerous other awards and decorations for the unit.

It was also an honour to attend the unveiling of a sandstone plinth at the Row of Memory, dedicated to the 33 members of the team who were killed in action. Today, on Vietnam Veterans' Day, we remember and honour those men, as well as the 60,000 Australians who served in the Vietnam War more broadly.

The AATTV was the first Australian unit in and the last one out of Vietnam. They never actually served in Australia. They were raised and disbanded overseas. All had to qualify at the Tropical Warfare Advisers Course at Canungra, which is where their grove was located. It was fantastic to attend the service there which was really touching. Lest we forget.

The House adjourned at 6.31 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, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Skelton, Smith, Stevens, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Watts, Weir, Whiting