



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 1 September 2022

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THURSDAY, 1 SEPTEMBER 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.

PRIVILEGE

Record of Proceedings



Mr POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (9.31 am): A review of yesterday's *Record of Proceedings* indicates a dramatic divergence between what the Treasurer said during his answer to a question without notice compared to what is in the record, which the record in no way reflects. I quote, 'this side of the House is not going to be lectured to you by us by you.' I suggest the editing has gone further than the normal rules of false start and would ask that you review the transcript.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Glass House, I would suggest that matters of privilege are usually reserved for matters that are of a serious nature which may require further work, including writing to the Speaker to have a discussion, review and find further information. I believe that matter could have been resolved in a different way. I will take that matter of privilege and I will consider it.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I will wait for the front benches of both sides. The Treasurer will cease his interjections.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Parliamentary Friends of AFL



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, tonight the mighty Brisbane Lions take on the Richmond Tigers in an elimination final at the Gabba. Today on the Speaker's Green from 1 pm the Parliamentary Friends of AFL will hold an event for members to meet the AFL and AFLW players. There will be an opportunity to discuss all things AFL with players from both the Brisbane Lions and the Gold Coast Suns AFL and AFLW teams as well as AFL administrators. There might even be an opportunity for a kick or two, and a light lunch is also on offer. I thank the co-chairs of the Parliamentary Friends of AFL, the Attorney-General and member for Bonney, for hosting this event. I hope that all members can attend.

School Group Tours



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Allora State School in the electorate of Southern Downs, Mudgeeraba Creek State School in the electorate of Mudgeeraba, and Chinchilla Christian School in the electorate of Callide.

PETITION

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

Indooroopilly State School, Red Light Camera

299 petitioners, requesting the House to install a red light camera at the signalised pedestrian crossing on Moggill Road outside Indooroopilly State School [\[1256\]](#).

Petition received.

TABLED PAPER

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

MEMBER'S PAPER

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

Member for Southern Downs (Mr Lister)—

[1257](#) Nonconforming petition relating to the protection of Domville State Forest, Millmerran, from quarrying

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Gamin, Mrs JM



Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (9.34 am): Mr Speaker, I move—

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

Judy Gamin, who passed away earlier this month, served in this House from 1992 to 2001. She was born in Broken Hill, New South Wales on 18 July 1930. She was educated at Broken Hill Convent, Loreto Convent in Adelaide and the University of Adelaide. In 1957 she married Paul Gamin and in 1964 they moved to the Gold Coast. As Mrs Gamin told the House in her first speech in 1988—

We cashed in all our assets, put together everything we had and ventured into the unknown. We saw the potential of the Gold Coast and started a business, which we owned and operated successfully for more than 21 years.

Their business was a curtain and material retail store in Nerang Street, Southport.

Mrs Gamin became active in politics on the Gold Coast, and in 1984 she contested the electorate of Moncrieff for the National Party in the federal election of that year. Whilst Mrs Gamin was unsuccessful on that occasion, public office was obviously an interest of both her and her husband. In 1985 Paul Gamin was elected as an alderman on the Gold Coast City Council, representing Burleigh until the year 2000.

In 1988 there was a seismic shift in Queensland politician. That was the year Russ Hinze resigned after 22 years as the member for the Gold Coast electorate of South Coast. The National Party selected Judy Gamin to contest the by-election, which she won on 20 August. It was one of those old-fashioned three-cornered contests. One of the unsuccessful candidates was the future leader of the Liberal Party, Bob Quinn; however, Mr Quinn turned the tables a year later in the state election of December 1989. Two years later a redistribution split South Coast into Nerang and the new electorate of Burleigh. The National Party selected Mrs Gamin to contest this new electorate at the next state election. On 19 September 1992 she returned to this House as the first member for Burleigh. Mrs Gamin served until the state election of February 2001, winning further elections in 1995 and 1998. It meant that during most of this time Mrs Gamin and her husband Paul represented the Burleigh community simultaneously in the Queensland parliament and on the Gold Coast City Council.

The length of service that she and her husband gave to the community is something of which their family can be very proud. I would like to take this moment to acknowledge her family in the gallery today: Caroline Gamin, Glenn Costello, Peter Gamin, Matthew Gamin, Timothy Gamin and Christine McDonald.

During her time in this House Mrs Gamin served in various roles. She was deputy chair of the Select Committee on Travelsafe and chair and deputy chair of the Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee. She also served as chair of a budget estimates committee in 1996 and 1997, was a member of the Borbidge government's ministerial legislative committees from 1969 to 1998, and at other times while in opposition served on shadow ministerial legislative committees.

Judith Margaret Gamin passed away on 7 August, aged 92. A funeral mass to celebrate her life was held at Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church in Hendra on 19 August.

I place on record the government's thanks for the years of service Mrs Gamin gave to the institutions of our democracy and the Queensland community. On behalf of the government I take this opportunity to extend my sympathy and that of this House to Mrs Gamin's family and friends.



Mr CRISAFULLI (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.39 am): The death of Judy Gamin has seen the passing of a great advocate for the Gold Coast, a popular and respected parliamentarian and a dedicated and loving wife, mother and daughter. Judy Gamin's contributions to this House and to her community are well recorded. Those who knew her recognised her commitment, loyalty and willingness to work hard. These are the characteristics that marked her family life, community and business service, and political involvement.

Judy was born in Broken Hill, a daughter of George and Eileen Fisher. It was George Fisher—or Sir George as he became—who made a lasting contribution to Queensland and its mining industry as chairman of Mount Isa Mines. He was responsible for improvements in mine safety, the building of Lake Moondarra, the growth of Mount Isa itself and what he described as his proudest achievement—Mount Isa Mines's subsidising of low-interest home loans for mine workers.

Judy worked as a pathology technician in Broken Hill and as a TAA travel agent after her family moved to Mount Isa—an occupation she pursued while living in London in the mid-1950s. Judy married Paul Gamin in 1957 and created what was to become a formidable political partnership on the Gold Coast. While Judy served in this House, Paul served as a councillor for the Burleigh area between 1985 and 2000. The family moved to the Gold Coast in 1964 and established a successful curtain manufacturing business in Nerang Street, Southport. The Deputy Premier spoke about how strong their desire for success was, when she spoke about cashing in their assets in her maiden speech. In the end of that paragraph, Judy said—

We have learned the difference between working for someone else and working for ourselves. We did it well. Although it was hard work, it was tremendously rewarding.

To Judy, the notion of hard work was second nature. Reward for effort became her catchcry and it was a guiding principle throughout her life. On the Gold Coast, the Gamins became part of the local community, and it was this involvement, as well as her abiding belief, that drove her towards a political career. She held various positions at all levels of the National Party before being nominated to replace Russ Hinze as the candidate for South Coast. After a vigorous campaign—principally between Judy and her Liberal opponent, Bob Quinn—Judy was successful at the August 1988 by-election. The South Coast electorate at the time was one of the fastest-growing districts in the south-east. The newly created suburb of Robina was expanding and the establishment of Bond Uni was having an impact on the area as well as the wider community. Pressures associated with a rapidly growing population—like transport, policing and the environment—had to be confronted and Judy set about doing this. Her enthusiasm was infectious and she was able to cast an optimistic eye over any situation and lighten the burden of those who might have thought things were getting on top of them.


However, in a testament to the political instability of the time, Mr Quinn defeated Judy in the December 1989 state election. Judy confronted defeat head-on and refused to be cowered by it. In fact, in 1992 she won the new seat of Burleigh, which had been created from her former seat of South Coast. She held Burleigh until 2001—a further testament to the uncertainty of politics. In all, she contested seven elections, both state and federal, winning four and losing three. Throughout her parliamentary career, Judy put her community first. She championed small business and, importantly, the Gold Coast's tourism industry. She saw the need to provide educational opportunities and employment advantages for young people as well as care for the frail, sick and elderly. Her commitment and her ability to help her constituents were some of her great features.

Her Catholic faith was important to her, as was her love of and commitment to family. In a tragedy of unimaginable proportions, her mother and two of her children were killed in a plane crash near Winton in 1966. Despite this, she was able to succeed in the tasks she set herself, whether personal or professional. In her maiden speech, she explained what guided her—

If in my future parliamentary or representational career I evince any particular characteristics of forthrightness, honesty, caring and helping ordinary people in their day-to-day concerns, those characteristics come to me from my mother, her training and her upbringing ... And so, between my mother and my father ... I have some terrific standards to live up to.

We are privileged to have in the gallery this morning members of Judy's family, both the Gamin and McDonald families. I spoke with Peter earlier. He said that in the beginning having two parents involved in public life was a source of embarrassment for him, as he would drive past and people would point at signs. However, that turned to pride when seeing what they did for the community. He spoke about her work ethic, her dedication to her community and the long hours. I asked what he remembered during that period. He said, 'Not a lot from here, but there was a guy called Vaughan with a really firm handshake'—don't we all.

Judy Gamin's legacy is one that this House should be very proud of. It is one the Gold Coast should be proud of. Most importantly, it is one her family should be proud of. Vale, Judy Gamin.

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (9.45 am): Judith Margaret Gamin was born on 18 July 1930 in Broken Hill to George Fisher, a mining engineer with Broken Hill Pty Ltd, now known as BHP, and Eileen Triggs, a nurse at the Broken Hill Hospital. Judy was the oldest of four children, along with Helen, Peter and Christine—and Christine is joining us in the chamber today. Judy passed away on 7 August, just a few short weeks ago. As I told the House at our last sitting, with the passing of Judy my electorate of Burleigh has lost the last of a dynamic political team that was well respected and will be missed. Judy's husband, Paul, who passed away in 2019, served as a councillor for the Burleigh area from 1985 until 2000. During that time, Judy was also bitten by the political bug, and I will cover that later in my contribution.

I knew Judy through politics mainly. I really did not know that much about her earlier life, so it was enlightening to attend Judy's funeral on Friday, 19 August, along with a large crowd, to hear about her early years from her daughters, Liz and Caroline, and her son, Peter. Both Caroline and Peter are here with us in the gallery today, along with Peter's son, Timothy, and Judy's sister, Christine McDonald. Peter and Caroline have kindly given me permission to read some of their eulogy into *Hansard* today because I think their words will give better justice to Judy than I can.

Judy spent her early years in Broken Hill before attending school in Adelaide as a boarder. Caroline described her mother as coming from a long lineage of women who were known for being capable leaders and doers. Judy's words to describe herself were slightly different—that being bossy and managing, and I can testify to that. Of course, in those times, within the context of a more male dominated world, perhaps they were the words used. Judy was certainly all of that and more. She was a woman ahead of her time. I would have to say that I understand Judy describing herself in that way. That is the political side of her that I knew.

Judy wanted to study medicine and become a doctor. Her father George said no because it was not a profession for a woman. Instead she enrolled in a science degree at the Adelaide university. Very little study occurred apparently. Instead, many social events were attended. As Caroline told us at the funeral, when they looked through the university year books, they found page after page after page of photos of Judy in almost every club or group. There was the Glee Club, although Caroline said that the family had very little knowledge of her singing ability. She was secretary of the Women's Union, which Caroline said was more to her style, and she was a university sports queen—and apparently the family did not know much about that either.

This very social life continued until her results came home to George. He was very firm but fairly direct. He told Judy that she had to improve her marks or she would not be staying. Judy failed to hear that warning, and George, a man of his word, followed through. Her university days were over and she got a job at the Broken Hill Hospital as a pathology technician.

George and Eileen moved to Mount Isa in 1952. Shortly after arriving, Eileen became very unwell and lost the sight of one eye. That is when Judy stepped up and became the cook of the household. She had no misconceptions of her cooking ability, but her feelings were a little hurt when she overheard her parents talking in their bedroom one night saying that they needed to find anyone but Judy to do the cooking. I never heard Paul complain about her cooking though.

She worked in TAA at Mount Isa as a travel agent and, in 1955, as a woman well ahead of her time, she went to London. She was 25, working as a travel agent and loving life. She lived in the same accommodation at Earls Court as Edmund Hillary and John Hunt who were doing their Antarctic expeditions and said what interesting fellows they were. She made friends and she had enormous fun. This good time came to an end when the Suez Canal crisis began in 1956. At this point of the eulogy Caroline said, 'This is starting to sound like an episode of *The Crown*.' George sent a telegram insisting she come home immediately. He followed that up with another containing flight details. This was becoming a familiar pattern, apparently, so she came home.

Judy settled in Brisbane and became TAA's first overseas travel agent there. Her friend, Austin Lennon, from Mount Isa days, was also in Brisbane and he introduced her to his good friend, Paul Gamin. They were married the next year. Caroline said that her mum told her that she and her dad would talk about anything and everything. She had never met anyone else she could do that with and was just so happy to be married to someone she could talk to. Caroline said her dad adored her, and she thought he was brilliant. They were married in Mount Isa.

Judy was the patron of many clubs and organisations in her lifetime, but one of those she held close to her heart was being the patron of the Mount Isa Bagpipers. The bagpipers were thrilled. They piped her to the church and out of the church. Apparently Father Dwyer loathed the Scottish pipers and would not let them in the church. Paul and Judy were booked on the Saturday afternoon plane to Brisbane. Eileen had the bright idea that if the Saturday afternoon flight could be delayed by an hour, it

would give the happy couple a little longer at their nuptials. TAA reluctantly agreed—and I have never heard of an airline agreeing to anything—but did not foresee that strong tail winds from Darwin got the plane to Mount Isa an hour early. This meant that the passengers waited on the plane for two hours in Mount Isa for Judy and Paul to join them. It was 35 degrees that day, apparently. The pipers piped Judy and Paul to the stairs of the plane with confetti in their hair. The happy couple entered the plane to thundering looks from the other passengers and the deafening silence was enough to make Paul and Judy slide quietly into their seats and hardly say a word to each other.

Brisbane was their home for a number of years. Paul's extended family were there and Judy was welcomed with open arms. In 1964, Paul and Judy headed to the Gold Coast; their new curtain manufacturing business in Southport beckoned—Gamin's Furnishings in Nerang Street, Southport. Judy and Paul ran that business for 20 years. Sadly, Judy and Paul suffered a cruel loss that would affect the rest of their lives when their two sons, Tom and John, and Judy's mother Eileen were killed in the crash of Ansett-ANA flight 149 near Winton in western Queensland on 22 September 1966. A few months later, Peter was born.

Paul and Judy lived in Mermaid Beach in a two-storey fibro house on the land they purchased from the Catholic Church before building at Skyline Terrace, Burleigh Heads in 1968, complete with a duck pond with ducks and geese, which they eventually ate, and a vegetable garden that turned out to be full of nutgrass. This is where Judy's life and my life start to intercept. Judy was with TAA; I was with East West and Ansett. Judy's family lived in Broken Hill; my parents lived in Broken Hill for a number of years. I ended up living next door to the house they built on Skyline Terrace. Then I lived in Skyline Terrace for a number of years. In fact, Burleigh has been represented by only three members of parliament in the past 30 years so we are a pretty parochial lot in Burleigh, I can tell you that.

Caroline described family life with Judy at the helm was about consistency, routine, Scotch Finger biscuits, packet mix cakes, a handful of rules and a lot of books—another place where we intercept—and a lot of old-fashioned practical parenting. Every night when Paul came home, they would sit together, have a drink and a nibble and catch up on their day. It was a strictly no-children zone. To achieve that, they locked themselves in their lounge room every night. That is something I have not tried. In fact, my lounge room does not even have a door, so I am not sure how I can do that. They were each other's best friends. Judy did the books for the business and everything in the house which was not nailed down was upholstered, including the teddy bears. She also chose all of the curtains, ran the school tuckshop, was involved with the parish, and she taught religion in the state schools.

While she became a member of the National Party in 1952, she became a more active member of the party in the late sixties and certainly in the years to come. When Russ Hinze left parliament in 1988, she won a by-election for the seat of South Coast which took in at the time a lot of the Gold Coast. Peter told the crowd at Judy's funeral there was a cricket pitch of candidates for preselection and a cricket field of candidates for the by-election, with preferences flying everywhere. She ended up winning by 144 votes. He remembers sitting down in the lounge room at the Skyline Terrace home sometime after the results came through for the South Coast by-election with a calculator, a pen and paper and telling his mother she could claim it based on scrutineer feedback on preference flows. At that time, there was no computerised tally of votes, and Peter's uncle, Don, was the President of the National Party at the same time and said to her, 'Are you sure, Jude?' Shortly afterwards she was sworn in at state parliament. She recounted it as a somewhat terrifying experience all by herself, and I think many of us can attest to that. As she tried to see where the Clerk was telling her to sign and control her shaking hands, Tom Burns from the opposition front bench called out to her, 'Go down on your hands and knees, Jude, and thank Christ for the ALP preferences. You'll never see them again.'

Judy lost out to Mr Quinn in the December 1989 state election, but returned to parliament when she won the newly created seat of Burleigh in 1992, as we have heard. Though politics had its ups and downs for Judy, she stood at a total of seven elections and won four. Again, we intercept: I have stood for six and won four. She lost the newly created federal seat of Moncrieff to the Liberals, won Russ Hinze's seat of South Coast in a by-election, lost South Coast at the next general election, won the newly created seat of Burleigh three times and then lost it to Christine Smith. Are we keeping track of all of this? Peter said, 'It wasn't the wins I admired about Mum, it was the way she handled defeat, congratulating her successor and attending the declaration of the poll accepting second place.' With her last loss to Christine Smith, they became good friends, and I have become good friends with Christine Smith across the political divide. Politics is a funny world.


During her time in this place, Judy held a number of positions. As we have heard, she was on the select committee for Travelsafe; she was the deputy chairperson of the select committee of Travelsafe; chairperson of a number of committees; and deputy chairperson of the Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee. Judy held a number of positions within the National Party

executive, including central councillor of the National Party; president and chairperson of branch, electorate and divisional councils; vice-president of the south-east zone; and chairperson of the small business policy committee.

Judy was an avid reader from a child up to the night that she died. She collected books like some women collect shoes. When she ran out of bookshelves to store books, more book shelves were built. I would quite often see her at the local library collecting books. Coincidentally, the Burleigh election pre-poll was always in the hall above the library, so during those pre-poll times I would see Judy wandering by to get another book. It was just about every day I would see her go in, take some back and collect more.

Judy sent me a lovely handwritten note a few months ago to say she had moved to a nursing home in Brisbane. I immediately rang her and we had a good natter. It was about politics and things in general, things that were happening around Burleigh. She did not tell me about her health issues. All she said about moving to Brisbane was, 'It was time, Michael,' and that was Judy.

On behalf of the people of Burleigh and the people I represent, I offer my deepest sympathy to Liz, Caroline, Peter and Christine and their extended family. Vale Judy Gamin.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (10.00 am): It is with great sadness that I speak on this condolence motion for Judy Gamin, who passed away on 7 August this year. If two words sum up Judy Gamin they are grit and grace. She was tenacious, she was courageous, but most of all she was kind. Her dedication to serving others was genuine and lifelong. She also had a dry wit and was quick to laugh.

I was honoured to serve with Judy in this House after she won the newly created seat of Burleigh at the 1992 state election, the same year I won the new seat of Maroochydore. I was newly minted and she was serving for the second time, having entered the Queensland Legislative Assembly as the member for South Coast, a seat she held between 1988 and 1989 after winning a by-election following the resignation of Russ Hinze. It was a tough preselection battle at a tumultuous time for the National Party, with Judy competing against nine other candidates for the right to be the endorsed National Party candidate in 1988.

With her trademark tenacity she prevailed and went on to work hard at the by-election, winning with a majority of 144 votes. Then just over a year later she had to back up and contest that seat again in the 2 December 1989 state election, also against a long list of candidates. This saw the National Party lose government and Judy also lose the seat she had only just claimed. Judy's preferences elected Liberal candidate Bob Quinn in a tight battle with a difference between them of only 73 votes. Once again, in true Judy Gamin spirit, she stayed committed to her local community. She did not allow the setback of losing the seat she had won just a year earlier from dampening her passion to serve in parliament, and three years later in the new seat of Burleigh she was re-elected.

It was appropriate that during her time of service to this parliament and her constituents she spoke with a passion and practicality for small business. Her advocacy shone through. She and her husband, Paul, whom she married in October 1957, had run small businesses themselves. We have heard quotes from her maiden speech about how they came to the Gold Coast in 1964, taking the risk, cashing in their assets, investing into the business and putting it all on the line. They saw the potential in the Gold Coast and they saw the potential in the business they had, which they operated successfully for more than 21 years. I think her maiden speech is instructive with regard to her philosophy about hard work, working for yourself, taking those risks and reaping the rewards. They did know the difference between working for someone else and working for yourself and they shone brightly in their community.

She also went on in her maiden speech to talk about looking back over the growth years on the Gold Coast. There were very few people who came through them with a higher reputation for fair dealing, honest dealing and integrity, unscathed by those traumas that beset so many small businesses. She said—

We could not have achieved what we did without a Government in this State that facilitated private enterprise, a Government that dedicated itself to the betterment of all, and a Government that interfered in the least possible way in the lives of the general community.

She lived her values. She lived her values of care for others. She spoke up strongly for the community. She railed against domestic violence and corruption. In 1989 she spoke of her support for the Fitzgerald commission of inquiry telling this parliament—

It was a bold and brave step not just to call an inquiry but to give the commissioner the widest powers to ensure that every facility was made available so that all avenues could be explored.

She also spoke of the importance of family and she supported vulnerable people in need by serving in her community. She was a member of the Salvation Army advisory board and a member of Lifeline's board of management locally. Judy's compassion and courage went far further. Her niece Senator Susan McDonald said of Judy—

For me, she was a role model, a source of practical advice, and a dry wit with a great love of life.

Susan also said of Judy—

After enduring her own personal tragedy of losing two children, Judy reached out to others in their own times of need.

...

In her maiden speech to the Queensland Parliament, Judy talked about her—

beloved—


mother Eileen Fisher, a strong, capable nurse. A woman who fostered in all her family the traits of being forthright, sincere and practical, always contributing to your community and putting family first.

Judy also paid tribute to her father, Sir George Fisher, the well-known former chairman of Mount Isa Mines, as someone who was loved and respected. Judy's comments about her close-knit and loving family were not platitudes; they were bedrock truths. In Judy's own words—

We share our love among us. We sustain each other in difficult times and we try to live our lives by the simple rules of honesty, straight dealing, integrity and concern for others.

These comments are more poignant when you realise there was a heartbreaking story of just what those difficult times had entailed. Judy's beloved mother, Eileen Fisher, was killed in a plane crash near Winton in 1966 along with Judy and Paul's two sons, Tommy and Johnny. Judy was pregnant with her youngest son, Peter, at the time. How someone gathers the fortitude and strength to carry on in those circumstances—and not just carry on but contribute and shine—is inspiring. At Judy's memorial service, tales of that compassion for others was shared, of how Judy would write to parents of children who had been lost in tragic circumstances to provide comfort and support. She did not know them—she may have seen the story in the newspaper—but she wanted to provide that loving care and support from someone who had been there.

Judy was a strong woman, a determined woman, a role model to women in politics and a deeply loved and kind person who I admired and with whom I am grateful to have served. My deepest condolences go to all the family. I pray for peace and comfort as you remember this extraordinary woman. I know that there are members of the family here in the gallery today. We will remember Judy with her kindness, her strength, her courage, that grit and her grace. To Elizabeth, Caroline, Peter—and I know that Judy's sister, Chris, is here and one of the grandchildren as well; and to the extended family: vale Judy Gamin.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (10.08 am): Judith Margaret Gamin, or Judy as we knew her, was born in Broken Hill in 1930. She was raised in Broken Hill and attended the local convent school. Later she attended the University of Adelaide and returned to Broken Hill Hospital as a pathology technician. Her family moved to Mount Isa where she worked as a travel agent for TAA. She spent time in London and a friend introduced her to Paul Gamin and she was married the next year in Mount Isa.

Prior to entering politics, Judy and Paul owned a curtain-manufacturing business at Southport. During the 1970s the recession came and the building industry slumped as did the orders for curtains and blinds. To save a wage, Judy went to work in the shop. Her children gained great respect for her: standing on a chair hanging heavy curtains was hard work.

Judy became involved in the National Party and was truly a woman ahead of her time. She was the second woman to be a divisional president in Queensland and the first woman to become a zone vice-president. She ran Paul's campaign for council when he was elected as a local councillor for Burleigh and Miami. It was then that the shop was sold and a new chapter began for them both. Judy was first elected to parliament for the South Coast state electorate district in 1988, and that was quite a tumultuous time in Queensland politics.

Her view about being a woman in politics was that it was the same for any other male-dominated field: first, you had to be better than the male contender; then you had to work harder at many of the other levels, including on the domestic front, in order to stay there. Judy did have a much softer side, which is how I remember Judy Gamin, the member for Burleigh.

I was working as a staff member on the same floor of the Annexe as Judy's office and we had many conversations over that time. I distinctly remember that she had a passion for Scotch Finger biscuits. I was the Scotch Finger biscuit floor supplier who replenished the Scotch Finger biscuits from

the little stationery shop over at Mineral House for Judy and many other MPs. We would have the kettle on, and straight after question time Judy would join us for a cup of tea and an analysis of question time or the other issues of the day.

Judy also had a love of roses, especially parliamentary roses. She had a particular liking for the roses in the garden in the middle of the set-down area at the front of the Annexe. Early in the morning she would go out and snip just one rose from the garden to bring back to the office, where she would sit it in a vase to admire for the sitting week. She told me that she was sure the security officers knew she did this, but they never said anything so she continued to do it.

Judy was a role model and a source of practical advice. She had a dry wit and a great love of life. Her example was one of a capable, loving mother, sister, aunt and grandmother, who was also a great local member because she cared so much about her community. She was so very special. We are privileged to have known her as we do.

To Caroline and Peter, Timothy and Christine who are here today: you can be very proud of her achievements for the Gold Coast. I acknowledge her contribution and I extend my deepest condolences to your family. We will all miss Judy, and I suspect that she is very busy reorganising heaven as we speak.


Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, would you please indicate your agreement by standing in silence for one minute.

Whereupon honourable members stood in silence.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, question time will begin at approximately 10.57 am.

MINISTERIAL PAPER


Revocation and Dedication of Protected Areas

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (10.13 am): I lay upon the table of the House a proposal under sections 29, 30 and 32 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and a brief explanation of the proposal.

Tabled paper: Revocation of state areas: Proposal under sections 29, 30 and 32 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and a brief explanation of the proposal, relating to the Oakview State Forest, Mount Etna Caves National Park, Tuchekeoi National Park and Oakview National Park [\[1258\]](#).

NOTICE OF MOTION

Revocation and Dedication of Protected Areas

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (10.13 am): I give notice that, after the expiration of at least 28 days as provided in the Nature Conservation Act 1992, I shall move—

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

Description of areas to be revoked

Oakview State Forest	An area of about 92.13 hectares described as part of lot 220 on FTY1774 (to be described as lots 216 and 217 on AP23760), to be dedicated as additions to Oakview National Park, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Mount Etna Caves National Park	An area of 0.1187 hectares described as part of lot 117 on NPW821 (to be described as lots 5 to 7 on SP325486), as illustrated on the attached sketch.

Tuchekoi National Park

An area of 1.223 hectares described as part of lot 1 on AP19201 (to be described as lot 3 on SP325683), as illustrated on the attached sketch.

Description of area to be dedicated

Oakview National Park

An area of about 92.13 hectares described as part of lot 220 on FTY1774 (to be described as lots 216 and 217 on AP23760), to be dedicated as additions to Oakview National Park, as illustrated on the attached sketch.

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

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Jobs and Skills Summit



Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumbidgee—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (10.14 am): One of the hallmarks of the change of government in Canberra has been a better working relationship with the states. Our government has always been willing to work with whoever was in power federally, but that has not always been reciprocated. However, under Anthony Albanese there has been a marked change, with a shared commitment to important issues. The national Jobs and Skills Summit being attended by the Premier today is a great example.

With a consultative and inclusive approach, we can expect positive outcomes. We know that because there was a positive mood in yesterday's meeting of National Cabinet. National Cabinet made a commitment towards a national skills agreement. They acknowledged the importance of early childhood education and care in boosting the participation of women in the workforce and committed to creating regional job opportunities from the acceleration of energy projects on the way to a net zero emissions economy. They also made important changes to COVID restrictions, including reducing the isolation period from seven days to five days, starting from the end of next week, and removing the requirement for masks on domestic flights.

The harmony at National Cabinet is a good sign for the Jobs and Skills Summit. I welcome the billion dollar training blitz that Prime Minister Albanese has just announced. The Commonwealth, states and territories will create 180,000 free TAFE places for 2023—a \$1.1 billion investment in Australians. This week our government has demonstrated our commitment to ensuring the skills and capabilities of our workforce. The centrepiece is our \$74 million Queensland Workforce Strategy, which includes: \$20 million to recruit under-represented workers; \$7 million to extend the group training organisation pre-apprenticeship program; \$5.6 million to employ migrants and international students; \$5.45 million to expand that to the regions; and \$4.6 million to expand our Gateway to Industry Schools program. This week we also announced the extension of the free TAFE and apprenticeships program for under-25s until next year.

In Canberra today, representing our state, the Premier will inform the summit about our strategy and the work we have done. She will work with federal, state and territory counterparts, employers, unions and other summit attendees to address skills shortages and get the right skills mix from training and migration. The Premier will work with her counterparts to boost productivity and deliver secure, well-paid jobs and strong and sustainable wages growth—all while keeping unemployment low.

The Prime Minister has also made it clear that he shares the Palaszczuk government's commitment to furthering women's economic security. I know that the summit will not miss the opportunity to further equal opportunities and pay for women. This is important, productive work by state and federal representatives with a shared commitment to good jobs, better services and a great lifestyle.

Defence Industries




Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumbidgee—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (10.17 am): Last week I chaired the Advisory Council on Defence Industry and Jobs, which was hosted by Rheinmetall Defence Australia at the Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence in Redbank, the most advanced military vehicle manufacturing facility in Australia.

The Palaszczuk government is very proud of what we have built with Rheinmetall at Milvehcoe. Federal defence minister Richard Marles was in Berlin this week showcasing the growing strategic partnership between Australia and Germany, including the Queensland Rheinmetall partnership. Thanks to that partnership and the support from Minister Marles, Queensland could soon export Boxer reconnaissance vehicles manufactured here to Germany. What a fantastic endorsement of Queensland manufacturing and Queensland's advanced manufacturing workforce that we could export Queensland-made military vehicles.

Our government worked hard to build Milvehcoe, in partnership with Rheinmetall, to attract and create good, secure jobs for Queenslanders. Who could forget then minister Lynham's efforts—travelling to Germany at the eleventh hour to seal that critical deal? These high-skilled manufacturing jobs are the types of jobs we will need more of in the future as we continue to grow Queensland's economy. Our Workforce Strategy, released this week, will help attract the workers we need for projects just like this one.

Renewable Energy


 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (10.19 am): This government is committed to a clean energy future that promotes innovation while delivering economic growth and highly skilled jobs for Queenslanders now and for generations to come. We are building a stronger, cleaner future by capitalising on our natural resources and talented and dedicated workforce. We have an abundance of sun to draw on for solar energy and we are rich in new economy mineral deposits such as vanadium and cobalt that are essential building blocks for renewable energy generation and storage, and of course we have fantastic conditions for wind farms.

Recently, the State Planner approved the \$2.6 billion Mount James Wind Farm near Hughenden. When completed, it is planned to be one of the largest in Australia, capable of generating up to a gigawatt of power, enough to cater for 640,000 homes per year. This massive wind farm will have up to 166 turbines and will create 300 jobs during construction. While at this point there are no further approvals required from the state, the project is now subject to EPBC approval from the Commonwealth.

This is exactly the type of project that will continue to propel Queensland towards becoming a renewable energy powerhouse. We are seeing significant investment in renewable projects across the state because companies are attracted to Queensland. They are attracted here because of our natural resources. They are attracted here because of our highly skilled workforce across regional centres. They are attracted here because of our infrastructure, ports and industrial land, and they are attracted here because of our established trade partnerships.

This government has been extremely proactive in facilitating investment, developing local industry content and supporting supply chains in solar, wind, batteries, hydrogen and bioenergy initiatives. We are investing in the development of green hydrogen and other major green energy projects throughout Queensland including Gladstone, Townsville, Maryborough, Cairns and the south-east. By supporting the development of locally made renewable fuel, energy and electricity, the Queensland government is providing certainty to manufacturers to set up, expand and, importantly, decarbonise their operations here. The government is continuing to position Queensland as the place to invest in, manufacture and export renewable energy and in doing so ensuring jobs, greater livability and a cleaner future for generations of Queenslanders to come.

Cameron, Ms D

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (10.22 am): Honourable members may be aware that today is the last day that Domanii Cameron will be covering parliament for the *Courier-Mail*. I understand Domanii is moving north to be a constituent of the member for Townsville, or perhaps the members for Mundingburra or Thuringowa.

Mr Bleijie: Poor her!

Dr MILES: Breaking with tradition she is not—

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members!


Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Buderim, I had just called the House to order and you continued to interject. You are warned under the standing orders.

Dr MILES: I can report that she is breaking with tradition and is not coming to work for the Palaszczuk government but will instead serve the Queensland community at the Royal Flying Doctor Service. She has been a dedicated and scrupulous observer of Queensland politics. On behalf of the government, we wish Domanii all the best.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Defence Industries; Job Creation

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (10.23 am): We may not be shipping coal to Newcastle yet, but the prospect of Rheinmetall Defence Australia exporting Queensland-made reconnaissance vehicles to the German army is a great endorsement of Queensland manufacturing. The prospect of Rheinmetall Defence Australia building Boxer combat reconnaissance vehicles here at Redbank for the German army comes as no surprise. Achieving this kind of export contract is precisely why we put so much hard work into becoming Rheinmetall's partner of choice to build the Boxer. This opportunity has the potential to build on Rheinmetall's current Queensland workforce of 520 which has already surpassed the company's initial expectations.

Whether it is Ipswich or the Gold Coast, Cairns or Charleville, Queensland is the best place to live, work and raise a family. Queensland's employment growth since the start of COVID leads the nation. We are also the best place to start, grow or move a business. Nowhere has Queensland's job-creating entrepreneurial spirit shone brighter than on the Gold Coast. In the 12 months to July 2022, the Gold Coast region had some of the strongest employment growth in Queensland, with the number of jobs rising by 23,400 or 6.6 per cent. Our targeted investment facilitation programs are designed to encourage more companies to establish headquarters in Queensland or pursue major expansions in our state.

Today I can announce that another company will move its corporate headquarters from interstate to the Gold Coast. Aspire42 runs a range of businesses across consumer and business finance, trade services, consumer leasing and health care. These include online consumer finance brand Snaffle, home services provider Local Expert, and health and wellness company Madison Health. Supported by Queensland Treasury's \$520 million Invested in Queensland program, Aspire42 will move to the Gold Coast to facilitate its growth.

I am pleased to announce today that over the next five years Aspire42's operations on the Gold Coast will deliver another 280 new full-time jobs. These will include its executive and finance teams, a centralised call centre, procurement and fulfilment teams and information technology and support teams. Aspire42 CEO Wayne Richardson said—

We believe the Gold Coast is a great place to live, work and play, so establishing our corporate headquarters here is the right move for us to capitalise on a range of domestic and international opportunities.

Mr Richardson went on—


The support of the Queensland Government's Invested in Queensland program will enable us to create a strong foundation for Aspire42's future corporate and commercial growth.

Aspire42's move follows the opening in May of Westpac's multimillion dollar IT hub in Surfers Paradise, creating 200 local jobs for software engineers and data specialists. Westpac's Chris de Bruin highlighted the significant tech talent available locally and described the Gold Coast as a 'globally connected city with one of the fastest growing economies in Australia which offers great lifestyle benefits'.

Other Gold Coast based companies also recognise these benefits as they pursue expansion thanks to the support of the QIC managed Business Investment Fund. ModnPods is doubling the size of its manufacturing facility at Arundel to produce prefabricated buildings for residential and commercial markets. That will see its workforce increase from 16 to around 100 staff over the next three years. Buildsafe, also based at Arundel, is also utilising the Business Investment Fund to increase production and hire 40 new staff. Gilmour Space Technologies at Helensvale, which joined us at parliament earlier this week for the launch of the Good People Good Jobs Workforce Strategy, are leading Queensland's drive to benefit from the \$1 trillion global space economy. Our investment is helping Gilmour pursue innovative new technologies and manufacturing capabilities and to nearly double its workforce by the end of the year.

The budget I delivered in June was all about delivering good jobs, better services and supporting our great lifestyle. By partnering with the private sector, our government is unlocking more investment to create more jobs right across Queensland, and the Gold Coast is leading the way.

Record of Proceedings

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (10.27 am): In relation to the matter of privilege raised in the House earlier today by the member for Glass House, I have not communicated in any way with the parliament's publishing and monitoring office about yesterday's *Record of Proceedings* and nor, am I advised, has any member of my staff. I wish to place on record my sincere thanks and appreciation to the publishing and monitoring officers of the Queensland parliament who work under incredible pressure for all honourable members and do a difficult job remarkably well.


Government members: Hear, hear!

Mr DICK: The diligence and integrity of these hardworking parliamentary officers should never be questioned nor impugned.

Mr Fumer interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Ferny Grove, comments will be directed through the chair.

Teachers and Teacher Aides

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (10.28 am): Our teachers and teacher aides are the foundation of the world-class education system we have here in Queensland, delivering the knowledge students need for a great future, including the students in the gallery. As this week is Australian Teacher Aide Appreciation Week, I am sure the House will join me in giving a special shout-out to the hardworking teacher aides and the wonderful work that they do.


The winners of the Australian Teacher Aide of the Year awards have been announced this morning. Let me be one of the first to congratulate the teacher aide team at Tallebudgera State School in the electorate of Currumbin—I am sure the member joins with me—because they have been named the Australian Teacher Aide Team of the Year. Congratulations!

We want more teachers and teacher aides in our schools. Our \$20 million Turn to Teaching program provides financial support and paid internships to aspiring teachers so they can earn as they learn with a guaranteed permanent position in a Queensland school. This program is for up to 300 people, with the first cohort of 55 participants now well into their first year of the two-year program. We want to at least double that number for the 2023 intake. Applications are now open. More information is available on SmartJobs, LinkedIn, Seek and the Teach Queensland webpage and through our partners, QUT, Griffith and USQ.

It is a great opportunity. For example, Zac, who was placed at Burnside State High School in the electorate of Nicklin, came from the construction industry and will soon be an engineering teacher. He says it is not just the financial support that the program offers that makes it so great but also the support provided from other like-minded professionals making a career change. Erika is training to teach Spanish and special education—not Italian, Leader of the Opposition, unfortunately, but Spanish is great too—and is completing a placement at Pimpama State College in Coomera after being encouraged by her daughters to share her passion for languages. Glen will be an ITD teacher and is at Kedron State High School in the electorate of Clayfield. He says his experience has reinforced that he has made a great career decision and he is grateful to the team at Turn to Teaching and Education Queensland for the opportunity that he is now getting.

Already there are more than 1,300 people registered to attend the Teach Queensland Career Fair happening at the Brisbane Convention Centre this Saturday. Who knows, maybe some of them will walk out of there with a great teaching job. My message for any aspiring teacher is that Queensland is the place to be—come on board. Students, what a great career teaching is. If you are thinking of what you want to do when you leave school, become a teacher. It is a great profession.

Coronavirus, Update

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (10.31 am): As we announced recently, the peak of the most recent wave of COVID occurred in late July. During the peak of the wave on 26 July there were 1,123 people in hospitals across Queensland with COVID-19,

there were 66,569 active cases reported on that day, with multiple ambulance callouts related to COVID-19. On 26 July we had 2,404 Queensland Health staff off work with COVID-19. Between then and now there has been a significant decrease in all of these indicators. Hospitalisation numbers have dropped dramatically in the weeks since 26 July and currently sit at less than 350.

National modelling suggested we would not experience the worst of the wave until late August, but clearly that did not eventuate. I am very grateful and thankful to Queenslanders for once again listening to the health advice and doing the right thing. For example, more than 831,000 Queenslanders over the age of 65 have had their fourth-dose booster. 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.


Our Chief Health Officer, Dr John Gerrard, warned recently that a fourth wave in December is possible. However, it is clear that we are in a new stage of the pandemic. Given that we will be living with this virus for years to come, we need to transition away from managing via Chief Health Officer public health directions unless it is absolutely necessary. In light of this, the Chief Health Officer has advised me that he intends to revoke elements of the Workers in Health Care Setting (COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements) Direction.

As of tomorrow, the mandated COVID-19 vaccination requirements for workers in private healthcare settings will be removed. This will impact workers in both private hospitals, as well as workers in primary care settings like GP clinics. Whether vaccination is required for these individuals is now a matter for individual employers as part of normal workplace health and safety obligations. I am advised that the majority of private hospital providers have already put in place vaccination requirements for their workforce rather than relying on public health directions. This revocation will not impact Queensland Health facilities which are already governed through employment arrangements, nor will it impact workers in private aged-care facilities or disability accommodation services where the mandate is retained.

I also note the changes to isolation and mask wearing on flights announced by National Cabinet which reflect the changing approach to managing the pandemic across the country. This changing environment is recognised here in Queensland. I can advise the House that today I will be introducing a bill that will adjust Queensland's pandemic management approach post 31 October. While our methods of managing the pandemic will change, the message remains the same: vaccinations save lives. I encourage any Queenslanders who have not yet had their booster shot to go and get it as soon as possible. Together we can keep ourselves, our families and our communities safe.

I can also inform the House that with the peak of the third wave having passed, from this week Queensland Health will report COVID case numbers daily from Monday to Friday, with no reporting on weekends. As we continue to transition to living with COVID, we will continue to ensure that our decisions are guided by the best health advice.

Workforce, Women

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.35 am): Today is the first day of the Albanese government's Jobs and Skills Summit. Recent research has shown that Australia is missing out on tens of billions of dollars in economic activity because fewer women than men take part in the workforce. Access to affordable child care remains the biggest barrier impacting women's workforce participation. Queensland has the second highest participation rate of women and the smallest gap between men and women. This is why I am pleased that the new Albanese Labor government has now made childcare reform a key priority.

Ahead of the summit the ACTU has released the *Delivering equity for women at work* report, which sets out its recommendations on how Australia can address women's economic participation and what the economic benefits would be. The report's findings are staggering. Cutting workplace gender inequality in half could generate an extra \$111 billion every year in this country. This can be achieved through a number of initiatives, such as increasing paid parental leave, addressing pay and job security in the care economy and making early childhood education affordable and accessible.

The Palaszczuk government has put women's economic participation at the heart of its economic recovery and I am pleased that the new Queensland Workforce Strategy continues to note the critical role of women. Additionally, our government's Skilling Queenslanders for Work program has assisted over 22,700 women to get a job, under the new revitalised Back to Work program more than 11,400 women have gained employment and we are supporting thousands of women across

Queensland into careers through our free TAFE and free apprenticeships initiatives. We also want women to be safe at work and I am pleased that the Palaszczuk government has committed to implementing the recommendations of the Respect@Work report to ensure that women can go to work free from harassment.

Today I am pleased to table the Queensland Human Rights Commission report *Building belonging: review of Queensland's Anti-Discrimination Act 1991*, alongside the Queensland government's interim response.

Tabled paper: Queensland Human Rights Commission: Report titled 'Building belonging: Review of Queensland's Anti-Discrimination Act 1991', July 2022 [[1259](#)].

Tabled paper: Queensland Human Rights Commission: Report titled 'Building belonging: Review of Queensland's Anti-Discrimination Act 1991', July 2022, interim government response [[1260](#)].

It has been over 30 years since the Goss government introduced Queensland's Anti-Discrimination Act. While at the time the legislation was groundbreaking, our society is now a different place and that is why I asked the commission to undertake a review of our anti-discrimination framework to ensure that it is modern, efficient and robust. At its centre, the report recommends strengthening laws to further prevent sexual discrimination and sexual harassment, particularly in the workplace. This includes creating legal obligations on employers and organisations to actively take reasonable and proportionate steps to eliminate discrimination and sexual harassment as far as possible. Introducing a positive duty upon employers to take reasonable measures to better protect workers was also a key recommendation of the Respect@Work report.

The commission's report further recommends that victims of domestic and family violence are further protected from discrimination, such as when applying for a rental property or applying for a job. Importantly, the report recommends strengthening protections for the LGBTI+ community. The actions of Citipointe Christian College at the start of the year highlighted the importance of having specific protections for students and staff at our schools. This report recommends reforms that will mean our students and staff feel safe in religious schools while still protecting religious freedoms.

I place on the record my sincere thanks to the commission for its comprehensive, consultative, inclusive and evidence based review. I also thank the stakeholders and members of the public who shared their personal stories with the commission. It is critical that any reform in this area is informed by the views and experiences of those who have suffered from discrimination and sexual harassment, and that we hear their voices. The commission's report gives us the opportunity to do just that: to build a Queensland where everyone belongs, where all Queenslanders are respected and where all individuals are offered protections from discrimination and sexual harassment. The Palaszczuk government will consider all of the 122 recommendations of the commission's report and we welcome the opportunity it offers to improve ways to build a better Queensland.

Energy Policy



Hon. MC de BRENNI (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement) (10.40 am): The nation's economy is under incredible pressure—pressure that every Queensland household understands. They have been feeling it on their mortgages, on their fuel bills and every time they go to a grocery store. If the LNP had had its way, today Queenslanders would have felt it on their electricity bills too. When in office the LNP treated the national economy as a plaything. We had a former prime minister who was more interested in the public's opinion of him than in the public itself—a former prime minister who, we now know, withheld information about the cost of electricity.

That is in stark contrast with what our state's leader did. I commend the Premier for immediately taking action when she was informed of the energy price rises across the nation. The \$175 rebate on electricity bills means Queenslanders will have among the lowest per-kilowatt-hour rate for electricity in the nation. On this side of the House we are taking action to help Queenslanders manage their household budgets. I can inform the House that yesterday our publicly owned retailer paid out its first tranche, with Ergon distributing \$3.5 million on the first day to regional Queensland households. Here in the south-east, private retailer Origin will have disbursed \$7.35 million in rebates this week alone. There is a further \$375 million to be distributed in coming weeks. We are delivering those cost-of-living rebates because we know that good energy policy is good economic policy.


I can advise the House about more good Labor energy policy making more good economic sense. On Friday we secured an historic cross-government agreement for new energy efficiency standards in new Australian homes. That comes a fortnight after we secured an historic accord to

enshrine emissions reduction objectives in the Australian energy law. This is another major win for Queensland household budgets because it means cheaper power bills for new homes. The changes will drive more job creation in the clean energy innovation industry too.

The reforms mean we will build new apartments to be electric vehicle ready. We will build our nation's independence from global energy markets, which are the same European markets that are being plunged into emergency measures as we speak. Here at home Labor's renewable energy policies have already started to build our resilience. In the best news of all, I can confirm that these reforms will deliver an average yearly energy saving for new Queensland homes of \$185 per year and in regional Queensland a saving of up to \$227 in new Queensland homes.

Labor knows that good energy policy is good economic policy. We have put \$175 back into Queenslanders' pockets and ensured cheaper power bills for all new Queensland home owners. The less that Queenslanders spend on their bills, the better it is for them and the better it is for this state.

Community Climate Action


 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (10.43 am): Our Labor government is delivering cheaper and cleaner energy for all Queenslanders, while reducing our emissions. Through initiatives such as those just laid out by the energy minister and our \$2 billion Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund, the Land Restoration Fund and renewable energy zones, we are taking big steps to decarbonise our economy. However, we know that communities are passionate about climate change and want to take action at a local level as well.

Last week I announced close to 40 local groups throughout Queensland will now share in over \$1 million to kickstart local small-scale climate projects. Those projects are all aimed at addressing climate change and driving down power bills. With this funding, groups are installing renewable energy systems such as solar panels and battery storage, purchasing energy-efficient hot-water systems or whitegoods and replacing lighting with energy-efficient alternatives.

Recently in Ashgrove I joined the member for Cooper and one of her local groups, Communitify, which is doing just that. Their commercial kitchen is used to store and make meals for vulnerable Queenslanders. A grant of \$34,000 will enable them to purchase energy-efficient appliances, which will be installed with the help of local sparkies, to drive down their energy bills and reach their ambition to become net zero. It is a model they hope to roll out across the 18 other spaces that Communitify manages.

Beyond the climate benefits, our Community Climate Action grants will support close to 70 jobs across Queensland, from installing solar and battery storage at the Cairns BMX Club through to installing renewable PV systems at Ekibin community child care, at the Ukrainian club in the electorate of the member for Greenslopes and at community housing in Redcliffe. Alongside this initiative, our most recent budget committed almost \$33 million to enhance our internal climate capacity as well as deliver more funding for community climate action, so watch this space. Those organisations do great work in our communities and I am proud that we can support them to do great work for our environment as well.

Carborough Downs Coalmine

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (10.45 am): As metallurgical coal prices remain strong, there is no better time to invest in Queensland's coal sector. We are continuing to see investors who are eager to take advantage of these prices as well as our state's large deposits of high-quality steel-making coal, which is important to support Queenslanders looking for good, secure jobs that will help to continue our state's economic growth.

I am pleased to inform the House that the Palaszczuk government has given the green light for the extension of the Carborough Downs mine near Moranbah. This investment is a strong vote of confidence in Queensland's resources sector and, importantly, supports its workforce with more than 700 good, secure jobs. The Carborough Downs mine is a significant employer and economic contributor to the Isaac region and this extension will increase the mine's lifespan by another 11 years. The extension will create flow-on economic benefits for the entire Isaac and Central Queensland regions from tools, safety and workwear suppliers right through to pubs, clubs and accommodation providers.


Carborough Downs owners, Fitzroy Australia Resources, are focused on making sure that much of its workforce lives local with nearly 70 per cent of employees either residing in the Isaac region or part of a drive-in drive-out workforce. There is an amazing lifestyle on offer in regional Queensland and

it is important that those job opportunities are on offer to our local communities. Coal production in the mine's extension is expected to begin within the next 12 months. The Palaszczuk government will continue to support the resources sector for the royalties and jobs that it generates, particularly in regional Queensland. The resources industry directly supports around 77,000 jobs across the state, particularly in regions that account for around two-thirds of all mining jobs. The industry is forecast to generate more than \$7.6 billion in royalties in the 2022-23 financial year.

Queensland is naturally blessed with the world's highest quality metallurgical coal, which the world needs to make steel. Queensland will be a coal exporter for many years to come, meaning that coalmining and jobs will be part of our economy for the foreseeable future. Even as the world transitions to renewables, steel-making metallurgical coal will remain essential and, therefore, a viable international export commodity for Queensland. That is why our government has supported more than \$21 billion in resources sector investment since 2015, with the sector playing a key role in supporting Queenslanders into good, secure jobs as we continue Queensland's economic growth.

I also give a shout-out to Dom Cameron and her partner, who are moving back to Townsville. It will be good to see them come home. I welcome Madura McCormack, who also cut her teeth in Townsville at the *Bully*. Well done.

Residential Tenancies


 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (10.48 am): The Palaszczuk government is focused on delivering better services to all Queenslanders right across the housing continuum. Almost one-third of Queensland households rent their home. Therefore, with the unprecedented pressure felt by many in the private rental market right across the country, rental tenancy advice and advocacy services are critical. That is why today I am pleased to advise the House that the Palaszczuk government has extended funding for Queensland's statewide tenant advice service, QSTARS, for two more years, up to 30 June 2025. This important funding extension means Queensland tenants will have ongoing independent help and advice, continuing our commitment to delivering even better services right across Queensland.

In consideration of the demand on the system, we are also boosting funding to Tenants Queensland to administer QSTARS. The Palaszczuk government is providing a funding boost of \$275,000 this year and for the next two financial years. This will result in total funding for QSTARS of \$17.4 million until 30 June 2025.

Tenants Queensland's tenant advisory service, the same service that saw funding cut under the LNP, provides practical help to thousands of Queensland renters, helping tenants navigate their way through the rental market. Each year this important service provides around 125,000 Queensland renters with high-quality advice. QSTARS operates a statewide hotline which helps renters understand tenancy issues and their ability to exercise their rights and responsibilities. QSTARS also empowers and builds the capacity of Queensland renters to act on their own to resolve issues and provides a well-integrated network of service providers to help renters.

This funding will ensure that QSTARS has the available resources on hand to address the immediate and ongoing needs of Queensland renters, who will be able to continue accessing free advice and support. This is just part of the suite of services the Palaszczuk government delivers to assist Queenslanders to obtain or sustain a tenancy in the private rental market. In fact, just last year we helped Queenslanders with almost 200,000 forms of housing assistance to ease the pressure Queenslanders are experiencing with the housing system right now. This includes our rental security subsidy, which we recently boosted through an additional \$7 million investment. This \$7 million boost will be used to assist around 700 Queensland families to sustain tenancies by increasing the available subsidy from up to \$5,000 over six months to up to \$10,000 for 12 months. It is the Palaszczuk government that is committed to more social and affordable housing through our record \$2.9 billion investment supporting good jobs, better services and enhancing Queensland's great lifestyle.

Workforce, Migrants and Refugees

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.51 am): About 23 per cent of Queenslanders were born overseas, and we know that many migrants, refugees and asylum seekers are ready to further contribute to their communities. However, many struggle to enter the labour market at a level equivalent to the skills, experience and qualifications they hold.

In 2018, Multicultural Affairs released a research report commissioned by Deloitte Access Economics that found that, of the skilled migrants and refugees coming to live in Queensland in the previous 10 years, 49 per cent were not fully using their skills and experience in the labour force. The figure is closer to 60 per cent for women. Queensland misses out when our newest community members are not able to contribute fully through the workforce.

I am proud to be part of a government focused on good jobs, better services and supporting a strong workforce through the *Good people good jobs: Queensland Workforce Strategy 2022-2032*, launched this week. As part of the strategy, my department will be able to advocate more strongly and improve workforce outcomes for migrants and refugees through funding of more than \$3 million over four years for a new multicultural affairs settlement team. Funding will also be provided to establish a service to help migrants, refugees and international students find work, and a skilled workforce attraction office will be established to help migrants and refugees settle in Queensland.

Currently, my department, the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training, and agencies engage with diverse communities to help them access the significant training, employment, and business support opportunities on offer. Of particular note are Toowoomba and Townsville, where there has been great success in increasing access to programs and job-matching opportunities. Through this on-the-ground collaboration, people who have had difficulty gaining employment have overcome language and system barriers to secure jobs.


My department is also supporting South-West Queensland councils through our partnership with Welcoming Cities to strengthen welcome and inclusion in regional areas, including adopting community-led solutions that support new migrants in jobs and identifying migrants who may wish to relocate to regional areas that are struggling to find skilled workforces. For example, John, who was a civil engineer in China, got a job working as an engineer in a South-West Queensland council. Because he did not have work experience or references in Australia, John initially struggled to find work at the level he was qualified for in his profession. He worked as a labourer in Brisbane and in project management to gain the experience required. These barriers were overcome, and the council has reaped the rewards of supporting John's experience. While John had a lot to learn about outback roads and their construction, he already had a solid foundation. This is just one example of how our diversity helps shape our state and continues to strengthen our economy.

My department is also working closely with DESBT to deliver on the outcomes from the Queensland Workforce Summit, which focused on using the skills of all under-utilised cohorts, including people from migrant and refugee backgrounds. The Albanese federal government is also working with us to address workforce participation. I am pleased to see that the focus of the Albanese government's Jobs and Skills Summit this week will be on expanding opportunities for all Australians, addressing skills shortages and addressing migration issues including pathways to permanency.

Last Thursday we held the pinnacle event for Multicultural Queensland Month, the Multicultural Queensland Awards. This year, the minister's multicultural award went to Kerry McQuillan from Randstad. Randstad and Multicultural Australia have partnered to provide a job mentoring program for migrants and refugees that helps participants prepare for employment while pairing them with a culturally trained mentor from some of Queensland's largest companies. Mentors and mentees then work together on resumes, personal brand building, applying for jobs, performing well at interview and preparing for the first day of their job. More than 60 migrants have participated in this program and many have found work.

We know that when communities harness the diversity of the skills and experience of all members the economy benefits and Queensland is the richer for it.

Water Security

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (10.55 am): Every day I am reminded of the fantastic work the Palaszczuk Labor government is doing to create good jobs, better services and a great lifestyle for Queenslanders. In Central Queensland we are currently building what will be the biggest weir constructed since World War II. Last week I stood on the riverbank of the \$376.2 million Rookwood Weir to mark one million hours of work on that critical project. We know that water security is central to our Queensland communities. When it is ready, Rookwood Weir will have a capacity of nearly 75,000 megalitres.

These things do not just happen overnight; they are the result of intense planning and a lot of hard work. The Rookwood Weir workforce is peaking at the moment, with more than 355 people working to keep this project progressing. That is everything from machine operators to geotechnical surveyors,

engineers, chippies, sparkies, plumbers and mechanics. The list of good, solid jobs goes on. It was fantastic to see all the cogs turning as they should do while I was on site. I take this opportunity to thank the men and women at the Gogango site every day, working hard to get this critical Central Queensland job done.

As expected when completing work in a river catchment, there have been several flooding events which have certainly presented some difficulties along the way. The project team is making the most of the sunshine—and, as of last week, the moonlight—producing and pouring concrete around the clock. A concrete batch plant has been built onsite so that product can be made and used quickly and does not have to be trucked in. More than 40,000 square metres of concrete has been poured into the project. This is about 30 per cent of the total required for the weir and the supporting infrastructure.

There is always a lot of noise from those opposite that this government is not building water infrastructure, but there are a lot of people, with more than one million man hours of work clocked up, who can testify that we certainly are. In fact, the Palaszczuk Labor government has a more than \$3.4 billion record of investing in water in this great state. I look forward to watching more of these critical projects come to life.

ABSENCE OF MINISTER



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.58 am): I advise that the Premier and Minister for the Olympics will be absent from question time today as the Premier is in Canberra representing Queensland at the Prime Minister's national Jobs and Skills Summit. The Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure will take questions on behalf of the Premier and Minister for the Olympics during question time today.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.58 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 13 September 2022.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ETHICS COMMITTEE

Report



Ms HOWARD (Ipswich—ALP) (10.59 am): I table report No. 210 of the Ethics Committee titled *Matter of privilege referred by the Economics and Governance Committee on 23 February 2022 relating to an alleged unauthorised disclosure of committee proceedings*.

Tabled paper: Ethics Committee: Report No. 210, 57th Parliament—Matter of privilege referred by the Economics and Governance Committee on 23 February 2022 relating to an alleged unauthorised disclosure of committee proceedings [1261].

The report deals with allegations of an unauthorised disclosure of proceedings of the Economics and Governance Committee. The committee has recommended that the matter does not receive the further attention of the House due to the unlikely prospect of identifying the person or persons responsible. The committee has identified a number of learnings for portfolio committees in its report and urges all members to review the report accordingly. I commend it to the House.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, question time will conclude at high noon.

Wellcamp



Mr CRISAFULLI (11.00 am): My question is to the Deputy Premier. After delaying nearly a year, the Deputy Premier finally released the cost of Wellcamp the day after the Auditor-General's office confirmed an investigation. Will the Deputy Premier now release the full contract details of Wellcamp or are they still commercial-in-confidence?

Dr MILES: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. The advice that the Auditor-General and others provided was that the commercial-in-confidence nature of the total contract cost extended for a period of time. Once that period of time had passed I was very pleased to outline, both in the budget papers and to the estimates committee, the amount that had been expended. That will be further detailed in the statement of accounts that will be included in the department's annual report when it is released.

Sometime after that the LNP's facility at Pinkenba will be built. It is expected to be ready at Christmas time this year at an estimated cost of more than \$500 million. They are still here criticising the Palaszczuk government for our pandemic response and criticising us for building a quarantine facility. The LNP's pandemic response is still under construction. There are still people at Pinkenba building the quarantine facility that those opposite supported while opposing the facility that we knew made the most sense—the facility that was independently assessed as being at the right site; the facility that we were advised was, both according to health advice and the ability to get it built on time, the best outcome.

Mr Crisafulli: \$300,000 per person.

Dr MILES: I had to give the opposition a lesson in dividing by zero. Try dividing the \$500 million Scott Morrison wasted at Pinkenba by zero. You cannot divide it by zero. It will not be ready until Christmas time. Last Christmas we could have used some rapid antigen tests. Next Christmas we will have a quarantine facility that Scott Morrison built us—12 months after the facility that we supported was open and available for the pandemic response.

The fact is that those opposite have never taken the health advice, never accepted that we acted on the health advice and still cannot accept that it was that action and strength that kept Queenslanders safe. Queenslanders know that. That is what they said at the election. That is what is borne out in the economic data currently available in Queensland.

Wellcamp

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question is to the Deputy Premier. The government said domestic violence victims would use Wellcamp. They said that flood victims would use it. They said that cruise ship passengers would use it. They did not. The Premier flagged that the government is now looking at interesting ideas for its future use. Given the huge cost to taxpayers, can the Deputy Premier finally provide details on what Wellcamp will be used for?

Dr MILES: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his second question. As I have said, we are proud of the fact that we took the health advice and we built a quarantine facility according to that advice. I note that the facility that those opposite supported will be ready at Christmas at a cost of half a billion dollars. Who knows what it will be used for.

While the Leader of the Opposition is fond of asking questions, he is not very good at answering them. I can advise the House that it is now 50 days since the Leader of the Opposition was asked to answer three simple questions. Will he support the Coaldrake review recommendations and will he ensure his members vote accordingly? Will he rule out cash for access? Will he rule out lobbyists being on their next campaign, just as they were on their last campaign? Who could forget the member for Clayfield had lobbyists in his ministerial office preparing to sell our assets to their clients. What hypocrisy from those opposite.

Mr POWELL: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 118(b) on relevance. The question was about the future use of Wellcamp.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, I appreciate the fact that you are making a point about a question asked by the Leader of the Opposition, but that probably is not enough to go off on a tangent. I will ask you to come back to the specific aspects of the question asked.

Dr MILES: Rest assured there will be ample opportunities—

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Deputy Premier has made a statement which is completely untrue. I take personal offence and I ask him to withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, the member has taken offence so will you withdraw.

Dr MILES: I withdraw. Those opposite continue to criticise this government for doing what Queenslanders wanted. They wanted a government that would keep them safe and that would take the health advice because they knew that that is what would set our state up for economic success. That is borne out in what we are experiencing in Queensland right now. The decisions we took set Queensland up well.

They never once mention the facility they supported—the \$500 million Morrison LNP facility that is still under construction now. If 10 months ago was too late, then what is Christmas time—too, too late, more too late, super, super late? They have no credibility on health, they have no credibility on taking health advice and they certainly have no credibility on getting quarantine facilities built because theirs is still not ready yet.

2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Infrastructure

Mr KING: My question is of the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure. Can the Deputy Premier outline to the House how the Palaszczuk government is using the games to drive new investment in infrastructure that will grow Queensland's economy and are there any other approaches?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Kurwongbah for his question. I know he is as excited as Queenslanders are that in 10 years time Queensland will host the world's best athletes, the world's best para athletes, their teams, their families and spectators, including in the electorate Kurwongbah where many of them will compete at the new community sports venue that we will build at the Mill at Petrie—one of the best places in the state, if I do say so myself. That will be a fantastic new venue, but also a fantastic resource and legacy for the entire Moreton Bay community and the south-east.

The athletes who will compete at the Mill at Petrie will stay at the main athletes village—one of three athletes villages—to be constructed at Northshore Hamilton. They will be amongst 10,000 Olympians and team members who will stay at the main village at Hamilton Northshore, 5,000 para athletes and their teams.

They will be able to enjoy the fantastic new Maritime Green at Hamilton Northshore, opening up a part of the riverfront that has been closed to the public for over a hundred years. It is going to be available for events and performances and activations. Recently I was there to inspect \$18 million of new roads adjacent to the village site which will unlock more of that fantastic PDA. We expect it to deliver now \$500 million worth of construction investment and 1,600 jobs, as well as new homes for Queenslanders in the Queensland housing market. Our athletes will compete there with pride and with courage.

I have to say that I think it was pretty courageous of the member for Glass House to criticise the parliamentary record this morning. The Hansard folk did the LNP a lot of favours when it came to recording the adjournment debate last night. We know they do not show up to meetings but they also do not show up to the adjournment debate. The member for Mudgeeraba got here eventually. The member for Callide missed his first speech since his first speech. The member for Chatsworth was here but did not what to speak. The member for Currumbin was busy yelling, 'Where's Ros? Where's Ros?' It was so unfair that she is the one who copped the blame. The Leader of the Opposition blamed the member for Currumbin because he could not stand up to his lazy frontbenchers who do not even turn up to meetings.

Wellcamp

Mr BLEIJIE: My question is to the Deputy Premier. Despite already spending over \$220 million, the Wellcamp lease ends in April. Will the government be extending the lease on Wellcamp and how many more millions will this cost taxpayers?

Dr MILES: As I outlined in quite some detail at the estimates committee hearing, the lease at Wellcamp is a one-year lease.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Members to my left and particularly the member for Chatsworth, I have made myself clear about the way that members are to conduct themselves here in relation to members' speeches, speech patterns, mispronunciations and other things. You are warned under the standing orders. I ask members to be considerate of the way that members will be delivering their contributions to the House.

Dr MILES: The initial one-year term of the lease at Wellcamp does expire in April of next year. We will continue to pursue alternative uses for that facility. Of course, sometime between now and then we will have access to another quarantine facility—possibly—and that will affect the entire quarantine network. We will in due course inform the House about decisions regarding the continuation of that lease.

We have had three questions in a row about the facility that we built and delivered and not a single question about the facility they wanted that will be ready at Christmas time. We will have had Wellcamp for a year before the Pinkenba facility will even be finished.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

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

Dr MILES: They can keep coming here and asking these questions because we will keep answering them. Queenslanders wanted us to build a regional quarantine facility, and we built it. You opposed it every single step of the way, just as you opposed us on hospital preparedness, on stockpiles, on borders, on everything we did to keep Queenslanders safe. All you do is remind Queenslanders—

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

Dr MILES: All you do is remind Queenslanders every time you raise these issues how you opposed us every step of the way. If we had followed your advice, the borders would have been opened. We would not have a quarantine facility. Every step of the way you opposed the health response.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Deputy Premier, I assume that you are speaking about the opposition, not me, because you are saying 'you' and I hear 'me'. Please ensure that your comments are directed through the chair.

Dr MILES: No, Mr Speaker, your support is well noted. I am, of course, referring to the LNP opposition who consistently opposed all of the measures that kept Queenslanders safe including building a regional quarantine facility and instead demanded a facility at Pinkenba that will be ready some time by the end of the year at a cost of half a billion dollars even though we never wanted it.

Property Investment

Mr MADDEN: My question is of the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment. Will the Treasurer advise the House why investors should choose Queensland and what the threats are to ongoing investment?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Ipswich West for his question.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr DICK: I will not be taking lectures from those opposite, particularly from the member for Kawana, who thinks bringing a stuffed toy elephant and a stuffed toy rat into parliament substitutes for policy in this state.

You would invest in Queensland for three reasons: good jobs, better services and great lifestyle. In Queensland our tax rates are also highly competitive. On average, Queenslanders pay \$1,063 less than someone living in the state governed by the Liberal Party—New South Wales. The Palaszczuk Labor government is committed to ensuring that tax burden remains low but also that that tax burden remains fair.

We want to make sure that everyone in this state pays their fair share of tax. So we have closed a loophole that allows interstate investors to avoid land tax by staying under the threshold in multiple states—a well-known and well-promoted tax minimisation scheme. None of that tax will fall on a Queenslanders place of residence nor on the place of residence of anyone who moves to Queensland.

I understand that earlier in the week on a Sydney radio station the Leader of the Opposition questioned why anyone would possibly want to invest in Queensland, talking down Queensland jobs and the Queensland economy again. The Leader of the Opposition revealed that he is firmly on the side of interstate property speculators. He said, 'The last thing we want is for people who've already invested in Queensland to sell'—to sell their house, like the Leader of the Opposition sold his house in Townsville. Why we would we want that!

That is typical of the current Leader of the Opposition. He supports a measure in parliament, voted for it in here and then opposes it in public on the radio, just like he said he would support the Coaldrake recommendations and now opposes them. It is now 50 days since the Attorney-General wrote to the Leader of the Opposition and asked, 'Do you support Coaldrake or not?' Of course he has abandoned that. He says one thing and does another.

Ms Fentiman: He does nothing!

Mr DICK: And does nothing—I take the interjection from the Attorney-General. It is typical.

Mr Boothman interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, member for Theodore.

Mr DICK: He abandoned Townsville.

Mr Boothman interjected.

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

Mr DICK: He abandoned the Broadwater electorate, gunning the car up the M1 so he could live down the road in Brisbane, driving past Broadwater on his way home.

Ms Bates interjected.

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

Mr DICK: He has certainly abandoned any pretence to leadership or policy formulation in this state.

Ambulance Ramping

Ms BATES: My question is to the Deputy Premier. Ambulance ramping in Queensland has now tripled since 2015. Given it had already doubled before COVID, how much more responsibility for the health crisis lies with the current minister and how much rests with her immediate predecessor?

Mr SPEAKER: I call the Minister for Health.

Dr MILES: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the member for Mudgeeraba—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! My apologies, Minister. I did not hear to whom the question was directed. That is my error. I call the Deputy Premier.

Dr MILES: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the member for Mudgeeraba for her question.

Ms Fentiman: For being here!

Dr MILES: For being here and gracing us with her presence. I will not often jump to the defence of the member for Currumbin, but it was deeply unfair that the Leader of the Opposition blamed her for the member for Mudgeeraba not being able to take her speaking spot.

Ms Pease interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, member for Lytton!

Dr MILES: This question is true to form. They come in here and criticise our health system and criticise our health workers knowing full well that it is this government that has invested in them. It is this government that has employed—

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mudgeeraba!

Dr MILES:—3,100 more nurses. It is this government that has employed 10,638 more nurses and midwives and 1,103 new paramedics. All of those proud Queensland Health workers are out there taking care of Queenslanders today, right now. They do not deserve to be criticised by those opposite, who did nothing but sack health workers. They did not plan a single major hospital redevelopment or expansion. They opened one that we built. They did not plan a single one.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. The member for Lytton is warned under the standing orders. The member for Mudgeeraba is warned under the standing orders.

Dr MILES: All they did was sack nurses and fight with doctors. They never planned additional hospitals or expansions. In fact, at every election since then they have not supported the hospitals we committed to at those elections. By every single measure if those opposite had been in power all of those metrics would be worse because we would have fewer doctors, fewer nurses, fewer midwives, fewer hospitals, fewer hospital beds and more ramping.

We will continue to invest in our hospitals as we have with our Health and Hospitals Plan—a 10-year road map to invest nearly \$10 billion in additional capital in hospitals right across the state. We are already in Caboolture and Logan; more investment in Redcliffe; a new hospital on the Gold Coast; a new hospital in Toowoomba; and a new hospital in Bundaberg, all of which is possible because of our 10-year plan to invest in Queensland hospitals.

Special Schools

Mr HEALY: My question is of the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. Can the minister update the House on her recent visit to Cairns and the Palaszczuk government's investment in special schools, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms GRACE: It is important that we look after our special schools. It was great to be with the member at the Cairns State Special School, an \$11 million investment. Thank you to Principal Susan Hoad, who showed us around—and on her birthday at that! It is great to see that we have another \$110 million in this budget.

I must say that when I became education minister I was a little bit disappointed with the state of our special schools. We have transformed them. They are schools you can be proud of. What we are building and investing in is second to none, world-class. For example, the two new schools we opened in Coomera and Palmview are state-of-the-art and the best you will see anywhere. We have infrastructure happening in Red Hill, Ipswich, the western suburbs, Kuraby, Maryborough, Woody Point and Darling Point. You name it, they are getting an uplift and they are being transformed. I despair with the member for Cairns when I look at alternative approaches, because unfortunately from those opposite they are very few and far between. There is nothing on education, no policies on special schools investment—

Mr Saunders: Shame!

Ms GRACE: It is a shame; I take the interjection from the member for Maryborough. It is a shame, but what can we expect from this opposition. Honestly, you would swear it was like a classroom in here today. It was unbelievable: lazy, puerile, puny, cheap political point-scoring, playing the person all the time and leaving the policy ball with nothing at all.

They were up and about for ages going on about raids and iPads, misrepresenting that laptops had been taken away. They were talking about records going missing, and every misrepresentation and misinformation they raised has been totally discredited. Yet when they had an opportunity to come out and support the Coaldrake reforms there was absolute silence. Not a word. There is no integrity whatsoever. They get up and wax lyrical about integrity. I think they have a shadow minister for integrity over there. They have never met. She does not know what the policy is. I wonder how busy she is. It is interesting that when it counts the Leader of the Opposition is missing in action. They are missing in action in policy around education and special schools but, more importantly, they are not missing out when it comes to hypocrisy because those opposite are full of it, and Wellcamp and Pinkenba are a case in point.

Land Supply

Ms LEAHY: My question is to the Deputy Premier. The most recent government data shows that residential lot approvals have fallen 27 per cent since 2015. How can the Deputy Premier justify his priority of employing a photographer to boost his image rather than a town planner to boost residential lot releases?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Warrego for her question.

A government member: He's got a TV cameraman!

Dr MILES: That is true; employ your own cameraman. I appreciate the chance to advise the House on all of the steps the Palaszczuk government is taking to increase land supply. We have in place a growth areas team that is working with local government, developers and utility providers to expand access to greenfield areas, starting with Caboolture West. We have progressed that very well. Eventually there will be 70,000 people living there. That was all development that was blocked and has now been opened thanks to our structure planning.

We have, as part of the South East Queensland Regional Plan Review, a process of assessing all under-utilised parts of the urban footprint to identify what is delaying their opening up. In consultation with industry, we have undertaken a peer review of the long-term supply modelling of land. It has identified that the land available over the next four years across the region is broadly on track, but there are some local government areas where those local governments need to do more work to meet their targets for the amount of land to be supplied.

For example, if the Brisbane City Council had delivered a housing strategy as they were directed to in 2019, we would not be in this situation. If the Redland City Council, which has been directed to deliver a housing strategy, had not refused to do so, then we would have more land supply now. These two big south-east LNP-led councils just refuse to have a housing strategy. The delivery of land supply

rests primarily with local government, and in a couple of areas local governments are not meeting their targets. We want to see them meet their targets. We want to help them meet their targets. The LNP should not come in here and expect to hold us to account for Brisbane City Council's behaviour or Redland City Council's behaviour—the regions that do not even have a current housing strategy despite being directed to do so.

Integrity in Government

Mr BROWN: My question is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. Can the Attorney-General advise how the Palaszczuk government is implementing strong measures to ensure integrity in government and is the AG aware of any other approaches?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for Capalaba for the question. On this side of the House, we have a strong track record on integrity measures. That is why we introduced the strictest electoral donation laws, including banning developer donations—all of which those opposite opposed. It is why we have accepted every one of Professor Coaldrake's recommendations because, on this side of the House, we do not just talk about integrity; we actually act on integrity. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said of the—

Mr Watts interjected.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, I apologise for interrupting you, because the member for Toowoomba North seems to not be concerned about interrupting you. Member for Toowoomba North, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Kawana, you have had a really good run today, and maybe it was a blind spot. You are warned under the standing orders as well.

Ms FENTIMAN: Unfortunately, the same cannot be said about the Leader of the Opposition. Credit where credit is due: he is a good talker. We have all heard him talk the talk, but unfortunately there is not a lot that follows the talk. It has been 50 days since we wrote to the Leader of the Opposition asking him to accept every one of Professor Coaldrake's recommendations, and what have we heard? Nothing. It has been 50 days since we asked him to rule out big business cash fundraising, and what have we heard? Nothing. It has been 50 days since we asked him to rule out having the lobbyists on his next election campaign, and what have we heard? Nothing. It has been a little bit longer—it has been 65 days—since the Leader of the Opposition said he supported Coaldrake's recommendation for five-year terms for the CCC, but what has he done about it? Nothing. It has also been 53 days—

Mr Janetzki interjected.

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

Ms FENTIMAN: It has been 53 days since the Leader of the Opposition said he wanted to see more women in parliament on his side, but has he actually done anything about getting more women? He has done nothing. Since that time, we have seen the member for Callide, who is not a woman—and I have to say whose first speech was so bizarre because he talked about animals eating each other and belittling gender studies classes. But, again, not a woman.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mr Hinchliffe interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Clayfield and member for Sandgate, regardless of who started it, you are quarrelling across the chamber. You are both warned under the standing orders. Treasurer, please take note of when the House has been called to order. That would be appreciated.

Ms FENTIMAN: Not only does the Leader of the Opposition have very few women on that side of the House—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Nanango is warned under the standing orders. I just called the House to order.

Ms FENTIMAN:—but the few women he does have seem to get a dressing-down publicly in the member's dining room.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The statement is actually factually incorrect, it is highly offensive and I would ask her to withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: Attorney-General, the member has asked you to withdraw because he took personal offence.

Ms FENTIMAN: I withdraw. Devastatingly, for women in this state, it has been 57 days since the Leader of the Opposition was asked to commit to supporting a woman's right to choose in this state, and what have we heard? Nothing.

CFMEU

Ms SIMPSON: My question is to the Deputy Premier. The Premier says she will no longer meet with the CFMEU. Will the Deputy Premier commit to the same?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Maroochydore for her question. Of course I support the statement that the Premier has made. Until there is an apology and the police conclude their investigation, I will not be meeting with the CFMEU.

Mr Crisafulli: That's not what the Premier said.

Dr MILES: As the Premier said. However, I will continue to meet with all of our other hardworking real unions, representing real workers. I will not be meeting with the fake unions that those opposite support, the fake unions that were outside disrupting parliament with their extreme anti-vax views. The LNP's fake unions, all of them, are damaging to our state and damaging to the professions they purport to represent.

Imagine a health union undermining the science of vaccines. That is what the member for Mudgeeraba's union does. The member for Mudgeeraba's fake union undermines the science about vaccines and undermines public confidence in vaccines. Those opposite should rule out meeting with them. They should rule out meeting with those protesters who were outside parliament yesterday spreading dangerous views, but of course they will not. They are the real dangerous unions; they are the ones that put the health of Queenslanders behind their own interests. For those opposite to continue to support these fake unions, these fake anti-vax unions, is shocking.

Mr POWELL: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am seeking some guidance. I understand there is a bill on the table at the moment that addresses some of the matters that the Deputy Premier is referring to.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Manager of Opposition Business. I am aware that there is a bill before the House. However, I do not believe it is the largest and most substantive part of the bill. I am allowing the response from the Deputy Premier, but I will continue to listen to that response.

Dr MILES: Those fake unions continue to harass public servants in the workplace, on their phones, yet those opposite continue to support them while demanding we should refuse to meet with other unions. It is about time those opposite had the guts to stand up to their mates in those fake unions and tell them to stop spreading their anti-vax lies, stop holding their crazy protests outside parliament and start acting in the best interests of Queenslanders and Queensland workers—like the vast bulk of Queensland unions do and do so proudly. I am proud to be a member of two of them, and I will continue to meet with them and their members to pursue a better future for Queenslanders.

Road and Transport Infrastructure, Jobs

Ms LAUGA: My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Can the minister outline the number of jobs supported in Queensland through the roads and transport budget and is the minister aware of alternative approaches?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the member for the question. She is a fierce advocate for roads and jobs in Central Queensland—whether it is the Yeppoon-Rocky road upgrades, whether it is the Rockhampton Northern Access or whether it is the future Rocky ring-road. She is a member who stands up for jobs and roads here in Queensland. There have been more than 16,000 jobs outside the metropolitan region under the Transport and Main Roads program. Our commitment to that has great integrity, but what does not have integrity is the Leader of the Opposition who fails to live up to his talk. He said that he supports the Coaldrake review, but he refuses to answer whether they will stop cash for access.

We have made it very clear with whom we will meet, and we have made it very clear that we adopt all of the Coaldrake recommendations. The Leader of the Opposition will not commit to scrapping their business program and their cash for access. He talks the talk, but he baulks and then he crab

walks. That is his weak style. That is his weak leadership style—the kind of weak style we saw when he dressed down his own MPs in front of government MPs last night. What a humiliation that was. He also said that he committed to the five years for CCC chairs and for DGs, yet his own MPs then voted for only three years on the committee. He walks the walk, but then he baulks and then he crab walks.

That is not leadership. That is weakness. That is inconsistency. He said he would be different, but he has not been whatsoever. It has now been 50-odd days since the report exposed all those porky pies he was baking on the laptop—goons, integrity, raids. Every press conference, he was baking those porky pies. Then he opened the door last month and it blew up in his face because that is all they were—they were porky pies. They had no integrity. You cannot get to the premiership with that kind of weak leadership.

Underlying every LNP position in this place is one central idea, whether it is health, whether it is the economy, whether it is materials in construction: ignore the pandemic. Ignore the pandemic! Ignore real life. Ignore what is happening now. That is at the core of this weak opposition leader. He talks the talk, but baulks and then crab walks. That is his style. He has no integrity. He says integrity matters. Then ban cash for access and allow five years for Bruce Barbour in the chair. That is what he should be doing.

(Time expired)

Casinos

Mr NICHOLLS: My question is to the Deputy Premier. Yesterday the Attorney-General revealed the government knew about allegations of illegal and improper conduct at Queensland casinos before setting the terms of reference for the Gotterson inquiry. If the government knew about these allegations, why did cabinet approve such narrow terms of reference?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Clayfield for his question.

Mrs Gerber: Make sure you pass the right notes.

Ms Grace: interjected.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for McConnel, member for Currumbin and member for Pine Rivers are all warned under the standing orders.

Dr MILES: I can advise the member for Currumbin that not only do I have the right notes but also I can count the votes. I am advised by the Attorney-General that the terms of reference are sufficiently broad to allow that inquiry to look into all of the matters that have been raised both in the public domain and elsewhere, and I am sure that inquiry will do a very good job of getting to the bottom of those matters.

It is a little ironic to have the member for Clayfield ask this question when he was the treasurer who oversaw the probity arrangements in the tender for Queen's Wharf Brisbane. The member for Clayfield bears personal responsibility for those considerations. We, however—

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In terms of answering questions, the question shall not be argued, and I believe the member is arguing the point and not answering the question, under section 118 of the standing orders.

Mr SPEAKER: I believe there may be a difference of opinion in regard to the question and the way it was structured; however, I will continue to hear his response.

Dr MILES: I am surprised the LNP does not want me to argue in question time. I will continue to do so. The inquiry terms of reference which have been put in place by the Attorney-General are sufficiently broad to allow for all of the matters that have been in the public domain and raised elsewhere to be properly considered, and I am sure that they will be. I have confidence in the inquiry and in those terms of reference.

On this side of the House, we are happy to put in place processes that properly scrutinise these business practices, as those opposite were supposed to do, and we will continue to support the inquiry, provide it with whatever support, resources and information that it needs to properly consider the very serious things that have been—

Mr Crisafulli: The Palaszczuk government signed it off. The deputy knows that.

Mr Nicholls: You signed off on it.

Dr MILES: Be careful. That have been raised and—

Mr Dick interjected.

Dr MILES: The member for Clayfield did the member for Currumbin a solid. He was not on the list for the adjournment, but he jumped for her because she could not find anyone else to speak, and the Hansard folk who you have criticised have done a good job of making it sound coherent. It was not—

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The Treasurer will cease his interjections.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr Nicholls: It was better than any other speech I heard that night.

Dr MILES: There were some crackers!

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock! Treasurer, you are warned under the standing orders for quarrelling across the chamber with the Leader of the Opposition, who has already had a pretty good go today. Member for Clayfield, you are under a warning and you have been continually interjecting. I ask you to leave the chamber for one hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Clayfield withdrew from the chamber at 11.45 am.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, do you have anything further to add in your three remaining seconds?

Dr MILES: I am not sure even I can do much in three seconds.

TAFE

Mr O'ROURKE: My question is of the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development. Will the minister inform the House of training courses TAFE Queensland is currently offering for industries experiencing labour shortages?

Ms FARMER: I thank the member for his question. I know he loves TAFE, like we all do on this side of the House. It is TAFE's 140th birthday today. I was there this morning and I wished them happy birthday from all of us on this side of the House.

I am often asking my staff for facts and figures about things like the fantastic enrolments that we are getting and the courses we are offering under our Free TAFE initiative or the date of the next sod turn I will do on one of the new buildings we have planned as part of the \$100 million Equipping TAFE for our Future program. This morning, just out of interest, I asked my staff to look at the sorts of jobs TAFE graduates could do if they wanted to earn around \$62,000 a year. I thought that I would share that. This part is serious. An aged-care support worker can do a Certificate III in Individual Support. They are the people who look after our elderly relatives in nursing homes. Nursing homes are so short-staffed now that workers are often having to work double shifts, and they are exhausted. We hear stories of our senior citizens sometimes having no-one to talk to all day or missing out on meals because there is not enough staff.

You can be an admin assistant who may have done a Certificate III in Business Administration. The other day at our launch of the Workforce Strategy, we met Michael, a young man who is neurodiverse. Through our funding arrangement with Autism Queensland, he is now an admin assistant at a company called Lysaght. They love him and his attention to detail. The opportunity has changed his life. We know the jobless rate for people with a disability is twice the national average. Our Workforce Strategy is going to link up those people with employers who are desperate to meet them.

There is the pharmacy assistant who can do a Certificate I to III in Community Pharmacy. You have met them. They help people in pharmacies. There are not enough of them to get through the work. Customers sometimes have to wait for much longer than they are used to. Many pharmacy assistants who are young women get yelled at by angry, impatient customers.

These people are filling really important roles. We have given them the training to get and keep their jobs. While they are earning their \$62,000 a year, we have 18 LNP members over there who are not doing a thing to earn their money. They are not only not meeting but also they are not talking about skills shortages and the number one issue on the national agenda which is labour shortages. On the very day that we start the skills summit, the first thing we hear is the member for Glass House saying the Treasurer might have said 'to me' or 'for me' or 'to you'. I can tell you right now there is no-one talking about that out there in the community.

Mr SPEAKER: Members' correct titles will be used in the chamber.

Environmental Protection

Ms BOLTON: My question is to the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef. Can the minister give an assurance that the government will urgently establish the independent environmental protection agency with the necessary powers to enforce the general environment duty and revise existing environmental authorities, taking into account public health and social impacts caused by inappropriate activities that are devastating our communities, economies, environment and infrastructure?

Ms SCANLON: I thank the member for the question. Of course, we made an election commitment that we would investigate and consult on an independent environmental protection agency. I want to acknowledge the former environment minister for taking that election commitment to the people of Queensland. Of course, we have been engaging; we have been doing some preliminary consultation. The department has done a targeted consultation discussion paper, which we received in July. Now the department is reviewing that feedback. That is largely about what the structure of an independent EPA would look like rather than the actual environmental protection laws.

I acknowledge, though, the advocacy of the member for Noosa around a particular proposal in her electorate. We will continue to make sure that our laws are fit for purpose. However, when it comes to that particular election commitment, our government still needs to consider that targeted consultation feedback. We will obviously provide a government response once we have had time to look at that detail.

Youth, Science

Mr MELLISH: My question is of the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs. Can the minister update the House on this year's Young Tall Poppy Science Awards, the Palaszczuk government's support of the sector and if there are any alternative approaches?

Ms SCANLON: I thank the member for Aspley for the question. Earlier this week 12 of our state's leading scientists took the top honours at the 2022 Young Tall Poppy Awards for groundbreaking research in substance abuse, developments and treatment of endometrial cancer and innovations in hybrid glass. I cannot think of a better group of people to inspire the next generation to take up STEM at school and university. These incredible individuals in their early careers are continuing a long tradition of scientific excellence here in Queensland, one that the Palaszczuk government is proud to continue. That includes through our \$17 million investment in this year's budget to support regional universities to commercialise particularly their scientific research.

I would have thought that supporting young scientists would be a bipartisan effort. Let's be real: we know that those opposite are not exactly known for following the science or even standing up for young people for that matter. So little do they believe in science that the member for Bonney and the member for Southport actually put in a statement of reservation to the estimates report. They want to advocate for a cut to that section that looks at science and youth. Last year and this year they could not come up with enough questions in the science and youth sections of estimates so their solution is to just cut it altogether. It is all too familiar. When the LNP do not understand something, they just cut it, just like they cut funding to universities and just like they did with CSIRO funding: they cut it. They cut the office of climate change. They have no interest in the important work of the nearly 300 scientists in the Department of Environment and Science.

Where is the intellectual curiosity from the Leader of the Opposition or the member for Bonney? They are probably just worried about what some of the other members on that side would ask if they had the opportunity to talk about science and youth, because we know a whole lot of interesting things come out of their mouths when given that opportunity. We know that they do not like them talking about climate change and they do not like them talking about tree-clearing laws. In fact, we heard yesterday the member for Scenic Rim double down and say they did not support tree-clearing laws. We heard the member for Callide say that the other week. Then we had their new deputy leader use those very laws to keep the reef off the endangered list. They are all over the place. They cannot get consensus on who is going to speak in the adjournment debate, never mind when it comes to science.

On this side of the House we support Queensland's leading scientists. On that side they barely believe in anything they say.

Bushland Beach, Social Housing

Mr DAMETTO: My question is to the Minister for Communities and Housing. Residents in Bushland Beach are concerned for their safety, wellbeing and property values should 121 Daintree Drive be purchased by the department of housing. Recent requests to your office to clarify this potential purchase have gone unanswered. Minister, has the property been purchased without consultation with residents?

Mr SPEAKER: Can I ask the last part of that question be modified, member? The question cannot be asked directly to the minister.

Mr DAMETTO: Mr Speaker, has the property been purchased without consultation with residents?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. I will say one thing. I grew up in social housing. There are a lot of good people who live in social housing. They are Queenslanders, including my mum and dad, who worked really hard every day to put food on the table and to make sure we all got a good education. There are many of those stories in this House and in the member's own electorate I imagine.

There are many Queenslanders right now who are under housing stress and many more Queenslanders are turning to government for help than we have ever seen before, so social housing and affordable housing is incredibly important. That is why we have committed a record investment in social and affordable housing, \$2.9 billion. That is why we are building more social and affordable housing. In fact, since we came to office, we have completed almost 4,000 new social homes in this state, and we continue to commence them. Now, in just the first year of the second action plan we have over 900 commencements. We are beating our targets because it is really important that we get as many properties as we can into the system to support and help Queenslanders. Of course, building is not the only option we have right now. We are purchasing more properties across Queensland where the need is the greatest. It is an opportunity to purchase properties to fit the needs of those families who need that assistance and who are calling on the government for support.

I acknowledge that I have received a letter from the member with regards to this. I am responding to the member, and I will do that via correspondence. I make it really clear that right now is not the time to demonise people who are in social housing or who are seeking support from the government. Not only are we building more social and affordable housing and purchasing where we can; we are also ensuring that we find other ways to put more stock into the system, including by seeking a thousand new headleases through our Help to Home program. That is a \$40 million program that is asking people who might have a property that is empty at the moment to bring it forward to the government. We will guarantee at least a two-year lease—two years worth of rent—and we will pay that up-front quarterly. These are all part of a bigger mix of our processes and programs to get more stock into the system. Now is not the time to demonise people who need assistance.

Mr Dametto: Have they purchased the property?

Ms ENOCH: I will respond to the letter appropriately in due course.

Heart Health

Ms LUI: My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Can the minister inform the House of the Palaszczuk government's efforts to tackle rheumatic heart disease in First Nations communities?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for Cook for her question. She knows more than most the heartache that RHD creates amongst our First Nations people. I am very proud of the work that our state and this government are doing. I know everyone on this side is supportive of our work around rheumatic heart disease, or the RHD strategy.

Back in March I launched our \$7.4 million Ending Rheumatic Heart Disease: Queensland First Nations Strategy 2021 to 2024 in Cairns. The strategy will strengthen Queensland's response across the health system from early prevention through to care of and support for those living with RHD. We know RHD is a potentially fatal condition. Untreated, it can cause heart failure, with those affected also at risk of arrhythmias, stroke, endocarditis and pregnancy complications. Getting out into communities impacted by RHD is crucial to tackling this condition.

I am very pleased to inform members that on Saturday a group of doctors, health workers and First Nations leaders set out on a Deadly Heart Trek from Cairns. The trek will see two teams visit Cape York communities, including Thursday Island where there is a high burden of disease, before working

its way to Mount Isa. The trek will raise awareness and ultimately tackle RHD in vulnerable First Nations communities. It will hold cardiology clinics, including heart checks for children at school, as well as promote awareness of skin sores, scabies and their link to rheumatic heart disease.

I am proud to say that two of the senior paediatric cardiologists leading the delivery teams are Dr Rob Justo from the Queensland Children's Hospital and Dr Ben Reeves from Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service. I acknowledge the efforts of Dr Justo and Dr Reeves and the other staff who are taking part in this trek. They are taking their expertise to the heart of First Nations communities.

While it is virtually eradicated amongst non-Indigenous Australians, the rates of rheumatic heart disease in First Nations people are too high, and we know that it is preventable. Right now, there are more than 3,000 people on the rheumatic heart disease register here in Queensland. This highlights the necessity for Queensland's \$7.4 million *Ending rheumatic heart disease: Queensland First Nations strategy 2021-24*. I look forward to working with all stakeholders to see important outcomes for our First Nations people. I also acknowledge other agencies, because I know we are working with Communities and Housing about initiatives to go out into communities, including social housing, to educate our First Nations people as to how we prevent the loss of life from RHD.

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

MOTIONS

Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (12.01 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders, the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure be permitted to immediately move a motion without notice regarding "more jobs in more industries" with the following time limits to apply—

- 3 minutes for all members
- with the question being put by 12.59 pm.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Jobs, Skills and Training



Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (12.01 pm): I move—

That this House:


1. notes the Palaszczuk government's record of supporting the creation of more than 466,000 Queensland jobs since 2015;
2. notes the opportunity to work cooperatively with the federal Albanese Labor government at the national Jobs and Skills Summit being held in Canberra today;
3. notes the former Newman LNP government's attacks on training and skills, including:
 - (a) slashing \$288 million in employment programs including Skilling Queenslanders for Work;
 - (b) tearing apart our TAFE system, including cutting funding by \$170 million, cutting more than 2,000 TAFE and training jobs and attempting to sell-off 15 TAFE campuses; and
4. endorses the Palaszczuk government's *Good people good jobs: Queensland Workforce Strategy 2022-2032*.

The global pandemic has highlighted the importance of sovereign capabilities. In Australia and in Queensland, it highlighted the challenges of our reliance on overseas migration and on foreign skilled labour. The Palaszczuk government has supported the creation of more than 466,000 Queensland jobs since 2015. Now we are investing in training and skilling the next generation of workers to take advantage of the good jobs we are creating. This week our government has demonstrated its commitment through the Queensland Workforce Strategy. It includes funding for TAFE, recruiting under-represented workers, a preapprenticeship program, assistance to employ migrants and international students, and so much more.

The Albanese government's Jobs and Skills Summit will enable us to work cooperatively to resolve the skills and jobs crisis that became so apparent during the pandemic. The federal LNP had a chance to change the tone and be constructive—a choice the Liberals rejected. I was disappointed that Peter Dutton refused to come, just like he refused to attend the apology. He has proven that he does not care about creating jobs. I do not know what he is afraid of. Maybe he is concerned that the summit

will put an end to his overseas au pairs or put at risk the money he makes from his childcare interests. I congratulate Nationals' leader David Littleproud for his attendance. He is proving to be a much better representative of Queenslanders than Dutton and the LNP. It underlines how much Queensland misses out on by not having Nationals like David in our parliament.

I do not blame the Leader of the Opposition for not wanting to talk about jobs after Scott Morrison gave himself all of those jobs in secret. This week we found out that the Leader of the Opposition even holds his shadow cabinet meetings in secret. He will not come clean about what was discussed at his secret shadow cabinet meetings or what was on the agenda at the 'meeting of one' in the dining room where he thought they had their meetings. The Leader of the Opposition will not agree to back our integrity reforms and the Coaldrake recommendations—and he should. He will not give up his cash-for-access events, and he refuses to say which lobbyists worked on his last campaign. I think he is hoping to hand-pick a new CCC chair in three years time and that is why he will not support the Coaldrake recommendations. While the Premier is in Canberra focused on jobs and everyone on this side of the House is focused on jobs, the LNP have proven that they only care about their own, and they are not even willing to do that properly.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (12.05 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the Deputy Premier. The No. 1 issue being talked about across Australia is labour shortages. Not a day goes by without us hearing from people from across Australia about the impact of labour shortages. Not a day goes by without us hearing about skills and training—in the media and in our communities. On Tuesday alone there were 400 stories in the traditional media about workforce shortages or about skills and labour—and that is not even including social media. In every single electorate of members opposite there would be employers telling them every single day about labour shortages.

I will give some examples from the *Courier-Mail*. Noosa restaurants such as Locale and Bistro C are reducing opening hours; Mancave Barbershop Indooroopilly is flying in barbers from Sydney to keep the shop open; and a Sunshine Coast cleaning service is struggling to find staff and turning down up to 20 calls a day. Whether you are a teacher, a mechanic or a childcare worker or you own a retail store, you are being impacted by this shortage. There is not a single day when we have heard about this from those members opposite. There has been not a single speech or social media post. Are they listening to what Australians are saying to them?

We already know about their complete disdain for skills and training. In Queensland, we invest \$1.2 billion a year in skills and training. Not only do they not care about it; they actually hate it. We know that they cut \$170 million from TAFE and sacked 2,100 teachers. We know that they planned to close 38 more TAFE campuses after the five they already closed. Almost as soon as they had their feet under the desk on coming to government they axed Skilling Queenslanders for Work. This program has a 76 per cent success rate—the highest success rate of any employment program in the country. When they went to the last election that program was not in their budget. They were clearly planning to axe it again.

Today is the first day of the national Jobs and Skills Summit. The Premier is delivering our Workforce Strategy to that meeting. We have done the work on how—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! Minister, you will not use a prop.

Ms FARMER: We have done the work, and we are proud to take that strategy and contribute to the debate. We call on members opposite to exercise leadership on this No. 1 issue. I want to give them a tip, too: you can do an information technology course—


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, I have already warned you—

Ms FARMER: I table it.

Tabled paper: Extract, undated, from the webpage of the Liberal National Party depicting the federal, state and local LNP team [\[1262\]](#).

(Time expired)

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): I remind the House that there is an extensive list of people on warnings: the members for Buderim, Chatsworth, Theodore, Lytton, Toowoomba North, Kawana, Toowoomba South, Clayfield, Sandgate, Nanango, Pine Rivers, Currumbin, McConnel, Broadwater and Woodridge.


 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (12.08 pm): It says so much about somebody when, on their first opportunity to have a crack at a role they covet, they choose attack over action.

Government members interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: They would choose hate over hope. They would choose vitriol over vision. That is what we had today when, with the first opportunity for the Deputy Premier to stand up in this House and show that he has a vision for this state's future, he chose to blame a government that will be 10 years in the wilderness by the time of the next election. Doesn't that tell us everything we need to know? Doesn't that show us everything we need to know—that is, when a government has no record on skills development, in the week that the federal parliament decides to discuss skills it will cobble together a document to try and somehow masquerade as though it has had a plan in this area? When we scratch beneath the veneer, we will find that there has been more cancellations than completions on apprentices and traineeships in this state. Doesn't that show what happens when a government is all about how things look rather than how they are?

How many times during that contribution from the Deputy Premier did we hear the words 'small and family business'? Not once. How many times when the Deputy Premier was talking about the pandemic did he say 'thank you' to the mums and dads who went to work every day not knowing if they were going to get a phone call from the bank? While the Deputy Premier had his wage guaranteed week in, week out, every single small and family business and the hardworking people they employ did not know where the next feed was coming from. However, when the Deputy Premier stood up all he wanted to do was cast aspersions about the record of a government 10 years in the wilderness at the time of the next election.

The Deputy Premier mentioned this new era of cooperation with the Albanese government. Why in the last 100 days has there been not one mention about a fifty-fifty funding deal for health—the single biggest thing that we heard before the election? Why has there been not one mention about the need to fast-track a plan to get people who have been affected by flooding back in their houses—the No. 1 issue? Do members know why? Because this government will put the interests of itself and the Labor Party ahead of hardworking Queenslanders every day.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (12.11 pm): When the Deputy Premier moves a motion about a job, he has only one job in mind. We saw it this morning. He so wanted to just jump to the left a little bit more than he already could, believe it or not, to jump into the Premier's chair. However, more pointed was the Treasurer: sitting there and given the opportunity to answer a question, he could not help himself but had to just creep into the Premier's chair because he wanted the photos taken of him standing at the Premier's chair as that is what he desires.

What an absolute joke of a motion from a government that has TAFE campuses in Queensland vacant—empty—at the moment with grass growing over the roof of TAFE campuses and that man opposite talks about fake unions. Let us talk about fake doctors. When he was first elected he paraded himself around as a doctor. No, he has a doctorate in union membership, and I might add, if they are at the jobs summit, union membership in Australia is the lowest it has been in 100 years. People are leaving the union movement, and why? Because they saw what happened last week in the TMR building. If you are a TMR admin officer at the front door, why on earth would you want to join a union that does not support you and puts you in harm's way?

The government now wants to talk about jobs. It wants to talk about these interesting ideas that Wellcamp is going to be used for. Is it going to turn Wellcamp into one of the agricultural colleges it closed down in our regional communities? How is that for an interesting idea? What is it going to do with Wellcamp? This morning members on the other side talked about \$220 million. They talked about extending the lease. He did not commit to whether the government was going to extend the lease or cancel the lease or what it was going to do with it. We have a building sitting out there just like we have TAFE campuses across Queensland that are sitting vacant.


The government has no idea what it is going to do with Wellcamp. Last week when asked by media what she was going to do with Wellcamp, the Premier said, 'Oh well, you'll have to ask the Deputy Premier. There's some really interesting ideas.' We asked the Deputy Premier. He could not tell Queenslanders one idea that has been suggested for Wellcamp. The reality is that it was a white elephant. I am so sorry that the Deputy Premier did not accept the gift from my constituent and I two weeks ago—the little timber white elephant we gave him—but my gosh it has gone viral on TikTok, more than the dodgy videos the dud Deputy Premier has done on TikTok, and I can assure him of that. The reality is—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. The reality is the Labor government cut \$3 billion in infrastructure when it was in power last and continues to do so—\$3 billion in infrastructure. What a bad government we have in Queensland.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I call the next speaker, I know you withdrew but I do not think Hansard would have heard that. I would ask you to withdraw that unparliamentary language.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw.

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (12.15 pm): I am pleased to speak in support of the Deputy Premier's motion and commend the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development on this week's launch of *Good people good jobs: Queensland Workforce Strategy*. The strategy aims to connect, educate and attract the state's workforce to ensure the continued success of our economy and enhance our state's reputation as the best place to live, work and play. However, I will tell members what is not in the strategy: there is no strategy to destabilise and undermine TAFE, because we are not the LNP. In 2014 the Newman LNP government passed the Queensland Training Assets Management Authority Act. This act established QTAMA as a statutory authority. Its role was to operate commercially with the capacity to dispose of 'under-utilised' government property but without any requirement to assess the impact of its operations on training needs.


With this model in place, TAFE came under a punitive rental rates scheme designed to push it out of facilities it had previously owned. In order to minimise the financial impact, TAFE compressed its footprint in campuses, even abandoning some. The result? Empty buildings, including some of the newest and best trade-training facilities. People looking suspiciously like real estate agents started to be seen on TAFE campuses, showing prospective clients around, and RTOs moved into facilities with no thought given to whether they would be in competition with TAFE or the impact on TAFE's reputation from clients mistakenly thinking their educational experience was being provided by the public provider. The impact of these attacks on TAFE Queensland were exacerbated with the LNP government's move to fully contestable funding, making TAFE scramble in the street with other providers for dollars for its employees.

But let us take a step back. In a media article in 2012, then minister for education John-Paul Langbroek moved to calm TAFE students after a government commissioned task force report recommended closing more than a dozen Brisbane metropolitan campuses. Mr Langbroek told prospective TAFE students that 'it's business as usual' at campuses until the government decided whether to uphold the recommendations of the report. He went on to say that media reports about claiming wholesale closures of TAFE campuses were untrue and should not deter prospective students considering study options for the next year.

Of the 40 recommendations in that task force report, the minister accepted 35, with the other five receiving in-principle support, so TAFE students had nothing to fear—except they did. The report recommended a rationalised structure of TAFE, and we all know what that meant—a raft of campus closures and sales across Queensland. A little closer to home, the *Redland Times* reported the Alexandra Hills TAFE campus on Windemere Road was one of the campuses facing possible closure. Then Cleveland MP and now member for Oodgeroo, Mark Robinson, said the three Redland City state MPs were working to ensure the city retained some form of tertiary institute, possibly in Cleveland near the train station. I am not making this up; this is from the article—

Mr Robinson, a teacher at TAFE before taking up politics, said a 'TAFE-like tertiary college' would help revitalise the Cleveland CBD.

No credibility on training and skills, no plan on jobs.


 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (12.18 pm): Beneath the desperate point scoring and the political positioning of the government, there in fact lies a really serious undertone to this motion, and I want to reflect on that for a minute. If the government wants to talk about job creation and boast about its alleged job creation program, it is important to look at what it is doing and how it is investing in Queensland's future. What we see here in Queensland now more than at any other time that I can remember is great taxation uncertainty and great regulatory uncertainty. We saw the glass jaw of the Treasurer on display again this morning in relation to this, so a motion like this tells us everything that is in fact wrong with the government.

They want to pointscore, political position and throw out red herrings, but the truth of it is that their approach to business is appalling. If they want to create jobs into the future in Queensland they will need to provide an investment environment and certainty with regulation that is currently not, in any way, shape or form, being displayed. Look at the introduction of the four new taxes: the gaming tax, the payroll tax on medium-size business, the coal royalty tax and the land tax. How can businesses invest in Queensland's future and create jobs in Queensland's future in an environment where they cannot trust the government in any way, shape or form?

Mr Healy interjected.

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

Mr JANETZKI: The tax I want to focus on just a little bit is the land tax, which the Treasurer has just dropped on an unsuspecting property industry. There have been 10 new property taxes levied on the property industry in Queensland since the Palaszczuk government was elected. At estimates it appeared that nobody knows how the most recent one is going to be collected. It will drive investors out of Queensland and renters will ultimately pay the price. We have an economic environment where investors will not invest and jobs will not be created. Time and again the Deputy Premier will rise and talk about things that do not matter: he will talk about Peter Dutton's au pair; he will talk about Wellcamp. The environment for investment in Queensland has never been worse and this motion has never been more of a disgrace.


 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (12.21 pm): If there is one thing I have learned in life it is that leopards do not change their spots. Listening to those opposite it is clear that they have not changed their spots. They were not for small business in the Newman era. They brought this state to its knees. The state was begging. That is why the people voted them out in spades and we came back to power.

In five years TMR has provided 215 traineeships and apprenticeships across the state. Those opposite do not want the Cross River Rail infrastructure program, but they will not come to Maryborough and tell my workers they will not build trains there. Those opposite are not interested in jobs or skills or keeping regional Queensland alive. The project has generated 342 apprentices, with 450 over the life of the project. Recently in my electorate of Maryborough the Premier and the transport minister announced a \$7.1 billion injection in rail infrastructure in this state. We do not cut; we are investing in this state, unlike those opposite.

Those opposite talk about TAFE. My TAFE was closed because of them. Earlier the member for Jordan was talking about people. When I was elected we had real estate agents walking around TAFE and they did not care about the students. Skilling Queenslanders for Work is one of the greatest programs ever invested in by a government in this country. Deloitte reported that every dollar spent returned \$8 to \$10. Those opposite were begged not to cut it when they came to power. The first thing they did was not only take out the axe, they pulled out the chainsaw. They cut it right down to the stumps. There was no growth left in it. It took a Palaszczuk Labor government to restore it.

In their 2017 budget and during the 2020 election campaign those opposite did not talk about training. They did not talk about skills and jobs for regional Queensland. I say often in the chamber that one of the saddest things I have ever seen in my life was their candidate for Maryborough on the Thursday night before the election when he found out that there was no money for trains or training. During the campaign he had been spruiking how good they were.

Those opposite have learned nothing. They do not care. All they are worried about is putting public money in private pockets. They are worried about their mates. They are not worried about making sure that people have skills and jobs or whether regional Queensland stays alive. The public knows that leopards do not change their spots.


 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (12.24 pm): It is no wonder we have a skilled worker and labour shortage across every sector and every region of Queensland when one looks at this Labor government's terrible record when it comes to skills and training. Between 2017 and 2022 there were more cancellations and withdrawals from Queensland apprenticeships and traineeships than there were completions. In the five years before we knew what COVID was, the state government delivered 10,200 fewer apprenticeship completions than their own target. They have missed their own target every single year they have been in government. Over those seven years, if they had met their target there would be another 14,400 trained tradies in Queensland. Imagine what that could do for Queenslanders who are struggling to get a tradie right now.

We know how tough the construction industry is doing in Queensland due to the skilled worker shortage created by this government. The building of new homes in Queensland has been delayed, and it continues to be delayed, and it is Queensland families and builders who are paying the price. Between 2017 and 2020, 3,880 people cancelled their construction apprenticeship. That is more than completed their construction apprenticeship.

Master Builders say that a lack of qualified tradespeople is widespread, with carpenters, roofers, concreters and bricklayers just some of the skilled workers who are in short supply. With the severe shortage of supplies that exist and the shortage of skilled tradies, it is Queenslanders who are paying the price because of this Palaszczuk Labor government's failure when it comes to skills and training.

They like to blame others, but the reality is they have not met their own target once—not once. If we look at the food industry—we know they are struggling to fill shifts and positions across the state—1,685 people did not complete their food training and more pulled out than finished it. I could go on and on.


This government likes to focus on the announcement. It is all about the commencements, but they forget about the completions. It is the completions that matter. You can spend as much money on a training and skills system as you want, but if it is not delivering, if people are not completing, then it is failing. It is failing under this Palaszczuk Labor government. The reality is Queensland is failing when it comes to skills and training. Queensland is one of the worst performing states in the country when it comes to apprenticeships and traineeships. Those opposite like to talk about commencements, but you will not hear the Minister for Training and Skills Development talking about completions because she knows that Queensland is failing.

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (12.27 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the Deputy Premier. The world of work is changing. New industries and new technologies require new skills and new knowledge. The federal Labor government and the Palaszczuk government understand that the need to upskill and reskill the workforce has never been more urgent. The discrepancy between the skills people have and those needed for jobs in the new world is one of the most critical problems of our time. Thanks to the Palaszczuk government and our response to the COVID-19 pandemic, unemployment is low. In many developed economies, and in particular in developing economies, it is simply not possible to recruit enough skilled people to fill the available jobs. Society cannot afford the divide between rich and poor to widen any further. We know one in three jobs is likely to be severely disrupted or to disappear in the next decade because of technological change. This disruption could affect almost half of all those skilled jobs and one third of semi-skilled jobs. The World Economic Forum estimates that upskilling 1.37 million workers in the US will cost \$34 billion, or \$24,800 per person.

Thanks to our government's understanding of global macroeconomics, the range of expertise of our caucus, the foresight of our minister and our regular and meaningful team meetings, Queensland was the first state to develop a specific plan to address these shortages by focusing on a school-to-work transition plan, local solutions, workforce participation, industry-led initiatives and a strong focus on upskilling. Our 10-year plan will help support all Queenslanders to get the jobs they want and help businesses attract the staff that they need.

In very clear contrast, the LNP government slashed \$288 million in employment programs, including Skilling Queenslanders for Work in 2012 despite an independent Deloitte report that showed an economic return of nearly \$8 for every dollar invested over a 10-year period. They tried to decimate our TAFE system, slashing funding by \$170 million, closing five campuses and planning to close 38 more, and sacking 2,100 TAFE staff. For the record, the LNP cuts resulted in 4,700 people in my community losing their jobs. The LNP could never conjure up a vision for TAFE. They tried to sell the Mount Gravatt TAFE in my community. In contrast, since I was elected in 2017 the Palaszczuk government has invested over \$15 million in developing the Mount Gravatt TAFE campus.

Preparing the workforce of the future will require millions of dollars but the cost of inaction will be even higher. The Palaszczuk Labor government is committed to that investment and to delivering world-class education and training programs to ensure Queenslanders are afforded the great lifestyle that job security brings.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (12.30 pm): We are now seven years into a third-term government and suddenly they have developed a job strategy. At a time when we have full employment in this nation, they have developed a job strategy.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): The member for Logan will cease waving around that paper.

Mr MANDER: Why have they developed a job strategy now? Because the federal government called a job summit and the Premier panicked because we have nothing to take. She called out, 'I need a glossy magazine immediately.' At that point she created jobs for the people who had to put together that glossy magazine. That was one job-creation strategy that they had. Now she has something to clasp to her chest as she walks around the summit, saying, 'We've done something.' It is very much like their economic plan. It takes about 35 seconds to read their economic plan. The same content will be in the glossy brochure that they have called for because of the job summit.


Those opposite are only worried about one job and that is their own job. Of course, the Deputy Premier has also created a job by employing a photographer to soften his image. Why is he doing that? Because he is looking for one other job. We hear the speculation and watch the battle that is going on to see who will take over the Premier's role when she goes.

Government members interjected.

Mr MANDER: I take those interjections. We have this great battle going on between the Left and the Right, the Deputy Premier and the Treasurer, to see who is going to take the top job. The Deputy Premier thinks he needs a photographer. The Treasurer does not need a photographer because he already takes enough black-and-white selfies. Where do members think all the leaks have come from about cabinet meetings not taking place and about checking out? Where have all those leaks come from? They have come from the Left because they will do everything possible to de-stabilise this government and take the seat of the Premier when she goes.

Who else is looking for a job? The speculation is that the member for Sandgate is looking for a job because he is under threat. From whom is he under threat? He is under threat from Councillor Jared Cassidy. Jared Cassidy has had enough of the member for Sandgate and enough of the inaction. There is lots and lots of speculation going around that he will be challenging for preselection. It will be very interesting to see how that pans out over the next few months.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, before I call the member for Pine Rivers, I acknowledge the staff and students of Cleveland District State High School who are in the gallery.

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (12.33 pm): It is a pleasure to follow that delusional contribution from the member for Everton. I will jog the member's memory: back in March we held a job summit here in Queensland. Over 350 community and industry leaders came together and fed into the strategy that we have launched this very week. The member might want to tune in a little more and maybe have a little more of a focus, aside from on the footy game and what is happening in Central Queensland.


It is a pleasure to rise in support of the Deputy Premier's motion regarding skills and jobs. It is a pertinent motion to debate today as the Albanese government is holding the national Jobs and Skills Summit. After a decade of inaction from the LNP, our country's wages growth has not just stagnated but gone backwards and businesses are desperate for skilled workers. Our country is in dire need of a stronger, fairer system with wage growth, skills and training at its centre. Undeniably, the biggest challenge facing our country right now is the one that we are debating today. That leads me to wonder: where is the LNP on this? Federal opposition leader Peter Dutton was invited to attend the summit. Do you reckon he will show?

Mr Power: No.

Ms BOYD: I take the interjection; I do not reckon he will either. It appears that showing up is a problem for the LNP right now, if last night's adjournment debate was anything to go by. Do you know what, Mr Deputy Speaker? I represent the same community as Dutton and any honourable member would have to ask only a few people on the street to find out pretty quickly that he makes a habit of not showing up. For weeks now the federal opposition has used this as an opportunity to bash, but it is the same old song sheet here in Queensland too.

If ever you needed an example of de-skilled, you need look no further than the opposition. The diary of the opposition leader has demonstrated that the struggle is real. How tremendously has this week's attack on our Premier backfired? Under Campbell Newman, the LNP were designing a courtroom for cabinet meetings. Under his consigliere, they found themselves holding shadow cabinet in a dining room. It seems that they have traded the gavel for a fork. All that the Leader of the Opposition has accomplished is the ability to clear a room and get egg on his face. What are they waiting on: the Last Supper? The shadow cabinet have taken their name quite literally and are lurking so far in the shadows that no-one can see or hear them. They have no plans, no legislation, no ideas and no contribution, aside from confected scandals and fearmongering.

It is little wonder that this style of conservative leadership in politics has left our nation in such a state. When the LNP last sat on the government benches, Queenslanders helplessly looked on as they cut \$170 million out of training and skills. Whether it is with Back to Work, Skilling Queenslanders for Work or general investment in skills and training, the LNP will never make a constructive contribution in this place.


 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (12.36 pm): Goodness me! I am so pleased that the schoolchildren who came to Queensland parliament today have seen such a fine example of talking about absolutely nothing. The member opposite whom I follow in this debate got about one minute into her pre-prepared speech and thought, 'Hang on a minute! I know nothing about what I am talking about so I'd better attack a former LNP government. But before I do that, I'll just attack Peter Dutton.' Peter Dutton actually stands up for this state and his community, obviously unlike the member sitting over there.

Mr Langbroek interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It is pretty obvious. It was also interesting to hear another member in this chamber talk about the cost of inaction. No better words could be spoken. What have we got after seven years of inaction? As the member for Everton said, a glossy brochure! The skills minister is well known as the most failed youth justice minister that Queensland has ever seen. We remember the debacle of child safety; tick. Youth Justice: that was messed up. Now what do we have? Skills. Goodness me! We need a minister who understands what skills are all about. The skills minister and the manufacturing minister went to the last election and said, 'We're going to set up Manufacturing Skills Queensland', but then promptly forgot about it. If the member opposite thinks that skills and the need to create jobs are the biggest issues in front of this government, what have those two been doing for the past two years?


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Direct your comments through the chair.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: What have the skills minister and the manufacturing minister been doing? They announced Manufacturing Skills Queensland and then forgot to set it up. Honestly! After seven years, two ministers have said, 'Hang on a minute! We need to actually do something about manufacturing and skills in this state. We'll announce something at the election and then we will promptly forget about it.' When the Minister for Manufacturing was asked about that at estimates—the minister well knows—he dumped it all on the skills minister. I wonder who is in the left and who is in the right? I have spoken after a member from the left. I wonder who is leaking against whom opposite. The poor manufacturing minister knows that the skills minister has completely failed Queensland.

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (12.40 pm): It is always a pleasure to follow the member for Nanango, who certainly had a good go. The member for Nanango asked: 'What do we get after seven years of the Palaszczuk Labor government?' The answer is record numbers of good jobs in Queensland—more than 466,000 since the Palaszczuk Labor government came to power. What did we get after seven years of the Palaszczuk Labor government? You get historically low unemployment of 3.8 per cent, falling underemployment and record levels of skills investment that is about getting more Queenslanders into more jobs in more industries.

Earlier this week we launched our brand new Queensland Workforce Strategy. I commend the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development for all of the work she has put into what is an excellent strategy. That is why our Premier will be able to head to the national Jobs and Skills Summit in Canberra today and talk about Queensland as the job-creating powerhouse of the nation. That extends particularly into the energy industry, where we have jobs being created through our \$2 billion Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund. We have an over \$20 million investment into a renewable centre of excellence at Pinkenba that is under construction right now. We have the hydrogen centre of excellence at Beenleigh which is almost complete. We are the first jurisdiction in Australia to launch a hydrogen industry workforce development road map. We have hydrogen training in our schools, in Gladstone for example. We have \$10 million for Bohle TAFE to develop hydrogen training courses.


Locally in Bundamba, there is \$7 million for the expansion of our state-of-the-art metal trades centre and a brand new robotics centre. Earlier this week we extended our free TAFE program—\$21 million—which will give more young people access to around 26 certificate III courses and 139 different free apprenticeships. It has already helped more than 56,000 Queenslanders gain skills and training for the workplace. Today is TAFE's 140th birthday. Happy birthday, TAFE! There is a \$1.1 billion birthday present from the Albanese federal government with a commitment to add an extra 180,000 TAFE places next year. Labor backs TAFE because we know that TAFE means better skills for good jobs.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (12.43 pm): I have heard my name bandied about during this debate over the last hour by the member for Jordan, who mentioned that I was quoted as saying that, whilst we were doing a review of TAFE, it was going to be business as usual. The interesting thing about the TAFE situation I inherited as minister was that there was no business. Students did not want to go to TAFE facilities as they were. We undertook a review, which found that the utilisation rate was as low as five per cent. I went around to numerous facilities where rooms were locked up and boarded up and where young students were saying, 'In the 21st century we do not want to study in facilities like this.' We worked with the federal government at the time—a Labor federal government.

Can anyone tell me who was the training minister in the last Bligh government before I became training minister? The member for Sandgate was the training minister who presided over a regime, having inherited it from Geoff Wilson, the former member for Ferny Grove, that saw utilisation rates as low as five per cent, where there were boarded up facilities and where the morale of teachers was terrible. There was no online enrolment possible. Can members believe that? In 2012, you could not

enrol online at TAFE in Queensland. We said, 'Let's do a review. Let's find out what students want. Let's find out what industry wants in terms of the jobs they will provide and we'll provide subsidies for those courses that will lead to a real job.' If you do something that you just like the sound of because it is free—that is what those opposite are doing—those qualifications are not valued by people if they pay nothing for it, especially if it leads to no job at all.


I will mention the federal ministers I dealt with. There was former senator Chris Evans, who was actually great to deal with, from 2011 to 2013. From 2013, in the chaotic Rudd-Gillard-Rudd government, subsequently I had to deal with: Craig Emerson, who was the minister for skills for a while; Sharon Bird, who was minister for less than four months; and then Brendan O'Connor, who I think now has been returned to the job. The important part is that it is the federal government that puts in 80 per cent of money for TAFE and training; the state puts in 20 per cent. It was a national partnership, and TAFE had to be dragged kicking and screaming into the 21st century. Now it is winning awards nationally. It is a statutory authority. Students are proud to go there. The advertising campaign that is still going is the one that we introduced. I am proud of what we did, and I love TAFE too.

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (12.46 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion. The Palaszczuk Labor government is a government for all of Queensland and all of the people of Queensland. Central to our efforts are good jobs, better services and a great lifestyle. I am proud to say that the industries covered by the manufacturing and water portfolios account for thousands of the jobs we are talking about today. We have seen 466,000 jobs delivered for Queenslanders since 2015, after the miserable years of LNP government. After that, the numbers are good.

Thanks to this year's budget, funding for our Made in Queensland grants and our hub grants program is at nearly \$130 million. Those grants have supported advanced manufacturing in this state and helped to secure 6,000 jobs in the manufacturing sector here in Queensland, thanks to this government. These critical grants are helping these businesses to arm themselves and their staff with the new skills and the new training that they need for the technology they need in those businesses—as well as boosting the capability and profitability of local manufacturing businesses.

This is in stark contrast to the LNP plan for manufacturers which was to ignore Queensland businesses, to gut funding from these vital grants programs and to send work offshore. Some 10,300 manufacturing sector jobs were lost under the former LNP government in its three-year reign. I really have to laugh when I see the member for Nanango's Facebook posts. Wherever she goes and takes a selfie, it is at businesses that have been supported through grants from the Queensland Labor government. She is out there saying, 'What a great business this is. It is good to be out and about at this wonderful manufacturer'—and 'I should be thanking Glenn Butcher for giving them a grant to make the business even better.'

This shows the hypocrisy of the LNP in Queensland. All its members do is float around the state, making out as though they are supporting small businesses and supporting skilling and training people. We know that all they did while in government was gut these programs, sack the workers and cut funding to skilling and training in Queensland. I give a pat on the back to the minister for skills and training. Not only is she making sure that we are preparing our kids and our people for work; she is also developing a plan. Those opposite never had one and never will.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (12.49 pm): It is plain to see why the Premier never allowed the Deputy Premier to chair cabinet because here he is his first time in the big chair in this House and he is wasting the parliament's time. Correct me if I am wrong, but this House legislates the laws of this land. I do not think there has been one bill introduced by this government this week. I could be wrong. Maybe I missed it. I do not think there has been one bill introduced this week.

If you want to address the problems around skills then bring in some legislation to do that. As for trying to blame everyone else, you have been in government for 7½ years and the problems of this state rest with you only.

Ms Farmer interjected.

Mr WEIR: I hear the member for Bulimba chirping away. If you want to talk about skills—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Member, direct your comments through the chair.

Mr WEIR:—there is no business or industry in Queensland that is not without skilled labour. When I talk to mechanics I hear there is a shortage of mechanics. You wonder why you have to wait so long to get a builder, plumber or painter. It is because you have failed. It is your job to provide those skilled people. You have failed. You have missed every target, as we heard earlier. Your record is very poor.

As far as my opposite number, whose chair is vacant, is concerned, if you want to bring legislation into this House, what about bringing in an energy plan. That minister has not brought one bill into this House while I have been the shadow minister. The energy minister has not brought one piece of legislation into this House. You talk about the transition, but where is the plan? There is nothing planned. If you want to talk about failures, that is a failure.

As far as skills are concerned, the agricultural sector is short of skills. That is because this government closed the agricultural colleges. I note the agriculture minister is not here either.


Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, I believe there are conventions around naming members who may or may not be present.

Mr WEIR: That is a good point because I have noticed the backbench have been lining up to speak and the ministers have been absent in this debate.

I see Minister Stewart is ready to speak. At long last he has approved Acland. Now it has gone to Minister Butcher. It now sits on his desk. I would like the minister to tell the people of Oakey how long it is going to sit on his desk before he approves it. At this stage there is not a lot of confidence that this is going to proceed. We believe that it has been moved from one too-hard basket to another too-hard basket. Minister, you need to stand up and tell the people of Oakey—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, direct your comments through the chair.

Mr WEIR:—and the district that you are going to act on this project and create 600 jobs. Do not do a two-line media release. Stand up and be honest with the people. It rests on you, Minister.


 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (12.52 pm): As a government we have a strong track record of supporting jobs throughout Queensland, including in the regions and resources sector. This has always been a priority for us as a government because we know that good jobs mean good opportunities for more people.

The resources sector is one of Queensland's major employers, supporting more than 77,000 jobs, and a key part of our economic recovery from COVID-19. I note that, despite some people talking down the resources industry and the opportunities on offer, a shortage of workers is still an issue for the sector. That is why the Palaszczuk government's *Good people good jobs: Queensland Workforce Strategy 2022-2032* is so important.

In fact, building a resilient and diverse workforce is also a key focus area of our Queensland Resource Industry Development Plan. Attracting and retaining people with the right skills is essential. That is where education and training is so important. Being a former teacher and principal, education is something I am very passionate about. The member for Surfers Paradise alluded to people not valuing anything given to them for free. Let me tell members about Gough Whitlam giving me my teaching degree for free. I absolutely valued it and still value it today.

In my hometown of Townsville I have seen firsthand the investment in both Pimlico and Bohle TAFE campuses. This includes partnerships with businesses like Ark Energy that has signed an MOU with TAFE Queensland to help train our young people to work in the hydrogen industry. Working competitively is a key part of making sure we have the right, trained workforce in place. The Premier is in Canberra today working with the federal Albanese Labor government at the national Jobs and Skills Summit.

Our investment and commitment to training and education is in stark contrast to that of the LNP which saw no value in education and training and still does not. They refuse to even talk about it. In fact, the Leader of the Opposition did not even mention training and skills in his budget reply speech. The LNP have never been supportive of TAFE or the education system. I know the member for Mundingburra will remember this. The LNP closed Stuart State School in Townsville. This was at the same time as tearing apart our TAFE system, cutting funding by almost \$170 million and cutting more than 2,000 TAFE jobs. We have a proud track record of creating jobs and investing in our TAFEs. That is because the Palaszczuk government has the plan to skill more Queenslanders for good, secure jobs.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (12.55 pm): It is no wonder we have a skilled worker and labour shortage across every sector and in every region across Queensland when we look back at this Labor state government's terrible record when it comes to skills and training. They have a shocking record on skills and training. Suddenly after seven years this government has woken up that there is a skills crisis. There was a skills crisis in hospitality in my region seven years ago. It was only after their mates in Canberra called a jobs summit that this Labor government said, 'Oops, we had better have something to take to this.' Out came the glossy brochures.


Between 2017 and 2021 there were more cancellations and withdrawals from Queensland apprenticeships and traineeships than actual completions. Let me remind members that this was before COVID changed the world so the Minister for Training and Skills Development can stop blaming the pandemic. All this government talks about is those who have commenced an apprenticeship or traineeship. They do not talk about the numbers who have completed them. Unless we have completions we do not have qualified tradespeople. It is about the outcome—something that this government fails again and again to deliver on. Labor is failing these people, particularly young people, who want to get a trade because they do not support them through their training.

Who can forget the unions that were so opposed to the agriculture visa that they went doorknocking the embassies in Canberra telling the diplomats to tell their countries to not support the agriculture visa. They went and doorknocked in Canberra. The regions are crying out for people to fill jobs in the agricultural industry. They are crying out for people to pick strawberries and grapes. In my region, we have some of the largest grape producing areas around St George. The unions do not want people to fill jobs in the horticulture industry or in the agriculture industry.

What do we know about this government's record on skills and training in the agriculture industry? They closed the Longreach Pastoral College. The agriculture minister thought it was a great photo opportunity to stand in front of the locked gates at the Longreach agriculture college. Maybe he should have hired the image photographer of the Deputy Premier and they might have picked a better look. He could not have picked a worse photo in Longreach.

Then we had this government knocking the confidence out of businesses. Businesses are the ones that employ people and take on apprentices and trainees. They have had a tax a year. There are new taxes and charges. There is land tax and then there is the resource mining tax. Since this government has come to power they have brought in new or increased taxes or charges every year. They have broken promises. It is the incompetence of this government that has left us with a skills deficits.

(Time expired)

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (12.58 pm): Do members know who I hold responsible for one of the major causes of this skills shortage crisis? That is what the LNP would call it. They love to call everything a crisis. The only crisis they missed was the global pandemic. They did not get that crisis. Do members know who I hold responsible for the major causes of the skills shortage? I hold the Premier, the Deputy Premier, the Treasurer, every minister on this side of the House and every single member on this side of the House responsible because collectively we have driven unemployment down to 3.8 per cent. That is one of the major contributing factors to this skills crisis.

How have we done that? We have done that by investing in infrastructure. In my electorate, it is investing in things like schools, sporting facilities, new housing, safe cycling paths and Cross River Rail. We have backed small businesses. We have re-established the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. We have employed more teachers, teacher aides, nurses, cops and child safety workers and developed new industries.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): The time for debate has expired.

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

AYES, 48:

ALP, 48—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Madden, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

NOES, 30:

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

Pairs: Palaszczuk, Lister; Richards, Stevens.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Sitting suspended from 1.04 pm to 2.00 pm.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

#BinTheBladeForBalin



Mr BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): Just before midnight on 20 January 2022, 16-year-old Balin Stewart was fatally stabbed outside his home in Buddina on the Sunshine Coast in my electorate. The much loved and hugely popular 16-year-old died in his family's arms as they, together with paramedics, tried desperately to save him from a stab wound to the chest.

Balin was a Sunshine Coast larrikin with a big smile and the ability to light up a room, and he has unintentionally become the new face of the state's battle against youth knife crime. While dealing with the enormous sadness, pain and anger, Balin's parents, Michael and Kerri-Lyn, have shown immense strength in wanting to effect change in the Sunshine Coast community.

In the wake of Balin's passing, they have set up the #BinTheBladeForBalin campaign in the hope that the devastation they have experienced can be avoided by other families. The primary aim is to get anyone who carries a knife to dispose of it immediately. The premise of the movement is that if a knife is not present during an altercation it cannot be used to cause any harm. Similar campaigns in the UK and Australia have shown incredible improvements in the reduction of knife crime and the devastation those instances cause.

The Stewart family started the #BinTheBladeForBalin campaign in a bid to rid today's youth of its knife culture, and it has taken off on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok. I have met with Balin's parents, Kerri-Lyn and Michael. I will be the first to admit that I underestimated how many young Queenslanders, and how many young Sunshine Coast teens, are carrying knives around with them. A lot of the time they are the kitchen knife or the steak knife that one has in the kitchen drawer.

The #BinTheBladeForBalin campaign is growing, as I said, on social media. There are stickers on Sunshine Coast cars with #BinTheBladeForBalin. There is the Balin Forever Festival on 9 September 2022 at NightQuarter from 5 pm to 10 pm. Through education and change, #BinTheBladeForBalin will make a difference and Balin's legacy will live on. Money raised at the Balin Forever Festival—and I table a copy of the invite—will go the Balin Stewart Foundation.

Tabled paper: Flyer for music event titled 'Balin Forever Festival' to be held 9 September 2022 [\[1263\]](#)

I want to thank Kerri-Lyn and Michael for the strength that they have in raising these issues and for the support I have seen from our community gathering around this wonderful family at this time. I have a 16-year-old daughter. For Balin's family, when Balin died in his family's arms on 20 January just before midnight because of a knife altercation at the front of his home, that can never be appreciated or understood unless you have lived in their shoes.

I thank the Stewart family for what they are doing in our community to rid us of the youth knife crime culture that we have. I encourage all Sunshine Coast young teens to get rid of the knife: don't take it. If you do not have the knife, no-one is going to get killed again.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Before I call the next speaker, I would like to acknowledge from Sunnybank Hills State School the students and teachers who are in the gallery.

Emerald



Mr MADDEN (Ipswich West—ALP) (2.03 pm): Last week I joined some of my fellow members of the House in accepting an invitation from the Queensland Resources Council and Kestrel Coal Resources to travel to Emerald to attend a resources roundup networking event on 22 August. The next day we did a tour of the Kestrel coalmine.

I was joined by the members for Keppel, Mansfield, Lytton, Kawana, Toowoomba North, Burleigh, Clayfield and Southport. I am sure these members will join me in thanking Ian Macfarlane, Chief Executive of the Queensland Resources Council, and his team, especially Rachel Stewart and Louise Stubberfield, as well as the team from Kestrel Coal Resources including Shane Hansen, Chief Executive Officer, and Phil Nobes, General Manager Operations. They were all wonderful hosts.

Like most of life's great experiences, the tour of the massive eight-kilometre-long underground Kestrel mine came at a price for me—and that was shaving off my beard. Beards are banned underground because of the possibility you may need to use a respirator should there be an emergency, but it was a small price for me to pay to have a taste of the life of the two miners in my family—my nephew Nathan Thompson and his sister Cara Hatfield.

Emerald is the commercial hub of the Central Highlands, so I took the opportunity to drop in for a meeting with Peter Dowling, Chief Executive Officer at the Central Highlands Development Corporation, to get a rundown as to the priority projects in the area. It turned out that Peter is married to an Ipswich girl, Rachel Freeman, so we had plenty to talk about.

Alexandria Bernard, Senior Government Relations Adviser with Sunwater, arranged for Jason Smith, General Manager of Sunwater Central Queensland, to give me a tour of the massive Fairbairn Dam. The Fairbairn Dam's irrigation water supports high-value crops like citrus, grapes, cotton, peanuts and pulses.

Rick Jones, Queensland Cotton Regional Manager, was happy to give me a tour of the Emerald cotton gin, which is currently operating 24 hours a day, processing a record cotton crop. At short notice, Alicia Dunbar, Senior Innovation Broker with the Emerald Central Queensland Smart Cropping Centre, was able to arrange for me to have a tour of the centre, which is located at the former Emerald Agricultural College.

One thing I did miss was a tour of the 2PH citrus farm, which recently sold for \$231 million. This was a premium price made to secure the plant variety rights for two very important seedless mandarin varieties that the farm has the rights to—Amorette and Phoenix. Hopefully, this will be something I can look forward to doing next time I get back to Emerald.

Toowoomba South Electorate



Mr JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (2.06 pm): I want to speak about the wonderful electorate of Toowoomba South and some of the things that have been delivered in the electorate and some of the things that I am still working towards to deliver for the wonderful communities that make up my electorate.

Firstly, I wanted to acknowledge the Glenvale State School drop-off and pick-up zone that was delivered recently and was launched—2,200 vehicles going up and down Glenvale Road. Children, staff and volunteers getting across that very busy road no longer need to worry about their safety as they have a dedicated drop-off and pick-up zone. Light upgrades at the corner of South and High streets will make getting to and from school at Rangeville State School even easier. We have classroom upgrades at Centenary Heights State School and an upgrade at Clifford Park Special School as well.

Beyond school infrastructure, I wanted to comment on some of the delivery that we have seen in Duggan Park at the top of Leslie Street, which has been beautifully upgraded and is now a wonderful place for families to visit. There is so much more that has to be done.

The Toowoomba Hospital is front and centre of what needs to come next in our electorate. This is a hospital that will service not just the people of Toowoomba but people right across southern Queensland to the Territory border and to New South Wales. There is a \$1.3 billion promise from the state government. It has been dropped back from \$2 billion, which was the initial plan. It is back to \$1.3 billion. The government has now promised to deliver this hospital by 2027. I think there is a glimmer of hope but I am not at all convinced that this government is capable of delivering that project, that important health service, on time and on budget. I, together with many of my colleagues, will be holding the government to account for every single dollar.

Mr Bailey: Just ignore the fact that the pandemic took place.

Mr JANETZKI: A key area that needs to be upgraded and reconsidered by the government—I am glad the minister is in the House—is the revealing during estimates of the second connector between Highfields and Westbrook is now being discussed as going from Highfields to Charlton. That does not service the need whatsoever of a growing western Toowoomba that is projected to have tens of thousands more people living there by 2050. We need that second connection road that will ease pressure on the New England Highway to go directly from Highfields to Westbrook, not via Charlton. We need to be delivering that road infrastructure for a growing part of the city and the region.

Finally, we continue to need action on crime in our community. I have recently worked with a man called Andrew Farquharson. Andrew's daughters, when they come home from Brisbane on the weekend, will not stay at their home. That was revealed on Channel 9. Hundreds of thousands of people have seen it. I am continuing to work with victims of crime because there is so much more that this government needs to do.

BaconFest



Hon. ML FURNER (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (2.09 pm): The Palaszczuk government is a big supporter of all Queensland livestock industries. The pig industry today is worth \$370 million to our economy and employs thousands of Queenslanders in good jobs right across the state. Earlier this month I travelled to the South Burnett to celebrate all things pork at BaconFest in Kingaroy. I could not think of a better place to celebrate Queensland's pork industry than the South Burnett. After all, the state's biggest processor, Swickers, is based there, employing close to 1,000 workers. It was the Palaszczuk government that worked with Swickers to help them rebuild and expand after that devastating fire in 2016.

The first BaconFest back in 2018 attracted some 8,000 people—this is the third since that date—but I can guarantee that number was easily surpassed at this year's event. They certainly brought home the bacon! People from all over the state packed into the main streets of Kingaroy to celebrate the pig, not only pork but also all the South Burnett has to offer, including the local peanut and wine industries. I want to give a massive shout-out to 'Chief Baconeer' Kristy Board and her nearly 200 volunteers for putting on such a crackling weekend. I was privileged to speak at both openings on Friday night and Saturday morning.

The Queensland pork industry has had some challenging times. Years of drought and COVID have disrupted the operations of many producers. The ongoing biosecurity threats of African swine fever, lumpy skin disease—obviously that does not affect pigs—and Japanese encephalitis have also proven a challenge, but the Palaszczuk government has been with our producers every step of the way. Biosecurity Queensland has been working with the industry on these threats right from the start.

I would like to thank the Premier for her strong support of agriculture with her announcement at the Ekka of an additional \$22 million to boost Queensland's biosecurity capacity, including up to 15 new staff, more support to industry to ensure producers have their own biosecurity preparedness strategies, and boosting Queensland's coordinated feral pig control capacity. That is what the Palaszczuk Government does best—providing better services to our farmers and continuing to support the more than 365,000 people in secure, good jobs in the agriculture industry.

While I was out there I went to Plenty Foods and assisted them with an overview of a Rural Economic Development Grant, that is up to \$200,000 towards the advancement of that particular business, creating more good jobs in the Nanango electorate. After leaving the BaconFest on Saturday, I bought some beautiful bacon and kabana from Piggy in the Middle, a well-established business in Kilkivan in the member for Gympie's electorate. It was some of the best kabana and bacon I have ever tasted!

(Time expired)

Glass House Mountains Rescue 1965—2015 The Story; 'Glassies'




Mr POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (2.12 pm): This afternoon I want to start by acknowledging this great little publication by Beerwah local Neil Halpin, which looks at the 50-year history of the Glass House Mountains rescue team. Neil first climbed Mount Tibrogargan back in 1965 but got involved in the Glass House Mountain State Emergency Service in 1987. He has looked at the history not only of the mountains and the people climbing but also particularly those fantastic volunteers from my part of the world who have been rescuing people off the mountains for many years. He looked at the early establishment of the Rover Scouts and their rescues in the 1960s and the establishment of that Glass House Mountain State Emergency Service mountain rescue team, in particular the work of Graeme Cheal, who was their leader for 28 years and served over 30 years with the unit. I want to thank Neil for this great little publication. I am going to give it to the parliamentary library so that all members can get to know the fantastic work the volunteers have done in that space.

I also want to acknowledge that we have had our seventh annual 'Glassies', the small business awards for the Glass House electorate. We have had some stellar wins. At the outset I want to acknowledge my partners in crime: Shiralee Cooper, Montville Chamber of Commerce; Spencer Shaw, Maleny Chamber of Commerce; Teresa Harrison, Woodford Wamuran Business Network; and Jenny Broderick, Glass House Country Chamber of Commerce. I would also like to thank our fantastic sponsors: Hideaway Weddings, Worldwide Online Printing, Maleny Jewellers, Mortgage Choice, Woodford and Beerwah; Spicers Tamarind, Illume Creations and many, many local businesses that contributed prizes on the evening.

Our gold winner in the business category was the Clock Shop at Montville. They have been there for over 30 years. They transitioned from the original owners to their son and his wife. Tragically, Dan and Holly took over just before COVID, but they have managed to keep the business growing from strength to strength. They recorded a staggering 654 votes. There was no way you could go past them. In terms of gold medal employees, it was Kerri Sneddon from the Woodford Barber Shop. When she was not busy transforming hair in the salon, Kerri established a circle of women supporting women called Wild La Fe which keeps her very busy. Reports are that she is truly helping to heal and empower women throughout the broader Woodford region.

In the Moreton Bay region our winners were: Rayview Produce; Brendan Craig from Woodford Woolworths; Aline K Aesthetics; and Katreena Lucas, Kids Capers Childcare at Wamuran. In Glasshouse Country it was: Mooloolah Newsagency; Jodie Pember, Mooloolah IGA; Tamara Hazelden, Freedom real estate; and Cassi Nuske from McGrath real estate. In Maleny it was: VIP Wildlife; Jen Bernasconi, Jen's Woodfired Pizzas; Maple Street Co-op; and Jemma Mays from Goodstart Early Learning. In Montville it was: Crystal Multiverse; Rachele Coates, the Barn on Flaxton; Montville Pharmacy; and Shaile Wilson, Homegrown Cafe. The communities throughout the Glass House electorate are built on small business. This is my way of saying thank you for all they do in our communities.

Box Flat Mine Disaster


 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (2.15 pm): Just a few weeks ago on the weekend of 30 and 31 July, the Ipswich community came together to mark the 50th anniversary of the Box Flat Mine disaster and to mourn and commemorate the 18 men who lost their lives in that tragic event. The 50th anniversary was made possible through the hard work of the Ipswich Historical Society and its president Hugh Taylor and his wife, Margaret. I want to thank them all today for their efforts. They organised a series of special events in the last weekend of July to mark this solemn milestone in our local history which included the unveiling of a display at the Queensland mines and rescue centre, a formal dinner on Saturday night, and a moving commemorative service at the Box Flat Memorial in Swanbank on Sunday morning.

I want to thank the Minister for Resources, Scott Stewart, for coming to two of those events. I know that it meant a lot to our community. Each event solemnly reflected on the tragedy that happened in the early hours of the morning of 31 July 1972 while Ipswich was sleeping. Many older Ipswich people remember the disaster to this day. Such was the intensity of the explosion, some Ipswich people remember their homes shaking from the blast. It was the worst mining disaster in Ipswich's history. The Ipswich community back then was still quite small and close-knit, so many local people knew of someone who had died or was injured. Family members of the mine workers killed in the disaster still bear the scars of losing their loved ones. Seventeen Ipswich men lost their lives that day, including eight members of the Booval Mines Rescue Brigade. Another man lost his life from his injuries 19 months later. A further 14 mine workers were injured from the blast.

Coalmining has played a significant role in Ipswich's foundation and history. It is part of our identity and it was integral to our local community for almost two centuries. At one point in the early 20th century Ipswich produced 80 per cent of the state's coal. Even into the 1980s Ipswich produced two million tonnes of coal. Over 1,000 people worked in the Ipswich mines at its peak, and thousands more relied on the local coalmining industry for their income. Working conditions in the underground coalmines were tough and sometimes dangerous, but generations of men in Ipswich were proud to call themselves coalminers. These men were tough, courageous, and shared a special camaraderie which was essential to working in that formidable environment. The miners and rescue workers who went down into the Box Flat Mine that day to try to extinguish the underground fire all exhibited those personal qualities.

I am hugely grateful to the Ipswich Historical Society for their commitment to honouring those brave men. Their dedication to preserving the memory of the Box Flat Mine disaster means that we will continue to honour and remember those men for many years to come.

Kingaroy Hospital

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (2.18 pm): When I met with nurses from the Kingaroy Hospital in early August I promised them I would continue to fight on their behalf to highlight the ongoing problems they are facing in their roles each and every day. I appreciate the nurses' decision to speak out. It is significant, and I thank them for sharing their personal experiences of working in our local

health system. Their only goal is to improve the level of care they are able to provide to their patients. Sadly, however, there are so many problems at the Kingaroy Hospital that they really and truly feel the safety of patients and staff is at risk.

I would like to list some of the issues that these nurses have told us about. There is no permanent security at the Kingaroy Hospital. The nurses have suffered physical, verbal and even sexual assault from patients. With no security, they tell me they feel extremely vulnerable and unsafe. There are ongoing concerns by the staff about the duress alarm system and its reliability. They do not know if the system works and this concern has been raised over and over since the new hospital was occupied. The nurses call code blacks but it has never been explained who will actually respond because there is no security. Does it fall to the wardsmen or does it fall to the local police? This is unclear and needs urgent attention. The Kingaroy Hospital needs that full-time security.

They tell me that there is chronic understaffing at the Kingaroy Hospital. A former nurse who spoke at the Kingaroy health crisis meeting conveyed her experience, saying she actually had to leave her nursing job at the hospital because continued staff shortages meant she simply could not provide the high level of care she aspired to and which her patients deserved. The inpatient ward is constantly under pressure to exceed their staffed bed capacity when patients need to be admitted from the ED. They simply do not have the staff-to-patient ratio they need. They say the lack of medical staff means some patients wait all day or even days to be seen by a doctor.

Hospital staff are burnt out, morale is low and many are on stress leave. The nurses tell me they simply cannot deal with the pressure much longer without an acknowledgement from the government that there are staff shortages at the Kingaroy Hospital. They need support. They are expected to complete all of their administrative tasks and undertake patient care. They say this is impossible, and I agree with them. There must be urgent action to fix this ongoing high number of short-staffed shifts.

While I am talking about the new hospital, I will talk about the fact that the short-stay unit at Kingaroy Hospital has never opened. There is flooding of the hospital when it rains and flooding from the bathrooms which have never drained properly. The entrance doors to the wards have to be manually opened, making it difficult for staff to manoeuvre beds and patients. There are broken doors and mental health rooms that do not lock. I ask the government to please listen to them. These nurses deserve answers.

Redlands Electorate



Ms RICHARDS (Redlands—ALP) (2.21 pm): Mental health matters, and we have been focused on improving the mental health of Redlanders. I have been working with a number of organisations and we have developed a piece of information that will be handy for them to have, and that will be hitting their letterboxes soon. I want to thank all of the organisations that have been working with me to put this together so we can share that important information.

I also want to thank the organisations that will be participating in our community and wellbeing day on Macleay Island. We have had some tragic incidents this year of young men suiciding, and we really hope this day helps to bring the community together and provide them with information that will help them access services. It will be good to have this strong community day together. All of the organisations—particularly the Redlands Suicide Bereavement Group, the Redlands Coast Suicide Prevention Network and headspace Capalaba—have been fantastic in helping to bring next Saturday's event together.

I want to give a shout-out to David McAnalen from Relationships Australia who came out to visit. He will also be joining us at the community day. His story is very powerful. He works with Relationships Australia in the gambling support area. I want to thank him for coming in and sharing his story and sharing all of the great work that he is doing, not only in the Redlands but also right across Queensland. I thank him for that.


I am very proud to have the YMCA youth vocational school and community hub in my electorate in Victoria Point. I want to give a huge shout-out to Chris Richards, who is the community coordinator there. They are also focused on creating a stronger community. We have a Youth Wellness Festival coming up on 21 September where there will be a whole range of organisations with a very big focus on our young people. I thank them for all that they are doing.

We have an event from 23 September to 3 October which is not to be missed. The Tide Festival will be running over a number of days across the Southern Moreton Bay Islands. The biggest event will be the Karragarra Sea Market. On a good day, provided it is not raining, I have seen thousands of people converge on this tiny island. They have put together a huge action-packed program. We have

a bit of a coup at that event with the Festival of Small Halls which will be showcasing for the first time in South-East Queensland. That will be terrific. The sunset opera on the bay will also be absolutely fantastic

To Jeremy Staples, who is working really hard coordinating all of these events, and to Shane Rendalls from the Southern Moreton Bay Islands Chamber, thank you for all that you are doing to bring this amazing festival to the Redlands. It is something our community is extraordinarily proud of. I cannot wait to see the five-day extravaganza of all things art and culture.

Callide Electorate, Maternity Services


 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (2.24 pm): I rise to speak about a matter that we would not think would be a reality in a First World developed nation. I have recently been informed that the last maternity ward in the entire electorate of Callide has been placed on bypass. This means that, of 14 hospitals, we have not one operational birthing unit. Yvette from Chinchilla had to go through the traumatic experience of giving birth by the side of the Warrego Highway due to the fact that the local maternity ward was not in operation. Her baby, Beatrix, literally has 'Warrego Highway' on her birth certificate.

Some might say that is because Chinchilla is a small town. Well, a couple of decades ago, Chinchilla had a fully functioning, well-staffed maternity ward. It had less than half the population it has today. We now have 7,000 people living in the town and thousands more in nearby communities. With the Biloela maternity ward now on bypass, thousands of mums from Central Queensland have the risk of the same thing happening to them. Members might say that they can travel to the next one up the road. Well, not if you live in Central Queensland because the next closest maternity ward at Gladstone is also on bypass.

A whistleblower recently told me that some of the trips up the Bruce Highway from Gladstone to Rockhampton Hospital have been 'hairy'. If that does not speak of the risks that these women are facing, I do not know what does. Mothers in labour should be able to remain in a safe environment at their local hospital. Instead, they are taking up the resources of our paramedics or risking having their family and friends rush them up the road. I would like to think that not one member of this House thinks this situation is satisfactory. At the end of the day, actions speak louder than words. This is an absolute disgrace, and it is appalling that the current government treat rural and regional Queenslanders with so much disdain that they refuse to maintain the bare basics of health services.

Fair and equitable health services formed a key part of my campaign, and I can assure the people of Callide that it is still a key part of what I am fighting for today as their new member for Callide. One day on the campaign trail, a mother who almost had the same experience as Yvette came to me and thanked me for taking up this fight. I can assure every new mum of Callide that I will keep fighting until we see fair and equitable health and maternity services returned to the bush. That is why I am calling on the Minister for Health to commit to restoring these services as a top priority.

Workforce Strategy


 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (2.27 pm): I rise to talk about the Queensland Workforce Strategy that has been released this week by the Labor government. I love this strategy and I look forward to speaking to our local businesses and schools about what this offers. One of the things I will talk about is what this plan is about. It is an overarching plan across the whole of government that will help deliver a range of solutions to help skill up the Queensland workforce. I will be outlining that there are \$70 million of new initiatives in this strategy which will help guide that \$1.2 billion we are spending this year to upgrade skills and make people ready for work. I will explain what this strategy aims to do—that is, to connect local businesses to local schools and governments to get that skilled workforce. I will explain that we will build a better workforce that will attract and retain skilled workers.

One of the things I would like to do is go out to local businesses to talk about the advantages of this strategy. I will talk to businesses such as Kennedy's Classic Aged Timbers in Narangba. I have spoken to Michael for many years about his issues with getting staff. He will take on anyone, but he needs people to work without a level of impairment on that heavy machinery he has. I am sure there will be advantages for him in this.

I will also talk to Patrick at Quality Plastic Products who have set up a new factory at Narangba, providing a range of innovative new products to the nursery industry. They really need skilled workers, especially toolmakers to make the dyes on their plastic-injected mould machines. I will also talk to Ian Buchanan at IB Town Planning. There is a huge demand for town planners in our area, but they really

need to have the skills and qualifications before they start work. I will be talking to them specifically about the programs in this strategy. I make mention specifically of the Workforce Connect Fund. That will increase investment in local projects, coming through local communities and local businesses to address the local shortages. I will talk to them about the Gateway to Industry Schools Program where we work with local schools on those pathways to work, and a shout-out to Deception Bay High School and North Lakes State College in my area that are really good RTOs and are pushing kids into a variety of professions. I will talk about the pre-apprenticeship program to make sure people are ready to make that leap into apprenticeships and to reduce the number of apprenticeship drop-outs. I look forward to chatting to everyone about this strategy.

Weapons Licensing

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (2.30 pm): The Weapons Licensing Branch has been underperforming for years. It does not matter if you already own a firearm or have a licence, the delays to renew or get a licence or a permit to acquire are ridiculous. The government knows there is a problem. In June's budget it announced 40 extra public servants to deal with the backlogs. That is 40 extra staff must be hired then trained which I hope does not mean more delays and shuffling paperwork.

Since the budget announcement, the time to process applications and permits has hit an all-time low. The branch advises that processing PTAs would take up to 50 days and, with fingers metaphorically crossed, an average of 31 days. New applications have increased by four weeks to a minimum 25 weeks or half a year. Licence renewals are frequently not processed within the mandatory 42 days. Ron Owen of Owen Guns advised me—

Every day we are fielding calls and physical inquiries from shooters who have been waiting many weeks for the PTA that has already cost them \$43 for each firearm.


The delays impact law-abiding landholders, small businesses of firearm dealers, pest controllers and regional communities. Many landholders and primary producers use firearms to deal with feral animals and pests such as wild dogs and pigs, to protect crops, and humanely euthanase animals. Firearms are a tool of trade. It is unconscionable that primary producers must jump through manufactured hoops to continue to use their tools of trade.

The branch is failing everyone it should service. Dealing with it is a nightmare. Processing paperwork should be a relatively straightforward process. The turnaround is unacceptable. Paperwork is frequently lost, addresses mixed up, requests for further information never arrive, and self-explanatory paperwork ignored. I have experienced it. I had seven days to provide further information to renew a licence. Within two days, I supplied the information via registered post, yet Weapons Licensing rang me saying it was not provided and would assess the request on the original application. Thankfully, I had the Australia Post receipt showing the time it was received.

Requesting further information is often a cover that nothing has been processed. Often applicants have clear evidence that information was provided, were advised their application is being processed, only to receive another request for the same information. COVID did not cause the delays. It is an excuse. It takes longer here than states which were more severely impacted.

In 2020, the government could not close gun shops quick enough. COVID was the cloak to unilaterally close licensed dealers and armourers, gave no notice to farmers, primary producers or affected businesses, and no explanation to the industry. It seems they did not know firearms are needed in the agriculture and pest control industries to manage properties and operate businesses. A properly resourced and efficient weapons licensing system is critical. The government must ensure the system works and that applicants are not done over by the bureaucracy.

Yarrabilba, TAFE

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (2.33 pm): I am really passionate to say that there is a real strong buzz that is happening around the Yarrabilba community and that is the buzz that comes from the new The Buzz community centre as well as the TAFE centre we visited. As a schoolteacher, I am hugely passionate about education, especially the education of students who do not necessarily need an academic degree to get the job and successful career they want within a whole variety of fields. That is why I am really passionate about TAFE.

It was great to be at The Buzz centre, the new community centre that we founded but council is managing, where there will be a new community TAFE that will connect those students, connect them especially to the Loganlea TAFE, the really big centre which is only 15 minutes away by bus. We made an extra \$2.3 million investment to build new observation rooms, new hospital wards and virtual labs,

as well as a great commitment to a virtual veterinary clinic where students can learn necessary skills. We are passionate about technical and further education, and this will build upon the new investment we have from the federal government. Finally we have a federal government which is interested in technical and further education and building the skills necessary for our future, unlike the previous government that was forgetting about it.

TAFE Queensland has secured a five-year lease at the new centre at Yarrabilba. As I said, it is called The Buzz. It is council-run but state government funded. It will connect students, sometimes the older students, building upon the health centre already there which is very much focused on younger students at primary school level, co-located at the Yarrabilba Primary School. This new centre is located directly between San Damiano College—the Catholic high school—and the Yarrabilba State Community College. It is a fantastic centre which will connect people to the jobs and skills they need.

I want to congratulate the Yarrabilba community which came together for a party to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of Yarrabilba as a community and the thousands of families who have moved in there and made their future. It certainly was a different type of buzz. As I looked around, I could see all the things that we as the state government had committed to and built for this community—not just The Buzz, but the McKinnon fields, the two high schools that I spoke about, the fantastic new performing arts centre at Yarrabilba State Secondary College, the new buildings at Yarrabilba State School that you could see up on the hill next to the iconic South Rock, as it is called, and the new ambulance station.

However, these things are under threat. We are a government that backs growing communities like Yarrabilba and the families and services they need, but growing communities get hurt when there is a government that comes in and cuts. The LNP, in their last term of government, cut. They did not build a single new classroom in the growing areas of Logan. We have built new schools. We have built new roads. They made cuts; we actually build.

Natural Disasters, Technology



Mr LAST (Burdekin—LNP) (2.36 pm): Today marks the first day of the new Australian Fire Danger Rating System, a recommendation of the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements. Queenslanders are not immune to bushfires or other natural disasters, and whilst we have now addressed our sovereign aerial firefighting capability, another of the recommendations of that royal commission, we cannot rest on our laurels.

Two roles of any government are to protect people from danger and to support Queensland businesses. Just yesterday Queensland company, Helitak, launched a new product that has the potential to protect Queenslanders from natural disasters and to help in the recovery effort. Today I am calling on this government to give due consideration to Helitak's capabilities when equipping Queenslanders for the next disaster they may face. While the previous version of Helitak's unique expandable underbelly tanks, fitted to Black Hawk helicopters in South Australia and Western Australia, were described as a 'capability boost for our hero firefighters', Helitak have not rested on their laurels. The unique sound of the tandem-rotor Chinook helicopter, or CH-47 as it is officially known, is familiar to many Queenslanders. In addition to their use on military operations, Chinooks are well-known in the north for their role in responding to disasters, including Cyclone Yasi. Their top speed of over 300km/h and huge payload enabled the fast transport of personnel and supplies when they were needed most.

Just yesterday, Helitak announced an upgrade in their life-saving offering and a new mission for the Chinook—firefighting. This turn-key firefighting platform will be equipped to carry over 11,000 litres of fire suppressant that can be refilled in under 60 seconds from rivers, creeks, dams or even swimming pools. That means less time on the ground refilling and more time fighting fires.

However, this amazing piece of machinery is not a one-trick pony. Helitak's underbelly tank can be installed on, or removed from, the Chinook in under 25 minutes. That means the Chinook can easily be refigured to carry up to 44 emergency responders, be used to transport equipment, or used for medevac purposes. Due to this flexibility, the Chinook platform can be used in the response to cyclones, flooding or a myriad of natural disasters.

Two things are undoubtable: firstly, Queenslanders will again stare down bushfires and other natural disasters, and Queensland should be incredibly proud to call Helitak one of their own. I want to pay tribute to Helitak's operations manager, Paul Blundell, for the work he has done and the amount of time and effort that that company has put into bringing this technology to Queensland, technology that we should be embracing.

Floods, Recovery Assistance; Brandham, Mr G



Mr McCALLUM (Bundamba—ALP) (2.39 pm): It is now September and that means that we are about to mark the grim milestone of six months since the devastating three-day rain bomb event that devastated my local community and many others across Queensland. In my community, the suburbs of Goodna and Bundamba were particularly heavy hit. Our local community is strong and resilient and our flood recovery is ongoing. Central to that is the \$741 million Resilient Homes Fund, the largest and most complex of its type in Australia.

Across Ipswich alone, a total of 466 people have registered under the fund—95 for house raising, 101 for a resilient retrofit and 181 for voluntary buyback. There are also 89 people who are understandably unsure about the best option for them and do want to take some more time to work through exactly what is going to suit their needs. Retrofit and buyback reports have been completed for more than 60 properties, and assessors and staff are continuing to work with our local flood victims.

I would like to say a massive thankyou to workers from the Queensland Reconstruction Authority, the Resilient Homes Fund and our department of public works who are out there working to assist our local community. Again I want to place on the record my acknowledgement of the incredible ongoing strength, spirit and determination of our impacted locals and our broader community who continue to provide support and solidarity. I would like to remind anyone with a flood-affected property in our community who has not already applied for the Resilient Homes Fund to do so as soon as possible. Of course, anyone can contact my office at any time for help.

Finally, I conclude today by offering my sincere condolences to the family and friends of long-time local Labor Party stalwart Glenn Brandham. Sadly, Glenn passed away recently. He was a familiar and friendly face around our local community. He volunteered on my campaigns. His passion, knowledge and sense of humour will be sadly missed, no more so than at our local Goodna branch meetings. My thoughts are with Glenn's wife, Sarina, and their children at this most difficult time. Vale Glenn Brandham.

Land and Water Use



Mr ANDREW (Mirani—PHON) (2.42 pm): One of the most important commitments I have as the member for Mirani is to stand up for the farmers in my area in any way I can. Over the past seven years we have seen farming in Queensland being slowly strangled by the Palaszczuk government, all brought to us courtesy of political technocrats with zero understanding of farming and zero empathy for farmers.


The increasing restrictions being put on farmers' land and water use are having a disproportionate impact on livestock farms that are low input, extensive systems with a light touch on the environment. Queensland beef farmers have been using improved farm management practices to reduce nutrient and chemical usage as well as farm run-off for over a decade now. Any further restrictions on their land and water use would critically undermine the industry's viability. Article 2 of the Paris Accord specifically prohibits countries from restricting food producers. This agreement aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change in a manner that does not threaten food production.

The government's net zero strategy has serious implications for all rights relating to land use and water. For a start, it will involve carpeting our rural and regional landscape with wind turbines and solar farms. A good example of that is Marlborough, and we are worried about the bat population there. This will devastate not only Queensland's visual environment but also the fertility of the land itself. Should the land later need to be reclaimed for farming, the cost of making it fertile again would be astronomical and could take years. The end result of this transition to net zero will be a decline in lifestyle and the transfer of people from low-density rural regions to crowded city suburban apartments. The implications go well beyond lifestyle, however. Farms are being taken out of production and feral pest populations are exploding. I can tell honourable members firsthand that I am getting rid of pigs every day. I should mention that if foot-and-mouth disease does get into Queensland, it is possible that farmers within a three-kilometre radius, depending on how it enters, would have to destroy all their livestock.

There are many concerns in regions over the increasing imposition and restrictions on living and working in reef catchment areas. For centuries the reef has experienced natural bleaching. This can be due to tropical cyclones or inland floods dumping tonnes of freshwater onto the reef. However, the reef always recovers. AIMS recently released that we have record coral growth. As someone who spends a lot of their time out there when they are not doing things with pest animals, I can vouch for that. I am always out there on the reef looking at what goes on.

At a time of economic decline in Queensland and right around the world with food shortages, broken supply chains and skyrocketing inflation, now is definitely not the time to crack down on farmers even more. We need to support our farmers. We need to make sure that our economic future is stable.

Halal Snack Pack; Bowel Cancer


 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (2.45 pm): I rise today to recognise a legendary dish topped with the holy trinity of garlic sauce, barbecue sauce and chilli sauce that makes up the glorious halal snack pack, or HSP. The halal snack pack is a delicious creation from our Muslim community that has become an iconic late-night feed all around Australia. For those who do not know what a HSP is, it is a layer of chips covered in a generous layer of kebab meat covered in a layer of cheese and then covered in your choice of three sauces. The former member for Stretton, our good friend Duncan Pegg, loved the HSP. Recently members of the Stretton community gathered together at the Islamic College of Brisbane to celebrate Duncan's memory by building Queensland's largest ever halal snack pack and also to raise money for Bowel Cancer Australia.

Thanks to the culinary expertise of Murat Coskun and the hardworking team at Sunshine Kebabs, we broke the previous Queensland record set in 2017. I am pleased to advise the House that we set a brand new record of 25 metres; that is 25 magnificent metres of chips, meat and sauce. If honourable members are ever in my part of town and looking for a feed Sunshine Kebabs will certainly deliver. It is just one of the many delicious food options in our multicultural community. Our shared love of food is often what brings us together. It was fantastic to see so many community members in attendance from all different backgrounds joining me and Peter Russo, the member for Toohey, enjoying the gigantic HSP and reminiscing on our fond memories of our late friend.

The proceeds from the HSP event were donated to Bowel Cancer Australia to help fund vital cancer research and treatment for patients. We raised over \$5,500 on the night. I also want to recognise the generous donation from the Pegg family. Duncan's brothers Graham Jr and Grant Pegg were in attendance. They presented a cheque to Bowel Cancer Australia nurses Nikki and Sally, who joined us on the night. It was great to recognise their hard work.

I point out to members that bowel cancer is the second deadliest cancer in Australia and we have one of the highest rates in the world. One in 15 Australians will develop the disease in their lifetime. The risk rises sharply once you hit 50 but, concerningly, cases of people under 50 have been rising. Almost 99 per cent of bowel cancer cases can be treated successfully when detected early. That is why it is important to know the symptoms and have them investigated if they persist. Thanks also to Ali Kadri and the team for hosting us at the Islamic College of Brisbane and for helping out on the night.

Early Childhood Education

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (2.48 pm): The early childhood education sector in Queensland is struggling. There are staff shortages and there is certainly no clear way forward under the Palaszczuk state Labor government. This week I have asked the Minister for Education what specific targets have been set in relation to the employment of new early childhood educators in Queensland. There needs to be clarity on what specific programs are yet to be funded and will be delivered by the Labor government. This needs to happen to ensure there is a sufficient and skilled workforce to support early childhood education and ensure that the needs of our children are being met.

This year's state budget papers revealed that not a single educational outcome metric was achieved across reading, writing and numeracy through years 3, 5, 7 and 9. The early years of a child's education are certainly the foundation for development, providing the building blocks for the future. New South Wales and Victoria have increased their funding by over a billion dollars to work with the sector to improve staff qualifications, overall numbers and capacity. The Queensland state budget was a missed opportunity to implement key reforms and also deliver a skilled workforce.

The Labor state government needs to work in genuine consultation with the sector; these are serious issues. Until December last year, if you were enrolled in an approved early childhood teaching qualification, under regulation 242 you could be employed while actively working towards the relevant qualification. From 31 December 2021 this provision was cancelled in Queensland, meaning that you must have completed your qualification prior to employment.

Queensland will be out of step with nearly every other state and territory in the country. They are keeping regulation 242 in effect until the end of December 2023, allowing the sector to grow their much needed workforce. Early childhood services are experiencing staff shortages across the board—not only qualified early childhood teachers but also diploma and certificate III qualified staff.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge Queensland's dedicated teacher aides during this week's Australian Teacher Aide Appreciation Week. As the Liberal National Party's shadow minister for education, I wish to extend my sincere congratulations to the Tallebudgera State School teacher aide team in the electorate of Currumbin who were today awarded the Australian Teacher Aide Team of the Year award. I know that the member for Currumbin, Laura Gerber, offers her congratulations, as does former education minister and member for Surfers Paradise John-Paul Langbroek.

In conclusion, as the shadow minister for the arts I wish to acknowledge a number of important events. It was a pleasure to attend last night's celebration of Queensland's classic arts here in the Queensland parliament. I know that the Minister for the Arts was there as well. Commencing this weekend, the Brisbane Festival will once again showcase the very best of Queensland's artistic and cultural communities. I look forward to attending the official opening tomorrow night as well as Riverfire on Saturday. Many other events will be held in the next little while. There will also be some terrific displays. Locally in the electorate of Moggill, I am delighted to again be sponsoring the fantastic ArtBurst Arts and Creative Fair being held in Kenmore this weekend.

Maryborough Electorate



Mr SAUNDERS (Maryborough—ALP) (2.51 pm): 25 August was a very special day for the Maryborough electorate. The Premier, the transport minister, the member for Hervey Bay and the mayor of the Fraser Coast Regional Council were all at Torbanlea, just outside of Maryborough. It was a fantastic day because we turned the first sod for the train factory. I congratulate the minister, who is in the chamber today. This is a purpose-built state owned facility to build trains for Cross River Rail and for the Olympics. This is a great boost for our community. Not only is it a great boost for jobs; it is also a great boost for skills and for our schools. The principal of Maryborough State High School, Simon Done, unfortunately could not make the event because he was attending a conference, but he said—

This will provide crucial links for our students to future local industry ... Our school has a proven track record of working with industry in health, hospitals and education. We are proud to add engineering and other manufacturing industries for opportunities for our students. The creation of a vital link for students to be able to visualise their future career path, while still studying at school, will be a game changer for our students ...

That is what the Palaszczuk government have been doing. We are linking Maryborough State High School with the train factory so that students will be able to go to school and train. They have a career path, which means they will not have to leave the region.

These trains are Queensland trains, made by Queenslanders for Queenslanders. In my electorate we like to call them 'the maroon train', because parts come from right around Queensland. This government is creating jobs right throughout Queensland. There will be around 3,000 jobs created with this project—800 in Torbanlea, Maryborough and the Fraser Coast area and 3,000 around Queensland. This is in addition to the apprentices and the school students involved in the partnership with Maryborough State High School. It is all 'go, go, go' in the Maryborough electorate. That is because the Palaszczuk Labor government has been reviving the city of Maryborough since 2015.

There are also roadworks happening in the Maryborough electorate. The Bruce Highway flood mitigation work is progressing very well in spite of all of the setbacks due to rain. The crew are doing a fantastic job. I thank the minister for the great roadworks happening in the area. The fireies are in the new station and the trucks are there. The brand new fire station is made out of a timber grown and produced locally, and a lot of local workers were used in the construction of the fire station. It looks really good. I thank Minister Mark Ryan for that. It is all happening in the Maryborough electorate!

Bundaberg, Anzac Park Memorial Pool



Mr BENNETT (Burnett—LNP) (2.54 pm): I make a desperate plea this afternoon on behalf of the people of Bundaberg to save the Anzac Park Memorial Pool. Bundaberg has seen Works for Queensland money invested in this project. I am not speaking against the new swimming pool; I am talking about the lack of consultation around the demolition. Bulldozing contracts have been awarded. My desperate plea is for the Deputy Premier and the member for Bundaberg to work with the community to make sure we can somehow honour those brave men and women who fought through both great wars to preserve their memorial pool and have it enshrined in the new development and, more importantly, to do this respectfully with the people who feel they have been ignored.

Despite months of community pushback, huge cost blowouts and a heritage application being lodged, we have not heard about anything that will protect this vital piece of our history. In the eleventh hour, I again call on the Deputy Premier to please talk to the people of Bundaberg and put a halt to the demolition work so we can work together on what the project should look like.

It is not about banning the project altogether; it is about consulting with the community to honour the sacrifice the Australian soldiers have made by protecting this classic piece of architecture. The pool is a living memorial. It is a symbolic reference to the community's involvement in both world wars, thousands of children have learned to swim in this Anzac pool and it is a training ground for local Olympians—a place where Rosemary Lässig set her first world record before she swam for Australia in Rome in 1956. To see it destroyed would be a disgrace and a disrespectful blow to our veterans and our community. It is time that we do step in to really get this right. Again, this is a desperate plea and a last-ditch effort to save the pool.

After months of pushback, we know that this project will inevitably go forward but, as I said earlier, it is about making sure it is enshrined as part of our future. I have said before that we do not want to abandon the project altogether. I am not against the new pool; what I am against is destroying this living memorial. I am standing up for those people in the community who have had to petition and work on social media to have their voices heard. It is important. I know that the veterans in our area have been vocal about the possible demolition of this pool. As time goes on, we have to acknowledge that it would not be reasonable for Works for Queensland money to be associated with the destruction of something as important as a memorial pool.

All levels of government have a role to play in this project and I acknowledge the state government's funding. That is the reason that I think the Deputy Premier can and should use his powers to involve the people of Bundaberg in a solution for what the memorial pool should look like as this new development goes forward. I say to the member for Bundaberg and the Deputy Premier: let's work together to ensure the memorial pool can be respected into the future.

Greenslopes Electorate



Mr KELLY (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.57 pm): I start by disagreeing with the member for Maryborough: it is not all happening in Maryborough. There is plenty happening in Greenslopes, and I want to tell the House about it.

Last year Holland Park State High School turned 50. I would love to have had a present for them, but it was so big that it took me a year to wrap! For their 51st birthday this year, we are delivering \$18 million worth of infrastructure build at that school. This is the first significant infrastructure built at that school since it was opened 51 years ago. It is almost as old as me!

They are going to receive a new manual arts block. They will take the old manual arts block and turn it into a dedicated space for year 7s. They are turning another building into a wellness centre, where GPs, nurses, social workers and chaplains will all be located. They are also refurbishing their catering block. It will become a cafe to be used for training and for students. It is really exciting for Holland Park State High School, that is for sure! It is a great school in my electorate.

Just around the corner we have Nursery Road State Special School, where just last week we opened an \$11 million building. It is an administrative block and a senior classroom space. It continues the ongoing investment in Nursery Road State Special School. I fought hard for sporting facilities and, the first time ever, we now have sporting facilities in that school. Now we have new classrooms and an administrative block. It is really exciting.

Earlier I said that our government has achieved an unemployment rate of 3.8 per cent. We have done that through investing in infrastructure. It is not just schools. I see the Minister for Housing in the chamber. Very soon we will have 11 new apartments opening in Steele Street, Holland Park specifically for older Queenslanders. This is a great investment in our area. It has created employment. Those workers will soon be moving on to the next project, as we have a record investment in housing. I see the Minister for Transport in the chamber. We have recently opened the underpass under O'Keefe Street. This makes a huge difference, getting kids to and from Buranda State School much more safely and getting people in parts of Coorparoo active and really well connected through to the veloway. The Ukrainian Community of Queensland has received a \$50,000 sustainability grant, so it is putting in solar panels and batteries. That is a really fantastic outcome for that organisation.

As members can see, our government continues to invest in the electorate of Greenslopes. It is all happening there. We are creating good jobs, better services and a great lifestyle with all of these investments—by investing in schools, public transport, housing, sustainability and clean energy. These are all the ways we are making our community better, safer and brighter.

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Before I call the member for Redlands, I remind members not to cross between the chair and the table. Thank you.



Ms RICHARDS (Redlands—ALP) (3.01 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the Education, Employment and Training Committee Report No. 15, 57th Parliament, *Inquiry into the operation of the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990*, tabled on 31 January 2022.

I am really excited to be talking about trading hours again this sitting week. It was great to see how quickly our government moved on the findings of the inquiry in delivering legislation to ensure that we continue to support our retail sector. This report was a summary of the Education, Employment and Training Committee's inquiry into the operation of the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990. The inquiry was referred from the Legislative Assembly on 14 September 2021. The committee was provided with the terms of reference and our task was to inquire into and report on the operation of the act, in particular the impact of amendments made by the Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendment Act 2017.

During the inquiry process we travelled the state. The committee heard from key stakeholders representing retailers, retail workers, local governments, chambers of commerce, tourism groups and small business owners. As in the previous review done by John Mickel—and I said this last week when we were debating the legislation—there were quite divergent views on retail trading hours arrangements, but on the whole it was very evident that the review done by Professor John Mickel and the Trading Hours Review Reference Group really unscrambled an egg, with over 99 different sets of trading hours orders refined down. We took the opportunity to enhance that just a little bit more and create a really solid and stable set of consistent trading hours across Queensland. The recommendation was to ensure that we could never scramble that egg again in multiple trading hours orders.

I thank all of the stakeholders who participated in the public hearings that we conducted in Cairns, Mossman, Townsville and Brisbane—we met with a whole range of stakeholders—and at those regional hearings a lot of people had come from quite a distance to participate, so I thank them for that. This is also a really good opportunity to again thank our retail workers who did an amazing job and continue to do an amazing job throughout the COVID pandemic. They really did keep the food on the table and the toilet paper in our toilets. These businesses and their hardworking employees make a significant contribution to our Queensland economy. I was really pleased that within the nine recommendations included in the inquiry report, all of which were subsequently adopted in the legislation passed last week, we sought to enhance protection for workers in terms of being asked to work extended hours. On the whole, all nine recommendations were clearly accepted by government and have already been implemented. I am not sure how the opposition will go in the balance of this debate, but I remind it that the statement of reservation provided within both the inquiry report and within the trading hours legislation debated last week was more a statement of support of those recommendations and what the Palaszczuk government has done in delivering a really solid set of trading hours that will ensure that our retailers will continue to flourish into the future.

On behalf of the committee, I again thank all of the individuals, businesses and organisations that made written submissions or otherwise contributed to our understanding of the issues in this inquiry. As I said, the views were extraordinarily divergent. I think we have the balance right in terms of providing that opportunity for navigation between those categories into the future using the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission as the independent arbiter in making those decisions to ensure that it is a robust and rigorous process in terms of any manoeuvring within those categories and with regard to those special events. I thank the Office of Industrial Relations and the Department of Education for their support throughout the inquiry and during debate of the legislation.



Ms SIMPSON (Maroochydore—LNP) (3.05 pm): I am delighted to rise to speak on this committee report even though the legislation has already passed through the House with debate on a number of the provisions. We understand that there is broad support around the major aspects, but the continuing concern that we have is to ensure that there is a recognition that small businesses have particular needs that are different from those who have significant market share and the power of the big purse to knock out the small players. They will say that they are doing that in competition, but a few years down the track there is no competition and there will be de facto monopolies in communities.

Mrs Gerber: The debate was guillotined.

Ms SIMPSON: Yes, the debate was guillotined, so there were many who wanted to contribute but who lost the opportunity because this government loves to gag debate and limit the opportunity for members from their respective regions to speak

People may ask why it is that in this day and age there are laws around regulating trading hours. They may ask whether in this day and age that is really in the interests of the customer and of business. We believe that there is a public need—there is a public case—for good regulation that ensures that there is the opportunity for people to flourish while running their businesses and to compete but to have a fair go. There is also a recognition that small to medium-sized businesses do not have that firepower of the purse that the big guys do, but they are deeply embedded in their communities. Therefore, there is an overwhelming public need to recognise that and to acknowledge that the dollars that are spent through their businesses—the profits that come from every part of their turnover—that go back into the community are of benefit to that community. We see it, as has been acknowledged by members, in sporting organisations and community organisations.


More than that, it is about services. Outside the big smoke and outside the city areas and the more intensely developed areas we find that running a business has an extra challenge in terms of the challenges of distance and the challenges of a supply chain. Everyone has supply chain issues these days in industry but even more so outside the areas that have shorter supply chains and shorter times to deliver to the market. The challenges of those additional costs not only for those who are supplying the services but also for those who are seeking to acquire the benefit of those services has to be acknowledged. Therefore, there has to be acknowledgement that there is a public need, and that is why there continues to be a case for regulating trading hours. We acknowledge that the independent arbiter process gives people the opportunity in law to go in armed and to put their case, but once again the big guys often have the benefit of the financial means and advice—

Mr Krause interjected.

Ms SIMPSON: Yes, they can get the big lawyers to make their case, so I would say that they would not always be on an equal footing to those who are in small business who do not have the benefit of being able to employ copious people in those roles.

I am concerned that the 12-month extension of certain provisions is not longer. It was our recommendation that there should be a five-year extension. I appreciate that the government has said that COVID has had an impact but that things have settled down. The word on the street is they have not—in fact, the very opposite. What we are seeing now are more businesses that have managed to hold on through some strenuous and disruptive times who have now run out of cash, run out of staff and are on the brink and teetering into insolvency. That is occurring across a number of industries. While there is a positive story in relation to some businesses in some industries, unfortunately that is not the case everywhere. I fear that we will see greater numbers of insolvencies in the near future. Therefore, government should do all that it can to ensure there is good regulation that supports rather than hinders, that helps rather than hurts, that recognises that small- and medium-sized businesses in particular have a case for government listening and enabling rather than overburdening them with process hoops they have to jump through every few years because they do not have the same level of resources.


I acknowledge that provisions were made for particular industries. People ask why the car industry should not be open on Sundays. They put a very good case that there would not be extra turnover, it was the same amount of commission with extra costs, and that is why those provisions have not been accepted at this stage. We want to see a level playing field that is fair to the small guys.

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (3.10 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Education, Employment and Training Committee's report No. 15 of the 57th Parliament. As a member of the Education, Employment and Training Committee we reviewed the trading hours across the state. We received 28 submissions from retail and business peak bodies, unions and retailers. We held hearings across the state, in Brisbane, Cairns, Mossman, Mount Isa and Townsville, with 47 witnesses giving evidence at seven public hearings. The committee understands that different locations have very different requirements and it was good to listen to people from the different areas around the state. There were also public briefings by the Department of Education, Office of Industrial Relations.

From the information that was provided through the consultation process we made nine recommendations and, in part, the committee recommended that the act be amended to refine the process for consideration of special events applications by the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission. It also recommended where there is a special event approved by the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission, that the commission has the power to make an order supporting staff

voluntary work requirements; and the categories of non-exempt shops core trading hours be reduced to four categories, the South-East Queensland area was unchanged, the tourism area amended to include Mossman and Port Douglas tourist areas; regional areas; and other areas. There was strong support from submitters for no changes to trading hours for hardware stores and those selling motor vehicles or caravans. There were also no changes to the definition of an independent retail shop. We recommended the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990 be extended for an additional 12 months to 31 August 2023 and we also recommended that Mossman and Port Douglas be included in the tourism area.

In 2021 across Queensland there were approximately 266,000 retail employees, approximately 10 per cent of total employment in the state. The retail industry is the second largest employer after health and we need to ensure that we balance the needs of retailers and that of their employees, and I believe this report addresses that. I thank my fellow committee members and the secretariat, in particular our chair, the member for Redlands. I commend the report to the House.


 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (3.13 pm): I rise to give my contribution to the inquiry into the operation of the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990. As a member of the Education, Employment and Training Committee I was blessed to be able to get out on the road with not only the committee members, the chair and deputy chair of the committee, but also to travel all the way up and down the state to get a real understanding of how the moratorium had affected them and how changes to the moratorium would affect their businesses moving forward. There were 28 submitters who wrote in to the committee and we went through those in detail. Most were in favour of leaving things the way they were.

We went out on tour to meet with those communities at places like Cairns, Townsville, Mount Isa and Mossman to get a real understanding of what was different in these places. Under the moratorium as it stood, some places had seven-day trading, some did not. It was interesting to find out that in most of those places that had seven-day trading shops had chosen not to open for as long as they could. Every community is different. We found that small regional towns that thrived without seven-day trading quite enjoyed the fact that the smaller IGAs or the FoodWorks or those independent grocers had an opportunity to have a day of trading without having to compete with the larger supermarket chains.

The people in Mount Isa in particular were quite vocal in wanting to leave things as they were. There were, of course, people who were supportive of change. The Mount Isa Association were interested in extending seven-day trading so that Woolworths and Coles could open to allow people who were staying out in caravan parks and places like that to come in to do their shopping. I do not know how that benefits the local community.

The member for Traeger put up a decent argument when he addressed the committee. I acknowledge the member for Traeger's support for the small- and medium-sized businesses that operate in the Mount Isa area. Those are the small businesses that continue to give back to our small towns, to sponsor the football and soccer clubs, and employ locals in large numbers. The two supermarket chains continue to work towards automation such as checkouts without people working in them. This is detrimental to workers and jobs in the regions. I cannot see how this would help them into the future.

While I am on my feet, I acknowledge that I put in a statement of reservation to the committee report and we did move amendments when the legislation was being debated in parliament to have the moratorium extended another five years, not the 12 months that was in the original recommendation of the report. We have been through COVID. Some of our small businesses just treaded water. The bigger supermarkets have had an opportunity to shift during those COVID times because they had the capital to do so, whether it was click and collect or deliveries or automation through automated checkouts. The smaller retailers did not have the ability to do that. The five-year moratorium was to give those small businesses an opportunity to galvanise their place in the market. With the disruption we have had over the last two and a half years I feel they have not had a fair run. I put in a statement of reservation on behalf of KAP and made sure that the committee knew exactly where we stood before we got into the debate. KAP will continue to back small- and medium-sized businesses in regional Queensland because we believe they are the backbone of our communities.

 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—ALP) (3.19 pm): Madam Deputy Speaker Bush, it is great to receive the call from my north-side neighbour. I rise to note the committee report into the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990 as a member of the Education, Employment and Training Committee. I am really pleased to see that this legislation has already progressed through the House. Obviously, this is a very productive government and a very effective parliament.

The report was the product of an extensive and robust committee investigation and research. In particular, given the very specific issues raised in the various regimes across the state, it was really great that the committee was determined and able to get to the regions impacted and to speak to the people on the ground. I thank the many stakeholders who participated right throughout the process. As the member for Hinchinbrook indicated, that included public hearings in Cairns, Mossman, Mount Isa, Townsville and, of course, here in Brisbane. I place on the record an acknowledgement of the very strong community focus and engagement that was at the core of our investigation throughout the process.

I went through the legislation in some detail during the substantive debate on the bill itself so I will not repeat those key points. I reiterate that I am very proud to be part of a government that is delivering this legislation, based on the committee report that we speak to today. It simplifies trading hours arrangements across the state, strengthens protections for employees in the retail sector, particularly vulnerable workers in the retail sector, and ensures stability for stakeholders and industry by clarifying how the QIRC will make decisions on these issues into the future.

I take this opportunity to briefly thank the retail workers for the extraordinary role they played in getting us through the past couple of years and the worst of the pandemic. In my local community of Stafford and right across the state, retail workers played a crucial role. Quite literally, they kept food on our tables. On behalf of my family and my community, I thank them all and I will continue to stand by them.

I recognise the work of the Hon. John Mickel, going back a long way to 2016, which led to legislative reform in 2017 and which is really the genesis of the report before the House today and the legislation that we have progressed through the House. I thank the departmental staff from those days and those who helped us through the current reform process, both for the information and briefings they provided us centrally through the department here as well as for supporting the chair, the committee and the secretariat on the road through our extensive community and regional engagement. I really appreciate that support.

Thank you to the chair for her hard work. She does a great job and is a very inclusive leader of our committee. I thank the other committee members. We have a pretty collegiate approach, particularly when we are out on the road. I recognise the work of the secretariat, parliamentary staff and Hansard not only through their regular roles in terms of a committee report but also for the absolute matrix that was this regional roadshow. It was a particularly busy time in the lead-up to Christmas last year. I took the chance in the substantive debate to thank them and I thank them again for their extraordinary work at that time.

I look forward to the new regime being rolled out across the state now that the legislation has been introduced and passed. I think it provides a great framework for the sector and a strong future for Queensland.




Mr BOOTHMAN (Theodore—LNP) (3.21 pm): I too rise to talk about the Education, Employment and Training Committee's report No. 15 on our inquiry into the operation of the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990. From the outset I thank my fellow committee members. Certainly it was an interesting time. As the member for Hinchinbrook said, we travelled to many parts of Queensland including Mossman, Cairns, Townsville and Mount Isa and we also held hearings in Brisbane.

The inquiry highlighted the simple fact that the economies of scale in the south-east corner are very different to those in regional areas. For example, as I alluded to in my speech on the bill itself, Cairns was hit heavily during the COVID period. The member for Southern Downs and I walked through the city and spoke to operators in cafes and gift shops. We wanted to find out how they were affected by the COVID lockdowns, how they are getting back on their feet and also about obviously the impacts of trading hours. We found that a lot of those individuals are just coming through one of the scariest times of their lives when they were not sure if they would be forced to close their businesses because of a lack of customers. They were literally living day by day. That is why the opposition moved some amendments about extending the moratorium to five years, to give those businesses certainty.

Another issue that we found related to Mount Isa. I want to allude to some comments that were made during the committee process. It was suggested that a lot of small corner stores could not get newspapers; only the large supermarkets could get newspapers delivered. If the market is fairly distributed then even small businesses should be able to operate on an even playing field. It shows that, unfortunately, in those areas the bigger supermarkets certainly have a leg-up and that causes the small operators deep concern.

The member for Maroochydore alluded to the fact that many small operators give a lot back to their communities. In my speech on the bill I spoke about a local business in my electorate, Bakers Delight at Oxenford. Recently they baked all the bread and bread rolls for the local Guanaba Rural Fire Brigade's family fun day. That was a very kind donation. There was a lot of bread. My ute was completely full of bread and bread rolls. The Guanaba Rural Fire Brigade put on a sausage sizzle and cooked cheeseburgers for their family fun day. A lot of people from the community came to support the Guanaba Rural Fire Brigade. That shows how small businesses are very much in touch with and look after their local communities. We need to do everything we can to ensure their viability going forward.

While my local SPAR is in a very different situation to similar shops in, say, Mount Isa, it has to compete against the big end of town, which regularly tries to undercut it on prices in every way, shape and form. That makes things very difficult so the SPAR tries to reinvent itself all the time. The issue we have is that the rural and regional towns potentially do not have a workforce with specialist skills such as specialist bakers and pastry chefs have. That makes it extremely difficult for a SPAR or a FoodWorks in places like Mount Isa. We need to make sure that there is an even playing field going forward, because the big end of town is nowhere near as supportive as are my local businesses. As we heard during the committee process, they are nowhere near as supportive as businesses in Mount Isa that regularly give to local sporting clubs. We need to explore every avenue possible to protect small businesses.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (3.26 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Education, Employment and Training Committee's inquiry into the operation of the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990. The inquiry was held to review the amended trading hours arrangements for Queensland. The act required the minister to undertake a review into trading hours before the end of the five-year moratorium period lapses. Given that we have already debated the legislation, it feels a little unusual to be coming back in here to debate the committee report. Under normal circumstances, the committee report would be debated and then we would proceed to the government's response and the legislation.

A small business owner from Roma who operates a FoodWorks wrote to me about this inquiry. I will highlight a couple of things that she said, as I believe her concerns echo what many family and small businesses across my electorate are thinking in relation to the changes that have come forward from the government. The letter states—

Further deregulation of trading hours ... will harm our business and small business in Queensland.

Any further liberalisation of trading hours should be voted against to protect small business—a major employer in this state.

The letter further states—

Change to trading hours will impact our suppliers and vendors—they too will be casualties (adding to unemployment and failed small businesses).

As that business owner pointed out, not only will they feel the impacts; job losses will be felt throughout the entire supply chain of family and small businesses. In my electorate, family and small businesses are the providers of many jobs.

I thank the Balonne Shire Council for collating a list of vacancies in the shire. There are three pages of vacant jobs. I do not have enough time to read them all so I will table that list for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'List to Table for Trading Hours' [[1264](#)].


I counted over 60 businesses that are seeking staff in the Balonne shire. Some of those have multiple vacant positions and some are employers seeking young people for apprenticeships and traineeships. To put that into context, there are about 4,300 residents in the Balonne Shire Council, which is only one council in my electorate. I have another six who all have a similar number of vacancies in their shires.

These family and small businesses are the powerhouse of local economies in electorates like my electorate of Warrego. They want more staff. They certainly do not want the goalposts moved on them by the state Labor government in relation to trading hours. Sadly, the Labor government has done this. The government did not support our amendments to the legislation. In about 12 months we will see changes to trading hours.

In the statement of reservation LNP members raised a very valid concern in relation to lifestyle impacts and the impact on the mental wellbeing of employees due to the lack of childcare services outside the typical working week. Concerns raised regarding the lack of suitable childcare availability on weekends appear to be quite valid, particularly for single-parent families. It is not just on weekends that there is a lack of child care and it affects not just single-parent families. The availability of child care

in rural and regional areas is at a premium on all work days. There are many women who do not go to work because they simply cannot get child care—hairdressers, admin staff and professional people who simply cannot get access to affordable child care. Therefore, they cannot go to work in their local community. They do not have the option of going to the next suburb, because that might be 200 kilometres away and is simply not practical. Some mums have told me that they have put their children into child care in Oakey. They drive two hours a day to put their children into child care just so they can work in Dalby—so they can get back into the workforce and keep their skills. That is a huge impost on them.

With any change to trading hours there will be a greater demand on childcare services. There will be many families and employers who simply will not cope. It will become far too difficult for them and they will be lost in communities. They are valuable employees. Many employees are casuals. Many employee interest groups are concerned that these workers are vulnerable to the pressure on them to work additional hours. Quite frankly, regional Queenslanders deserve better from this state Labor government.

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (3.32 pm): I wanted to speak on this topic during the last sitting week; however, the debate of the bill was guillotined and I was not allowed to. I will talk about the committee report even though now it cannot change the outcome because the bill has been passed. I supported the amendments moved by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition during the debate. During the debate, the LNP opposed the provisions implementing committee recommendations 2, 7 and 9. The reason we opposed those recommendations is that small and family business are our nation's biggest employer and generator of economic activity and growth, and they deserve a fair go when it comes to trading hours. In fact, evidence provided to the committee by the chairman of the Queensland IGA state board indicated that grocery sales by independent retailers result in greater employment of staff than identical grocery sales by the large retailers such as Woolworths, Coles and Aldi.

I am so proud to be able to support two local family owned IGAs in Currumbin—one in Currumbin Waters and one in Tugun. Both of these fantastic local businesses support our community not just by employing our young people but also by giving back. The Lions hold barbecues out the front of those IGAs, and the IGAs support many charity events right across the electorate. The vibrancy of our communities would be dulled if small independent retailers closed down because they no longer are viable.

It is my personal view that the government should act to level the playing field and protect small retailers from the market power of huge businesses such as Coles, Woolworths and Aldi. That does not mean that big businesses such as Coles and Woolworths are not important parts of our community. They are very important. Big supermarkets give locals a job. My sister works for Woolworths and has done so for many years. We rely on them for our day-to-day needs, but small and family businesses cannot compete with the market power that big retailers such as Coles and Woolworths wield.

Submissions on this to the committee were wideranging. In its submission the CCIQ said that the trading hours legislation, which has now been passed, is too complex. I agree. In my view, we need to see a focus on reducing the regulatory burden right across government, but the changes mean removed protections for small and family businesses. That is not really the answer to the problem. Given that red tape and regulatory barriers are one of the biggest and greatest concerns raised by Queensland small and family businesses, it is disappointing that from this government we saw a lack of focus on regulatory reform.

Of all of the submissions, perhaps the most significant for the LNP was the one from Master Grocers Australia. In fact, it shaped the amendments that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition moved in the House when the legislation was debated. It is really disappointing for our small and family businesses that the Labor government did not support our amendments. Master Grocers said that it believes that small and family grocery retailers will be forced to cease trading should committee recommendations 2, 7 and 9 be adopted, which of course we know they were. They further submitted that the pause contained within section 59 is not extended for a meaningful period due to their inability to compete with the major national supermarket chains. Twelve months is far too short and far short of what Master Grocers Australia and the IGA representative bodies for northern New South Wales and Queensland asked for. That is why the LNP opposed the provisions that committee recommendations 2, 7 and 9 asked for, and that is why we sought to extend the moratorium extension from the proposed one year to five years.

The five-year moratorium is an acknowledgement that the trading conditions over the past 2½ years have been significantly disrupted due to COVID. It would have been a commonsense measure to remove uncertainty for small and family businesses at a time when they are just starting to

get back on their feet. I do not think that was too much to ask for. It was really disappointing that the Labor government did not support our amendment in that respect. It tells me that sometimes the government just pays lip-service to supporting small and family businesses. The LNP will always stand up for our small and family businesses. That is why we moved those amendments. Labor did not support them.

The LNP—and only the LNP—is the party of small and family businesses. It is in our DNA. Many on this side, as has already been noted, run their own small and family businesses. That is why we on this side of the House understand small and family businesses. That is why we proposed those amendments. It was really disappointing that the Labor government did not support them. That tells us on this side of the House that the Labor government does not stand up for small and family businesses, because it would have been really easy for the government to accept those amendments and extend the moratorium to acknowledge the tough times that our small and family businesses have faced over COVID. However, the government did not do it. They did not do it out of petty politics. I will always stand up for my small and family businesses.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.


Motion agreed to.

ECONOMICS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

Resumed from 18 August (see p. 2195), on motion of Mr Power—

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.

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (3.41 pm): I rise as a non-government member of the Economics and Governance Committee to speak to the report titled *Inquiry into the report on the strategic review of the functions of the Integrity Commissioner*. That review was undertaken by Mr Kevin Yearbury. In his report Mr Yearbury made 27 recommendations relating to three key areas: the Integrity Commissioner's advisory function to MPs and other designated persons; maintenance of the lobbying register; and the overall performance of functions and organisational requirements of the office.

At the outset I note that Mr Yearbury's report contained a number of concerning comments made by the outgoing integrity commissioner in relation to her role. In fact, when asked if the commissioner would support a royal commission into integrity issues in Queensland she said, 'I would support a commission of inquiry into various matters.' This is alarming. Despite a commission of inquiry in Queensland carrying with it the same protections as a royal commission, the government decided to play games and deny that the commissioner had called for one.

The commissioner's statement, together with several other comments she made during the inquiry, clearly indicates that more needs to be done to ensure transparency, integrity and accountability in Queensland. During the public hearing the commissioner provided some very concerning evidence including: the lack of resourcing prevented her from maintaining an independent confidential service; she could not guarantee that confidential information she held had not been compromised by a public sector entity; there was name-calling and bullying of the integrity commissioner by another senior officer; and she had concerns about the controls of the Integrity Commissioner's office resources, assets and phone records.

It is vital that the position and office of the Integrity Commissioner be truly independent, deeply respected and adequately resourced. The matter of resourcing was a particular focus of the inquiry and concern for committee members when it was revealed that the demand for advice from the Integrity Commissioner since the 2015 strategic review had increased by a massive 250 per cent.

During her 4½-year tenure, the outgoing integrity commissioner provided ethical advice on 954 occasions and advice on lobbying matters on 92 occasions. This compares with a total of 573 occasions over the course of the previous 17 years. These numbers are impossible to miss. It beggars belief that this unacceptable workload was ignored. Why did the Premier wait to hear from the legislated five-year strategic review to ensure the optimal functioning of one of the most important roles in parliamentary accountability?


The committee heard that the influence of lobbyists also concerned the previous integrity commissioner, particularly during election periods, which comes as no surprise. Even the CCC concurs that this period of time warrants extra oversight. While Mr Yearbury recommended more information

about the nature of meetings with lobbyists be included in ministerial diaries, a number of stakeholders raised concerns that the current definition of 'lobbyist' does not capture a large portion of the lobbying that takes place in Queensland.

Hawker Britton, a government relations firm, said the current system allows for failures of transparency and accountability as it does not cover a large system of engagement of in-house government relations specialists, unregistered consultants and a murkier category of government contracted consultants retaining external clients. The other problem of course is that lobbyists influence staff who can then influence ministers and nowhere is this information captured and required to be revealed.

Similarly, the Coaldrake review report titled *Review of culture and accountability in the Queensland public sector* was released in June. While it was not considered in detail by this committee, it does outline similar issues raised by the former integrity commissioner. Unfortunately, the Coaldrake review fell short of being a commission of inquiry and therefore did not have the powers and protections needed to encourage public interest disclosures. However, it did report some similar concerns. Some of these concerns were: the influence of lobbyists on decision-making; the overreach of some ministerial staff and their lack of accountability; the erosion of functions designed to hold government to account such as the Auditor-General; and the increased use of outside consultants and the subsequent loss of capacity in the public service.

This is how Labor hide their con. Those opposite would have us believe that they have bolstered the public service, but we all know the biggest investment has been made in the Premier's spin doctor factory and not on bolstering the front line. We only have to look at the multiple crises gripping our police, paramedics, nurses and teachers for evidence of this. This tired third-term Labor government uses taxpayers' money to generate enough smoke and mirrors to fool Queenslanders.

 **Mr TANTARI** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (3.42 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on report No. 26 of the Economics and Governance Committee titled *Inquiry into the report on the strategic review of the functions of the Integrity Commissioner*. The Economics and Governance Committee has a monitoring and review role in relation to the performance of functions of the Queensland Integrity Commissioner. The Integrity Commissioner review was conducted by Kevin Yearbury PSM as a part of a rolling five-year review requirement for this role. The scope of the review undertaken mainly focused on aspects of how the role was to be performed, with the terms of reference requiring the reviewer to look at a range of measures that were to have regard to the functions of the Integrity Commissioner.

In reviewing the report, the Economics and Governance Committee noted the fact that the review made many recommendations in key areas. They included the Integrity Commissioner's advisory, lobbying regulation and public awareness functions as well as the performance and organisational arrangements supporting the Integrity Commissioner. The committee also noted the strategic review also found that the scope of the Integrity Commissioner's functions and responsibilities had expanded since the passing of the Integrity Act and the number of persons eligible to seek advice from the Integrity Commissioner had grown significantly.


The role of the Integrity Commissioner has been in public focus during the time of this review. The reason for that has been a shameful period the people of Queensland had to endure because the LNP used the Integrity Commissioner review period to smear the government with allegations of involvement in a Public Service process, involving staff turnover in the Integrity Commissioner's office. As it has come to pass, following an investigation into the allegations of disclosure of confidential information at the office of the Integrity Commissioner, the CCC has, in its own words, concluded that the allegations had regrettably attracted a substantial amount of misinformation. Due to this misinformation and to protect the office of the Integrity Commissioner as well as keep public confidence in it without further erosion by these false and misleading allegations, the CCC considered releasing a public report necessary.

As an Economics and Governance Committee member reviewing the functions of the Integrity Commissioner, I was alarmed and very concerned that the CCC had to take this stance. Further to that, in relation to three matters the CCC investigated, the CCC clearly stated that there was no evidence of improper disclosure, the description of raid and seizure did not reflect the reality of what occurred and the much lauded about laptop, so crowded about by the LNP, was not wiped but repurposed by another public officer and the data stored. The findings of the CCC concluded that there was not one shred of evidence or truth to support the member for Kawana's inferences, mudslinging and allegations against the government.

Where does that leave the LNP? It comes down to one word—the one word the LNP constantly raises as a virtue of their own; integrity. In all the years that I have been following politics—and that is quite a few decades—the action taken by the member for Kawana in using the CCC and the Integrity Commissioner review process to further his and the LNP's own political agenda whilst wasting Queensland taxpayers' money to pursue baseless and now totally refuted allegations, the fiction, the mistruths and the overreach is extraordinary. The member's actions must be the GOAT of all own goals ever kicked in a Westminster house of parliament. And boy oh boy wasn't it a beauty! This will no doubt be the crowning glory of all the exaggerations the member for Kawana will utter during his stay in this place.

Is it not amazing that after the CCC clearly and definitively cleared all allegations—no seizing of laptops, no data deletion, no smash and grab raids—that in terms of the routine public service process, once screamed about in exaltation by those on the other side during question times and debates in this House, there is now a deafening silence from the opposition. There is not a word, not a peep, nothing, zip, nada.

It goes to show that the other side will do anything in a desperate attempt to be relevant in this parliament. They bring nothing, have nothing and will continue to show nothing. In the debate of the report on the review of the Integrity Commissioner this afternoon the LNP have been caught out, their integrity is shredded on this matter and their words continue to stand for nothing. It is time the member for Kawana did the right thing and showed a backbone and integrity and stood up in this place and apologised to this parliament and the people of Queensland for his and the sum zero shadow cabinet's fanciful and appalling statements. I support the motion before the House.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (3.47 pm): This government has no shame and no integrity. The strategic review of the Integrity Commissioner's functions, otherwise known as the Yearbury review, completed last year identified issues with the office's workload, the need to strengthen the provisions around lobbying activities such as the need to make unregistered lobbying an offence, dual hatting and the need to enhance the independence of the office of the Integrity Commissioner. All of these recommendations are very important.

The committee's report noted and supported a number of the recommendations. A year since the Yearbury review was finalised we are still to see definitive action from this government. The government advised that the Yearbury report recommendations would be either supported or considered in conjunction with the Coaldrake review. A year has almost gone by and where is the action? What have they done? Where is the detail?

Measures such as recommendation 26 around the structure of the office could have been implemented. We heard at budget estimates that there were only about four staff. Where are the additional staff? At one point Nikola Stepanov, the former integrity commissioner, had staff removed and her staff reduced to one person. What an abuse by this government. What about additional independence? I do not see legislative changes on the agenda.

Let us talk about treatment of the former integrity commissioner. She was prevented from attending estimates this year, although she had offered to appear. When she started raising issues about lobbying, the government's dirt unit swung into gear and there were reports the black ops team was background briefing against her.

When she raised concerns about workload—a workload which included monitoring illegal lobbying and Labor-aligned lobbyists with favoured access to government—what was the response from those controlling her staff numbers? They reduced them. There were also allegations about comments made by the head of the PSC, the Public Service Commission, about the Integrity Commissioner. It is unparliamentary for me to read those comments into the record but they were serious.

It was the integrity commissioner herself who raised the alarm that laptops had been removed from her office and security permissions altered, with files removed without her 'knowledge or consent'. I wonder how members opposite would feel if somebody came into their office and removed laptops and files without consulting with them. I do not think that is good governance. It is bad governance and it is very poor. Not only was it an action of a government that was disrespectful to the need for the independence of this office; but it was the pattern of bullying that came on top of that, removing staff after she spoke out and was clearly acting independently.

Government members interjected.

Ms SIMPSON: I hear this government does not like talking about the abuse of Labor lobbyists in this state, but she had the strength to do it and this government did not like it. We strongly supported these matters being thoroughly investigated, as that was the right thing to do.

Ms Camm interjected.

Mr Fumer interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Pause the clock. Member for Whitsunday and member for Ferny Grove, you will cease your quarrelling across the chamber. I ask all members to let the member on her feet speak in relative silence.

Ms SIMPSON: The government has no shame in regard to how it disgracefully treated the former integrity commissioner Nikola Stepanov. Because technically the integrity commissioner did not employ staff or have control over her office space—that was under the Public Service Commissioner—her staff could be removed. It was legal but it was not moral. The government has abused its power and control over this office.

Mr Mander interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Everton!

Ms SIMPSON: I think people who trusted their confidential information to an office would be most concerned to find out from a recent CCC report that logs of access to data were held for insufficient time than recommended standards.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr Mander interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Everton and member for Logan, I ask you both to stop your quarrelling across the chamber. I have already warned all members about quarrelling. If it continues, let this be a general caution that members will be warned.

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

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Logan, what is your point of order?

Mr POWER: The words that the member for Everton yelled across the chamber were deeply offensive to me and I ask him to withdraw.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Everton, will you withdraw?

Mr MANDER: I withdraw.

Ms SIMPSON: It is noteworthy that in paragraph 95, in regard to the Integrity Commissioner's office, the CCC found—

A more comprehensive audit of access arrangements was unable to be conducted because of the period for which DPC retains security and access information.

Paragraph 96 states—


The relevant information security standard recommends that logs of this kind should be retained for 18 months. At present, DPC retains this information for between 30 and 90 days.

That is well short of the standard. In paragraph 60, in reference to attendance at the Integrity Commissioner's office and retrieval of the devices, the CCC found—

While the evidence is unclear as to who made the request, it is clear that a request was made by officers of the PSC to DPC IT to collect the Director's laptop from the Integrity Commissioner's office.

What a shame they did not have the good grace, the courtesy or the professionalism to talk to the integrity commissioner! In short, no-one can identify who authorised the removal of the laptop and no-one can point to a robust security system that can track access to office records after only 30 days. Even the integrity commissioner was not consulted. It is a disgrace. There needs to be independence and respect for this office.

(Time expired)

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (3.53 pm): I was not intending to speak on this committee report until I heard the member for Hervey Bay. I always get interested when I hear the Labor Party trying to lecture people about integrity.

In this whole debacle of the office of the Integrity Commissioner we have seen the attack on the first woman appointed integrity commissioner of Queensland by the Labor Party—an attack on the first female integrity commissioner by the Labor Party! The Labor Party dragged her reputation through the mud during this process. They starved her of resources in her office. They starved her of people

resources. They got rid of people who worked in her office. They reduced her office staff from seven to one. How could the integrity commissioner effectively do her job when they effectively got rid of all her staff?

I still want to know, to the member for Hervey Bay, what is on the laptop, because something was on the laptop. Something made the integrity commissioner so concerned—

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): I will again remind members to keep the volume down. I could not determine who it was who was calling out. I think it was everybody, but I am going to start warning after this.

Mr BLEIJIE: When you have the integrity commissioner herself referring a matter to the Crime and Corruption Commission, it should be taken seriously.

Mr Power interjected.

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

Mr BLEIJIE: Not only did the Labor Party not take those allegations seriously; they then dragged her name through the mud and have basically said after that that she made things up. That is absolute rubbish!

Mr Tantari interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Hervey Bay, you are warned under the standing orders.

Mr BLEIJIE: The integrity commissioner was so concerned that she wrote a complaint to the Crime and Corruption Commission. The Crime and Corruption Commission spent 12 months investigating it. It obviously reached the threshold for investigation.

It is concerning that no-one in the Public Service Commission through this investigation can remember who ordered the laptops to be collected. Collected, raided—whatever the word is—it happened. Who in the Public Service Commission all of a sudden thought within 24 hours that the laptops needed to be collected when usually it is a process that takes weeks or months? All of a sudden it had to happen. As soon as the integrity commissioner herself became concerned about blind carbon copies of emails, that is when the CCC got involved. That is when the integrity commissioner lost her office.

I am saying to this House that where there is smoke there is fire, and there was plenty of smoke coming out of the Public Service Commission. I will say it again in this House: I would trust the former integrity commissioner, the first female integrity commissioner, over any Labor Party members any day of the week, considering the one who is speaking about this the most in the Labor Party is, believe it or not, the member for Miller!

The Minister for Transport and Main Roads has a hide to be tweeting about integrity and the Crime and Corruption Commission. The Crime and Corruption Commission said he was a fool—that the member for Miller was ‘foolish’. There was an investigation into him. The CCC now has an express lane for Labor Party members. There are so many members who have gone through the CCC with integrity issues that they need an express lane. I will trust the integrity and honesty of the former integrity commissioner, Dr Stepanov, over Labor Party members any day of the week.

Here is a lesson for members of the Labor Party: when a senior public servant makes allegations with respect to her office, they should be treated seriously. That is why we took up the fight on behalf of the former integrity commissioner because, God knows, the Labor Party did not. They were happy to hide it. They were happy to cover it up; we were not. That is why we supported the former integrity commissioner.

I am not going to be lectured to by the member for Miller, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, who the CCC said was an absolute fool. He has the hide to tweet about CCC matters. For goodness sake, he has absolutely lost the plot. I feel sorry for the former integrity commissioner that her contract was not renewed because she was doing a darn fine good job and the Labor Party forced her out of a job.

(Time expired)

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.


Motion agreed to.

NATURE CONSERVATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 31 August (see p. 2411), on motion of Ms Scanlon—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (3.59 pm): I rise to address the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. Should this law pass in the House here today it will be a good day. If it passes with the amendment moved by the shadow minister it will be a great day. It has been a long time in the making, and why? Because the primary objective of this bill is to deliver on a Labor election commitment to provide a 20-year extension to allow beekeeping on specified national parks to continue until 31 December 2044. That would be a good day. A great day would be to accept the shadow minister's amendment, which would see that open-ended and that beekeepers would be able to remain in those specified national parks for perpetuity.

I am pretty passionate about bees, and I owe my knowledge of bees to three groups of people. The first is a constituent—and a very knowledgeable one at that—Dr Max Whitten. Max was formerly chief of CSIRO Entomology and professor of genetics at the University of Melbourne. I understand that he continues to be an adjunct professor at the School of Biological Science at my alma mater, the University of Queensland. He was the first chairman of the Honey Bee Research and Development Council. His research interests centred on genetic means of controlling insect pests and the ecological genetics of pesticide resistance. He has wider interests in public good research, sustainable agriculture, biodiversity and, I might add, the Maleny Golf Club, of which he is founding president, still a very strong member of the executive, and one of the driving forces behind making that establishment the amazing golf club that it is.

In this instance Max, alongside Rex Carruthers—someone well-known to many in this chamber—board member and former president of the Queensland Beekeepers' Association, made a submission to the committee on behalf of the Wheen Bee Foundation, WBF. I want to draw on a number of things they said in their submission. Members can find it attached to the committee's report. I think it is submission number 22. It states—

When the Nature Conservation Act 1992 was amended in 2004 to exclude commercial beekeeping from some 1100 traditional apiary sites in the 49 newly established National Parks after 2024, it was predicated by the belief that the economic impacts would largely relate to a decline in honey production.

This is important. The submission continues, 'It did not take into account the value of pollination ...'. We all know the vital role that bees play in pollination. It is valued at some \$2 billion per annum alone in Queensland, some \$14 billion nationally. There is also, as the submission further states—

... the additional value of the pollination services provided by Queensland beekeepers to major crops such as almonds and canola in southern states; or interstate beekeepers providing pollination services in Queensland. Or,

- the impracticality that alternative pollen and nectar sources could be found, or created, during the two decades leading up to 2024.

That has come to be true. What is important in this submission from Dr Max Whitten and Rex Carruthers is that they look at what can be done to ensure that beekeepers and the Queensland government are not facing this same predicament, if our amendment is not supported, in 2044. They unpack what we need to do in terms of understanding and managing the impact of commercial beekeeping in national parks and the opportunity to generate knowledge to improve decision-making. They draw on the key observations of two specialists, Dr Nadine Chapman and Professor Ben Oldroyd. Their submission continues—

Chapman and Oldroyd make two key observations:

- On the balance of probabilities, the presence of commercial colonies is unlikely to pose additional stresses on ecosystems beyond those caused by feral bees. Therefore, there is no compelling reason to exclude beekeeping on the basis of the available ecological data. Again, we emphasise an absence of evidence rather than evidence of absence.
- If a decision is made to exclude beekeeping as a result of the precautionary principle or concerns about commercial activity in parks, then we recommend that the opportunity be taken to assess the effects of commercial beekeeping on native flora and fauna in a rigorous way.

That certainly needs to be considered. They also go on to promote two initiatives that will help reduce dependency on floral resources in our national parks for adequate pollination services to ensure food security. They speak about of WBF's Bee Friendly Farming—

Bee Friendly Farming (BFF) is a certification program that works with land managers to help protect, preserve and protect pollinator health.

They also refer to their program Powerful Pollinators as a way of increasing 'the prevalence, health and diversity of pollinators in the landscape.' They have a great little publication that was also included as part of their submission called *Powerful Pollinators*. For those interested in assisting pollinators to do their job throughout our landscape there is a great fold-out of the various species, the shrubs and trees, that will help our pollinators not only survive, but thrive and do the important job they do. I really do encourage members of the chamber to acquaint themselves with that publication. It is put out by the Wheen Bee Foundation. I think it is vital regardless of the outcome today—whether it is 20 years or into perpetuity—as to how we can continue to grow appropriate pollination sites for our bees and other pollinators.

I mentioned there were three groups of people who inspired me to understand and broaden my knowledge around bees. The second is my constituents Ann and Jeff Ross from Hive Haven in Beerburrum. The Wheen Bee Foundation talks about other pollinators: one of the obvious ones is the Australian native bee. Ann and Jeff have done fantastic work in sharing the story of the Australian native stingless bee far and wide. They have their specially designed hives from as far as Broome to Brisbane, Cairns to Perth, Cloncurry, Alice Springs and from the Sunshine Coast to Sydney. There is even one at Parliament House in Canberra. There was serious concern about the cold weather in winter, so what do they do? They pick it up and transport it to the residence of the New South Wales Governor at their residence on Sydney Harbour during the winter months. There is one just next door at QUT. Sadly, there is not one here at Queensland parliament. I have made requests previously—and I will continue to make requests—that we consider installing one of Hive Haven's Australian native stingless beehives here on our site so that we can play our part in continuing to share pollinators across our landscape.

There is one other group of people that I want to acknowledge for extending my knowledge when it comes to bees, and that is my kids. Some 10 years ago my eldest children participated in what I think was then called Kids Teaching Kids—it is now called Kids in Action—up on the Sunshine Coast with a group of other students. They unpacked the bee in a very novel and interesting way, including a hip-hop dance. I think *Do the Honey Bee* was the title of the song. I am not going to sing. I am not as good as the member for Kawana at that.

Mr O'Connor: Thank you.

Mr POWELL: I will take that interjection from the member for Bonney. He is not the only member here who will be thanking me for not singing. It was fantastic to see them educate other kids about the bee in such interesting ways. My eldest daughter, Erin, then went on in year 10 to unpack that even further. I understand that she even prepared a TED Talk she uploaded on YouTube about the importance of bees and all of the various aspects they provide.

Through all of those sources I have come to understand the vital role that bees play in our landscape pollinating both native and introduced species, particularly crops. We talked about their economic value. In the absence of other sites—which has clearly been the case over the last 20 years as we have rolled out the South East Queensland Forests Agreement—we must consider keeping bees in our national parks. Let me be specific: we are not calling for the broader expansion of these 1,100 apiary sites and 49 national parks. We need to undertake the further research Dr Whitten refers to. We need to explore other ways for pollinators to move across our landscape. My belief is that, in the absence of scientific research to the contrary, they do not pose any more of a threat than feral bees already do in our national parks; therefore, this legislation should be supported.

Alongside my colleagues here on this side of the House, I again call on those opposite to support our amendment. Let's not come back here in 15 years and rehash this again. Let's extend this into perpetuity. Let's accept the amendment being moved by the shadow minister, the member for Bonney, and let's make a good day an even better day.



Mr O'ROURKE (Rockhampton—ALP) (4.09 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. The main purpose of the bill is delivering on our commitment made to the Queensland beekeeping industry. This bill will provide up to a 20-year extension to the existing arrangements that enable beekeeping to occur on certain national parks. As an aside, it has been estimated that pollination services from honey bees contribute about \$4 billion to \$6 billion annually to the Australian economy.

Commercial beekeeping in national parks is a legacy issue associated with the transfer of state forests to national parks through the state forest transfer processes occurring in the late 1990s and early 2000s. It only applies to areas where beekeeping was in place prior to the transfer of the land into the national park estate. Under the current arrangements, keeping of beehives in national parks was due to expire on 31 December 2024. Through the passing of this bill, it will provide beekeepers with more certainty about extending these arrangements for up to 20 years to 31 December 2044.

I am a hobby beekeeper and I understand the importance of having decent sites where bees can forage and support the environment. You must have good sites to ensure your hives remain healthy and productive and they must be in places where they can be regularly checked. It is important to check your hives for any parasites, and if your hive is doing very well and becomes overcrowded, it may be time to consider splitting the hive.

I am sure all members know the importance of bees. I started keeping bees, both honey bees and native bees, at home as my fruit trees were healthy but produced very few fruit. I can now say I have way more fruit than we can use. Bees are valuable because of their pollination services in helping to provide all foods. In CQ we have a lot of commercial planting, like cereals, sorghum, maize, macadamias—which we have spoken about—and citrus, and the list goes on. With the large-scale macadamia farming, it is essential that they have access to honey bees for their pollination. Some farming areas around the state are naturally adjacent to national parks. Bees are essential for leaf and root crops like onions, broccoli, cabbage and many more vegetables.


As a society, our diet is reliant on bees and other pollinators for cross-pollination. It is essential that we do everything we can to help increase the number of hives after the devastating fires in the southern states where thousands upon thousands of beehives were destroyed. Research has found that there is a direct link between pollination and human health—because not only do bees pollinate food crops, they also improve the nutrient value of the crops they pollinate.

Bees also help to ensure that seeds will set for many kinds of plants, which is particularly important in our national parks. Bees are beneficial to the environment generally. They pollinate wildflowers as well as shrubs and trees, thus enhancing and ensuring plant biodiversity and the beauty of our national parks and gardens. Bees of course also benefit from trees. Trees in turn support our wildlife, help to stabilise our soil structures and landscapes, and are the lungs of the earth.

Apart from the fact that pollination is important for food production, bees contribute greatly to the landscape, whether it is our grazing land, large-scale planting or our gardens. Studies have repeatedly confirmed the value of bee pollination to specific crops, such as macadamias, and how crop production is negatively affected through a lack of bee pollination, resulting in lower yield. Honey bees provide an opportunity to judge longer term environmental health, as they are one of the few insect species which produce colonies which are meant to survive for multiple years.

There are always challenges to getting good sites for our hives outside of national parks where there are plentiful food sources for the bees. That is in part the reason to extend past 31 December 2024. The government recognises that the loss of access to national park sites post December 2024 would have a negative impact on the supply of products and services provided by beekeepers. The department will work with beekeepers to find alternative appropriate sites over the coming years.

This bill will provide up to a 20-year extension to allow beekeeping in our national parks until December 2044 in areas where beekeeping was in existence prior to the transfer of the land. This bill also makes a number of amendments to support the compliance within the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service to assist our rangers to carry out their duties. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (4.15 pm): I rise to speak on the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This bill aims to extend existing arrangements which allow beekeeping in certain national parks. They will be extended for 20 years until 31 December 2044. It also makes some administrative changes regarding: offences for impersonating or obstructing forestry officers; powers of officers to seize and deal with seized things; and issues regarding the Wet Tropics Act and the Wet Tropics Management Plan.

I welcome the government finally keeping its election commitment and extending the access for commercial beekeepers to national parks for another 20 years. For years, beekeepers have been given the run-around. Their concerns have been put on the backburner as successive Labor ministers have put off making decisions which will grant security to beekeepers. Five years ago I called on the government to act about the impending closure of access to national parks because beekeepers were facing a dire situation from the government's procrastination. The agriculture minister is supposed to advocate for the beekeeping industry at the cabinet table. He was reluctant to stand up. When decisions on advocacy are needed, the efforts are unimpressive.

Mr FURNER: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find the comments made by the member for Gympie offensive. I ask him to withdraw.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Member for Gympie, will you withdraw?

Mr PERRETT: I withdraw. We finally have action because the deadline is looming. People who run businesses need lead-in times. Those who have worked in business know that planning and financial commitments are made long in advance. Without guarantees, there is no security to invest, and the alternative is to close, move on and find alternative work.

In 2017 I called on the government to conduct an urgent review into the closure of access from the end of 2024. That was five years ago—half a decade. When the Nature Conservation Act 1992 was enacted, beekeepers were promised the government would find alternative sources. In 2018 the government told the industry that a review into the impact of honey bees on native forest was underway. It told beekeepers they should document attempts they made to identify alternative sites and why the sites may be unsuitable or unavailable. It also asked beekeepers to consider managing access tracks and other key infrastructure and to work more closely with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service on pest, fire and biosecurity management issues. Beekeepers did what was asked of them but the government sat on the report.

Three years ago in 2019 I asked the then environment minister whether the government would release the report. It still sat on the report, keeping it under lock and key. I warned the government that sitting on the report and the government's culture of secrecy was hurting the industry. Beekeepers needed to know what was going on. I warned that the situation meant funding was already drying up, confidence was plummeting and the participants were gradually leaving the industry. The Queensland Beekeepers' Association resources chairman, Rob Dewar, told the committee—

For some reason, five years is a long time in politics, but as a person trying to work your business—employ people, expand and pay your mortgage—five years is not that long. They kept shuffling us off saying, 'We'll do something about it.' The time to do something about it is now.

There are 167,000 hives in Queensland, 9,000 registered beekeepers and 399 commercial beekeepers managing 114,000 hives. Commercial beekeeping occurs in 49 national parks, with 1,088 apiary sites. In my electorate, the committee report listed Goomboorian, Great Sandy, Gympie, Tuckekoi and Woondum national parks as supporting 70 apiary sites.

Since their formation in 2011, Valley Bees have been a proactive and very strong advocate on behalf of the industry. Valley Bees work to create an environment conducive to the ongoing sustainability of bees. As all bees are needed to pollinate our diverse native flora and introduce food plants, it focuses on nurturing Australian native bee populations in balance with the honey bee.

Beekeepers were originally never in national parks. Changes to government policy put them in national parks, with most created as part of the South East Queensland Forests Agreement in 1999. When they were created, beekeeping was allowed to continue in those areas until 31 December 2024 as part of a transition period. The transition was to minimise disruption to the industry and to provide time for reallocation to other sites. Over the last 20 years, no viable alternative locations have been found. Beekeepers actively sought out other sites on private land, but the reality is that factors such as urban sprawl means there is not sufficient land with the specific requirements needed.

A department of state development and innovation feasibility study to find alternative sites was not released to the Queensland Beekeepers' Association, the QBA, or the public. QBA President Jacob Stevens told the committee that—

... the results have been verbally communicated to the industry in that there was no substantial alternative resources identified.

Even the Labor dominated committee expressed disappointment in the lack of work undertaken and progress by the Department of Environment and Science to find alternative sites. The committee chair stated—

...the committee was of the view that more substantial progress should have been made on this task.

There is no excuse.

The industry is more than just a jar of boutique honey. Beekeeping annually contributes an estimated \$2.4 billion to the Queensland economy. Queensland produces more than seven million kilograms of premium eucalyptus honey every year. It is renowned as the cleanest and greenest honey because it is chemical-free.

In my electorate, the Mary Valley is renowned as prime country for building pollinating powerhouses of healthy livestock to provide pollination services to many horticultural industries. Our growing horticultural sector relies on bee pollination. Unfortunately, beekeepers are turning away requests because there are simply not enough bees to service the crops.

The QBA estimates that in 2020, the demand for managed honey bee colonies to provide pollination services amounted to 67,000 hives. Horticulture and small crops industries will struggle to survive without the beekeepers who work beside them, ensuring that crops such as strawberries, avocados, watermelons and macadamias are pollinated. Macadamias are worth approximately \$180 million to our state's economy with most of the 4,000 hectares a year being planted in Queensland. Production is expected to double within the next decade, adding a further \$150 million to the Queensland economy. Pollinating bees are essential to facilitating this growth.

Horticulture is currently worth approximately \$3 billion to the state's economy and responsible for more than 20,000 jobs in the regions. Growcom's submission stated that a thriving honey bee industry providing pollination services was a 'keystone resource essential to the continued success and expansion of the Queensland horticulture sector'. Their submission further stated—

Continued access to Queensland National Park apiary sites is a core regulatory condition to secure the future of both the Queensland honey bee and horticulture sectors.

A Senate inquiry in 2014 found that 65 per cent of all of Australia's food sources are reliant on bee pollination. The Australian Food and Grocery Council submission said that—


By conservative estimates, some 2/3 of Australia's food crops rely on the pollination services of professional apiarists and the bees under their care.

Continually fobbing off the beekeeping industry puts the livelihoods of beekeepers and the security of the horticultural and small crops sectors at risk. The government has provided no scientific evidence that beekeeping adversely impacts our national parks. The Department of Environment and Science commissioned a comprehensive independent review of more than 200 papers of scientific literature on the effect of managed honey bees on native flora and fauna. QBA President Jacob Stevens told the committee it 'concluded there was an absence of evidence of ecological effects'.

Under this bill, beekeepers will still have to operate with the threat that the government will one day remove access to national parks. There is no evidence this is harming our national parks, so it makes no sense to have a time frame. Instead, it makes sense to remove the end date.

To give certainty and security to the industry, the LNP will move a simple amendment to remove clause 25 section 36A(6) to allow beekeeping to continue in national parks in perpetuity. It gives confidence to the industry and encourages more to stay within it or enter it. It will remove the fruitless and never-ending discussions which have impacted productivity.

When I warned the government in 2018, it was six years before the end date. Funding was drying up, confidence was plummeting and participants were gradually leaving the industry. The government's current proposal means that the industry will be facing the same situation in another 16 years. Beekeepers and the horticultural small crops sectors, the families, the growers, and the regions in which they operate need certainty. I support the bill, and I urge those members opposite to support our amendment.

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (4.25 pm): Sixteen years from now would have been when we would have been receiving the first funding for the fake Bradfield Scheme or the upgraded Bruce Highway, so 16 years is in fact quite a long way off. Thankfully the LNP did not get elected and they were not able to implement either of those ridiculous schemes.

I support this bill. We have had yet another LNP speaker on their feet castigating the government for apparently dragging their feet. They did not bother to acknowledge the fact that when the LNP were in government and had the opportunity to make changes, they did absolutely nothing. Why would that be? Would that be because their priorities were elsewhere? Would that be because their priorities were on sacking over 600 members of the agricultural workforce? Would it be because you sacked those 600 members of the agricultural workforce that you did not have the actual staff to do the work? Would that be because when we got into government after your mercifully short time in government that we actually had to rebuild those systems? I think that might actually be a factor.

We have had quite a lot of firsts in Australian politics over the last few weeks—the former prime minister who apparently was the secret minister for everything. Sadly, he left the 'minister for silly walks' off his secret list. Then in this place this week, we had a shadow cabinet that does not actually meet. Now we have opposition members of a parliamentary committee—

Mr O'CONNOR: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I thought the Deputy Speaker, of all members, would know that this is not within the long title.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Member, can I please ask you to explain how your speech relates to the long title of the bill?

Mr KELLY: I thank you for the opportunity to do that, Madam Deputy Speaker, and I thank the member for bringing me to that relevance point. I will come to the members of the parliamentary committee who have submitted a statement of reservation in relation to this bill, and I would like to discuss that statement of reservation.

Just as we had the former prime minister for everything, secret ministries, and the shadow cabinet that does not meet, we now have a parliamentary committee whose opposition members submit a statement of reservation that does not actually contain any reservations. It is another first in Australian politics. They support the bill; they wrote it in their statement of reservations. I had to read it three or four times because I was thinking, 'It seems like they just agree with what the government is doing.' If you read it, you will find it buried deep in there and I will get to that in a minute.

We all understand the importance of bees to our daily life. I start most of my days with a bit of honey on my cereal, as do many people in this place. Bees are much more important than allowing me to have a daily healthy sugar hit in my diet. Without their pollinating powers, we have no food.

I would like to acknowledge those members of the Queensland Beekeepers' Association in the gallery who have been patiently waiting all day and finally are getting to hear this bill debated. I will get to some of the issues that I think are important in relation to this debate.

Many years ago I had the great pleasure of meeting with Murray Arkadieff from the Queensland Beekeepers' Association who was the first to alert me to the concerns of beekeepers around the South East Queensland Forests Agreement expiring and what that meant for their industry. I certainly took their concerns to the Minister for Agriculture and to the Minister for Environment. I would like to thank those ministers for taking these issues seriously and responding to them. I am pleased to see that beekeepers will continue to have access to national parks to ensure healthy hives and ongoing pollination capacity which is so important to our agriculture sector.

When we look at the table on page 9 of the report we see just how reliant we are on the pollination of honey bees for our daily fruit and vegetables as well as for our many other agricultural products. I do note the concerns raised by the Friends of Nerang National Park in their submission. They would no doubt have much in common with the great members of the Mount Gravatt Environment Group, who run the Pollinator Link that tries to promote pollination, and certainly share those concerns about competition for nesting spaces. I welcome that recommendation from the committee to find alternatives to national parks.

I can also see why various submitters wanted longer access to national parks than is contained in the legislation. It is my view that, given the current environmental changes we face, signing up to perpetual, or ongoing, access would be completely unwise. We are seeing rapid changes in land use as we respond to climate change. This situation is likely to become more volatile as we go forward with governments needing the capacity to be agile rather than being locked into perpetual agreements.

With a change in federal government, we are seeing increased action on climate change. Just today it was refreshing to hear the environment minister, Tanya Plibersek, talking about the possibility of putting a proper value on negative externalities and the environment. There is significant movement in Europe, with the EU, for the first time ever, issuing bonds in response to the global pandemic and angling those bonds heavily towards energy transformation and action on climate change. China, the US, Latin America and our near neighbours in Indonesia and the Pacific are all moving on climate change. What does this mean? It is possible with so much action on climate change that landholders may start to find financially viable ways to create spaces on agricultural land to create alternative apiary sites, as foreseen by recommendation 2 of this report.

Of course, if the Greens had not backed the federal LNP, we would probably be doing this right now because we would have had an ET scheme in place and that would have made it possible. Now, sadly, thanks to the Greens and the LNP locking up together, we have wasted over a decade. At least now the Greens have backed federal Labor's climate action plan which acknowledges that we will need to continue to use coal, gas and petroleum as we transition—


Mr KRAUSE: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance under standing order 118(b). I do not know how this relates to the bees.

Mr FURNER: I rise to a point of order. The member for Greenslopes is directly referring to recommendation 2 of the report that clearly looks at alternative arrangements with respect to housing bees into the future.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have been listening closely and the member is on track.

Mr KELLY: The minister for agriculture has clearly been listening carefully, too, and I thank the minister for his interest.

With 'Furner the Farmer's Friend' leading the way, the Palaszczuk Labor government will always back businesses big and small in the agricultural sector, whether they are producing food, fibre, fuel or medicines. This bill provides certainty for the beekeeping sector and points a way forward in terms of developing a sustainable industry going forward. It also allows us to have that capacity to pivot and change as inevitably the situation will change brought about by responses to climate change as we move forward. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (4.33 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The primary objective of the bill is to deliver an election commitment to provide a 20-year extension to allow beekeeping in specified national parks to continue until 31 December 2044. Past processes were associated with the transfer of a number of state forests to protected areas, primarily under the 1999 South East Queensland Forests Agreement, or the RFA as we knew it back then. This includes a change to the Nature Conservation Act to enable beekeeping to continue temporarily in certain national parks until 31 December 2024.

It would seem the government's view is that the extension of time provided by the amendments will give the government time to seek alternative sites outside national parks, support the adoption of industry best practice in protected areas and identify initiatives to assist the industry to progressively relocate off park over the next 20 years, although they have not necessarily been very successful in doing that during the last period.

The LNP has been unable to find any conclusive evidence of the negative impact of honey bees on native flora and fauna. The LNP will not be opposing the bill. However, I support the amendment outlined by the shadow minister to remove the end date for apiary permits in national parks. This will bring Queensland into line with both New South Wales and Victoria, which have no time limit on the provision for beekeeping in their national parks.

I have beekeepers like 'Tractor' Ferguson of Thargomindah who tend to bees in both Queensland and New South Wales. I remember the day we took the then prime minister out to Charleville to see the impacts of the prolonged drought. The mayor of the Bulloo shire, 'Tractor' Ferguson, who is also a beekeeper, stood up at the meeting and said the drought was so bad he had to handfeed his bees. That is why we need these additional areas in Queensland. When we have a drought out in the west, there needs to be somewhere for primary producers who are beekeepers to take their bees so they can actually survive because it takes a long time to build up those hives. It seemed to bring home the message of the prolonged drought. Later on the then prime minister had a hands-on demonstration from 'Tractor' about how to handfeed the bees.

It is not uncommon for beekeepers to operate on both sides of the state border, so it makes sense to keep this legislation as standard as possible across different states. We do not have a cross-border commissioner in Queensland, but it would certainly be something that a cross-border commissioner could look at. This is a sensible amendment from the shadow minister. Bees are an important part of our food supply chain and beekeepers are some of the most conscientious people. They also keep a close eye on what is happening in national parks, often undertaking maintenance of fire trails and access paths. Park rangers cannot be everywhere in national parks. The beekeepers are an added set of trustworthy eyes in these parts. They help the rangers with identification of any illegal activity. It does not cost the taxpayer a cent to have beekeepers doing that voluntary surveillance in the parks. This government needs all the help it can get when it comes to making sure that our parks are looked after. It is disappointing to see the number of times the Labor government has fallen short on protecting the park assets in their natural condition by not adequately controlling feral animals and pest weeds.

While the initial extension of access to the apiary sites was intended to provide time for alternative beekeeping sites to be located outside national parks, this has proved to be very challenging, which is why the government should support our LNP amendment. Commercial beekeepers, growers and the food industry bodies rely on national parks for apiary sites. They will be decimated without this access. Honourable members will see increases in prices of honey and they will also see much more imported honey if we do not support the beekeepers.

The Australian Food and Grocery Council has stated that on conservative estimates, two-thirds of Queensland's food crops rely on the pollination services of professional apiarists and bees under their care. It is a part of horticulture for bees to undertake that pollination service and they do a fantastic job. Beekeeping is also a very specialised area. One example in Queensland is almonds. Beekeepers provided in excess of 20,000 beehives for almond pollination in 2021. As these industries grow, the

need for pollination of bees is growing, too. We need to make sure that those people have certainty going forward. We cannot underestimate the value of bees to our horticultural industries and the food supply chain.

Beekeepers want that certainty so that future generations will take up beekeeping. They need to have that certainty going forward. By legislating a deadline, there is still an expectation that one day the government will remove their ability to access national parks. I urge the government to support our amendment. It makes a minor change. It is important because it sends a strong signal to not only beekeepers but also the horticultural industry of our support for them and the wider industry.

Beekeepers and the horticulture industry deserve this support. They are particularly hardworking and we know that there is a labour shortage in the horticultural industry, particularly in my electorate. I urge the government to support this LNP amendment. It is a sensible amendment and it adds value to this legislation. I urge government members to support it.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (4.39 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The bill takes a precautionary approach to the impact of European honey bees on Queensland's protected areas. A central principle of Queensland's national park management strategy is to preserve the natural condition, as much as practicable. Beekeeping introduces non-native European honey bees into national parks, and those European honey bees compete with native honey bees within these precincts.

While I support the relocation of European honey beehives outside of national parks and protected areas, I am also aware that the beekeeping industry provides cross-pollination services and produces honey and other honey bee related products. The loss of access to national park sites, as scheduled in 2024, would have a detrimental impact on the supply of pollination services and on our state's role as a supplier of quality food and fibre products to the nation and the world. That is why I support the 20-year extension to the framework to allow European honey beehives in national parks while we take steps to identify areas to transition to outside of national parks.

Pollination services provided by apiarists and their hives can result in increased yields and better quality produce for food producers. Commercial apiarists need somewhere to locate hives to once the hard work of pollinating a particular crop is done for another season. As a significant landholder, my Department of Transport and Main Roads was happy to accept the Department of Environment and Science's invitation to participate in an interagency beekeeping working group. The working group was established as a result of an election commitment made in 2020 to extend beekeepers' access to national park apiary sites by 20 years, until 31 December 2044.

In support of the beekeeping industry, the Department of Environment and Science is developing a transition plan to identify suitable alternative sites outside of national parks. The Department of Environment and Science sought TMR's participation in the working group, as alternative sites outside national parks may involve identifying locations on state controlled roads. To assist the beekeeping community, TMR permits beehives on state controlled road corridors as long as they meet requirements. The requirements focus, of course, on maintaining primarily the safety of road users. TMR's beehive requirements are available on our website under the title 'Bee hives in state-controlled road corridors'.


In order to place beehives in a state controlled road corridor, the person must hold a road corridor permit. There is already high demand for beehive locations along our state controlled road corridors. Therefore, beehive road corridor permits are not issued on a permanent basis. Generally, a permit is issued for a 12-month period; however, a hive must be placed in the specified location within six months of the permit being issued. The placement of the hives must not interfere with the safe or efficient operation of the road. This includes the location of the hives as well as the activities and the vehicle movements associated with the hives in terms of delivery, removal, harvesting and maintenance.

Hives must be 200 metres away from neighbouring buildings, structures, bus stops, drop-off areas, footpaths and so on, and three metres from an adjacent fenced property boundary. TMR regularly consults with the beekeeping industry and has been an active member of the Bee Industry Consultative Committee over 15 years.

I note that the committee report recommends that the bill be passed and that the Department of Environment and Science adopt a clear strategy and plan to identify and secure alternative apiary sites outside of national parks over the period of the 20-year extension. The Department of Transport and Main Roads will support our apiarists and our food producers and support this transition. I commend the Department of Environment and Science, which is also working with industry to develop a standard landholder agreement template. This will be for beekeepers operating on lands where there is no existing permitting framework.

The bill also introduces measures to enhance compliance capability under the legislation. It is important that a person who falsely represents themselves as a Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service officer should be able to be prosecuted. I also think authorities should be empowered to prosecute individuals who are obstructing the activities of one of our QPWS workers. I support the measures to respond to those issues.

From the Daintree Rainforest and the Great Barrier Reef in the north to the sandy beaches of our Gold and Sunshine coasts or the Dinosaur Stampede National Monument at Lark Quarry Conservation Park, Queensland's extraordinary natural assets are worth preserving and protecting, which is what part of this bill is about. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (4.44 pm): I rise to speak on the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. I want to thank the State Development and Regional Industries Committee, which prepared report No. 19 for the 57th Parliament. Just a few months ago I stood in this House to address proposed amendments to the same act about the joint Indigenous management of Moreton Island. Today we look to amend the Nature Conservation Act 1992 further. I thank the shadow minister, the honourable member for Bonney, as well as other MPs on this side of the House for their contributions.

The primary objective of this bill is to provide a 20-year extension to allow beekeeping in specified national parks to continue until 31 December 2044. As we are all aware, honey bees not only produce honey for our consumption; they also play a vital role in the balance of nature. Bees are especially important for pollinating agricultural and horticultural crops and our own home gardens. I recently attended the Ekka, as many other members did, and was lucky enough to see many sampling the finest produce from our hardworking Queensland primary producers.

There are currently 1,088 apiary sites across 49 of Queensland's national parks. A number of these sites are located throughout the Gold Coast hinterland, including Springbrook, Tamborine and Nerang national parks. The beekeeping industry delivers up to \$2.8 billion of economic input to Queensland through managed honey bee pollination services. The opposition recognises the importance of honey production in boosting investment and employment in regional areas.

I note, as other members have noted, that the LNP will move an amendment to remove clause 25, section 36A(6), to remove the end date for apiary permits in national parks, because we are concerned that the government's 20-year extension does not go far enough in providing confidence to our growers and industry bodies. The Queensland Beekeepers' Association would like the 20-year extension removed to continue permits in perpetuity.

Over the last 20 years, no viable alternative locations to national parks have been found by the state government. Beekeepers have been actively sourcing other sites on private land, but with growing urban sprawl and tree clearing across the state this is becoming even more challenging. Commercial beekeepers, growers and food industry bodies rely on national parks for apiary sites and would be decimated without this access. The Australian Food and Grocery Council, AFGC, has stated that on conservative estimates two-thirds of Australia's food crops rely on the pollination services of professional apiarists and the bees under their care.


There has been little to no evidence of the detrimental impacts of honey bees on native flora and fauna. Hives are normally only kept in one spot for six weeks and then moved, and it can be years until they come back to the same location. A number of industries in Queensland, including the macadamia and almond industries, rely on these hives to facilitate growth. As we have heard from the shadow minister, the macadamia industry is Queensland's most valuable horticultural export, currently worth \$180 million to our state's economy.

The beekeeping industry is currently facing one of its greatest challenges, with the varroa mite impacting hives through many parts of New South Wales. More than 600 hives are having to be destroyed in New South Wales, with that figure likely to continue to increase. Australia has intercepted the mites before, but this is the first time there has been an incursion. The chairman of the Australia Honey Bee Industry Council, Stephen Targett, said in a *Sydney Morning Herald* article titled 'Race to stop spread of deadly mite found in Australian bee hives for first time', dated 30 June 2022, that if efforts to eradicate the varroa mite failed the industry would need to change its management practices and increase costs associated with labour and monitoring. I table the article.

Tabled paper: Media article, dated 30 June 2022, titled 'Race to stop spread of deadly mite found in Australian bee hives for first time' [\[1265\]](#).

Whilst Queensland has strict biosecurity measures in place to try and avoid the varroa mite, the industry is calling for greater security moving forward. Beekeepers want certainty for future generations to take up beekeeping. The government's deadline of 20 years does not provide this certainty, because there is still the expectation that one day the government may remove their ability to access national parks.

Uncertainty of course leads to people walking away from the industry or choosing to expand into other states, such as New South Wales or Victoria, where there is greater freedom in national parks. Beekeepers undertake maintenance on fire trails and access paths to national parks. With minimal national park investment by the government, beekeepers are actually improving the parks they are in. Whilst our amendment is only a minor change, it is an important one. It sends a strong signal of support to the industry that is currently facing one of its greatest challenges.

 **Mr WALKER** (Mundingburra—ALP) (4.50 pm): I rise to make my contribution in support of the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. Firstly, I want to thank the committee for its work and all those who made submissions to the bill. A lot has been said on this bill, and I am sure that I will be repeating much of it. However, after reading the bill and supporting information, I found it very interesting that there are individuals in our nature reserves and marine parks impersonating forest officers and rangers to intimidate others who are enjoying the great outdoors in Queensland. The amendments in the bill enhance the Department of Environment and Science's capacity to address this type of behaviour and other matters in Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service managed areas such as state forests, marine parks, recreation areas and national parks by providing new offences for impersonating a forest officer or a ranger and expanding existing obstructing offences so that they apply to obstructing conservation officers, authorised officers and inspectors in the performance of their functions.

The following acts will be amended: the Forestry Act 1959 to provide new offences for impersonating a forest officer and impersonating a ranger in or for a state forest or timber reserve; the Marine Parks Act 2004 to provide a new offence for impersonating a ranger in or for a marine park, describe the functions of an inspector and clarify the application of the existing obstruction offence when an inspector is obstructed in the performance of a function under the said act; the Nature Conservation Act 1992 to provide an offence for impersonating a ranger in or for a protected area, describe the functions of a conservation officer and clarify the application of the existing obstruction offence when a conservation officer is obstructed in the performance of a function under the said act; and the Recreation Areas Management Act 2006 to provide an offence for impersonating a ranger in or for a recreation area, describe the functions of an authorised officer and clarify the application of the existing obstruction offence when an authorised officer is obstructed in the performance of a function under the said act. What this demonstrates is that we will have a consistent approach across all of these areas. These are significant changes that also support our frontline staff taking care of our beautiful environment each day, and I thank them very much for their excellent work.

The primary objective of this bill is to deliver on an election commitment to the Queensland Beekeepers' Association to provide a 20-year extension to allow beekeeping on national parks to continue in areas where beekeeping was in existing use prior to the transfer of the land to national parks from state native forests. It is a legacy issue associated with the 1999 South East Queensland Forests Agreement and was intended to be phased out by 31 December 2024 as suitable sites for relocation outside of national parks were found. However, this has proven challenging, especially when there are 49 national parks where beekeeping currently occurs.

It is also important to note that an interagency group including representatives from the Department of Environment and Science, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Department of Resources and the Department of Transport and Main Roads has been established to investigate opportunities that may exist on other land tenures to relocate beekeeping out of national parks. This is a positive move and gives the beekeepers confidence that they will be engaged even more moving forward to find new apiary sites away from national parks.

The beekeeping industry provides crop pollination, as we have heard several times in the House, for our farmers and produces honey and other honey bee related products. Loss of access to national park sites by 2024 would have a detrimental impact on the supply of these products and services. There is no doubt that these sites also provide many different unique flavours of honey which would not be found elsewhere in the state.

There is a honey from the Townsville region that is the only one of its kind in Australia. It is made from the blossoms of the achacha, which is a highly prized tropical fruit which is exported around the world from the world's first commercial plantation of achacha fruit with 16,000 trees which was established in 2003 in North Queensland—and a big shout-out to the hardworking Helen and Bruce


from the achacha plantation in Palm Creek. If those in the House see this tasty fruit or their beautiful honey—you would be lucky to find their honey because it is very rare to get—at their local fruit and veggie shop or deli, please do purchase some; you will not be disappointed. There is no doubt that it is Australia's best, if not the world's best.

The extension to allow beekeeping on specified national parks to continue until 31 December 2044 is an excellent and important outcome, as I have been a big supporter of beekeepers for many years. Besides beekeepers providing beautiful honey, they also provide a particularly important service to our farmers, as previously mentioned in the House. They are also well placed to grow the industry. Furthermore, the Australian honey industry now exports 4,500 tonnes of honey each year. However, even though we have some of the best honey in the world and we export 4,500 tonnes a year globally, we still do not make the top 15 countries in the world when it comes to exporting the liquid gold. What is even more interesting is that our cousins across the ditch in New Zealand are the No. 1 exporters of honey, with 12.2 per cent of the market. That is quite a challenge for us.

Among the top 15 exporters, the fastest growing natural honey exports from 2020 to 2021 was Brazil, up 65.7 per cent; India, up 63.8 per cent; Vietnam, up 53.5 per cent; and Mexico, up 48.4 per cent. Like I said, we do not even get a spot in the top 15. Australia does not even rank in the top 15 to export honey globally. This clearly demonstrates that we need to do more to protect and grow the industry for global export market opportunities here in Queensland. That is why it is important to work closely with our Queensland beekeepers not only to give them certainty moving forward but to help to grow the export opportunities so we can share what I would call some of the best honey in the world.

The bee is a very fascinating animal and is extremely important to humans for their survival. Here are some fun facts about bees, as we are very close to going home this evening. Bees have an exceptional sense of smell. Researchers discovered a bee fossil that is 100 million years old. Bees have five eyes. Bees use the sun to help them navigate. The reason bees are so noisy is they beat their wings 11,400 times a minute. Only female bees can sting; male bees do not have stingers. A hive of bees will fly over 88,500 kilometres to make half a kilo of honey and can produce 50 kilograms of honey in one year.

This one is for the member for Kawana: honey bees communicate through a series of dance moves, so there has to be a Kawana bee out there somewhere—or a 'wanna-bee'! Yesterday the social media site of the Hon. Milton Dick MP, the Speaker of the federal parliament, was showing off the honey being produced on the grounds of parliament in Canberra. Maybe we can have a beehive right here on the parliamentary grounds to produce our very own honey. We could even name it 'Premier Honey'. I commend the bill and the idea to the House.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (4.58 pm): I rise to contribute to the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. The backdrop for this bill is 20 years of government inaction. This bill is driven by a complete failure on the government's part to plan for the inevitable arrival of the 2024 deadline to phase out beekeeping in national parks. This bill is undermined by the government's failure to properly explore and understand the potential impacts of historical and existing apiary practices on Queensland's national parks.

The Greens have grave concerns about key elements of this bill and cannot support them. Public land is for public enjoyment, not for the use of commercial operators and corporations. National parks are supposed to be managed for permanent preservation, not for commercial ventures. The Greens will always stand up for public land, the conservation of our precious places and the right of everyday Queenslanders to enjoy the outdoors. Meanwhile, successive Labor and LNP governments have failed to adequately fund or expand our protected areas in Queensland.

Certainly the \$250 million in the most recent budget to acquire new protected areas is welcome. There is no dispute it is a significant amount of money and a substantial improvement, but it will still not get us to the government's target of protecting 17 per cent of the state. More importantly, if the government is willing to hand over these protected areas for private for-profit corporations then what is the point? Keeping our national parks free from commercial operations is not only crucial to protect the state's rare and endangered species and ecosystems but also ensures every single Queenslanders can enjoy the natural wonders of our state, no matter whether you are from the regions or the city, a group of friends on a picnic or a family going for a day hike. This is why the cardinal principle of national park management is so important.

I have found it quite extraordinary how many government members, without a shred of irony or apparent awareness, have extolled how this continued practice of beekeeping in national parks runs counter, is contrary, to the cardinal principle of national parks management. I have lost count of the number members who have accepted this on the way through.

To be clear, the Nature Conservation Act tells us that a national park is to be managed to provide, to the greatest extent possible, for the permanent preservation of the area's natural condition and the protection of the area's cultural resources and values. This is the cardinal principle, the prime principle, of national parks management that we are supposed to be held to in Queensland. The government should always pursue and prioritise this objective in the management of our national parks, not offer them up for profit. This government has form on that front. They continue to pursue long-term exclusive leases of national park land for private development and enterprise under the banner of ecotourism. This is privatisation by stealth and it threatens the integrity of our national parks. It is unacceptable for the government to hand over national park land to private corporations whose primary motive is profit. By extending the operation of commercial beekeeping in national parks for another 20 years this bill continues that trend.

I am not saying that the beekeeping industry should be immediately or suddenly ejected from national parks without warning. Successive state governments have had 20 years to work with apiarists, the agriculture sector and conservation groups to set aside corridors or undertake whatever replanting or restoration works are necessary and end the beekeeping industry's reliance on national parks. For decades governments and industry have known they need to find alternative honey bee sites by December 2024. Now, with two years left, we are told that the government has not found suitable alternative locations for apiaries and, from what I can tell, there is no explanation for this failure. I almost cannot believe I am jumping on the pun train, but the sting in the tail with this bill is that it does not give industry, farmers, conservationists or everyday Queenslanders a plan to end the beekeeping industry's reliance on national parks.

For the past two decades various state governments have left industry and agriculture without an adequate transition plan. I worry that in another two decades this place will again be debating the future of the beekeeping industry and whether it is appropriate that land for public use and conservation is instead being given to private companies. In the last 20 years beekeepers have not moved the apiaries off our national parks, and do we really think that anything will change in the next 20 years without a government-led transition plan? In the last 20 years the government has not taken active steps to transition the beekeeping and agriculture industries away from relying on this use of public land. If this bill is passed it should, at the very least, require the government to adopt a clear strategy to secure alternative apiary sites over the next two decades.

Within the next year the government must also provide beekeepers with clear biosecurity guidelines to ensure risks to our national parks are appropriately mitigated. Not only have successive governments failed to make a transition plan for commercial beekeeping, but they have not conducted the research necessary to understand how this practice impacts on our national parks.

The member for Glass House gave the game away when, in referring to the report that so many have relied on to say there is no impact, he read a little bit past the catchphrase that everyone wants to hear and he laid bare that there is not, in fact, any evidence that shows there is not an impact on our national parks beyond what feral bees might have and instead says that there is simply an absence of evidence. We do not know what impacts these apiaries could be having.

A number of submissions raised concerns about the potential for honey bees to damage native flowers, compete with native bees for pollen and nectar and swarm large hollows on which threatened species like gliders, powerful owls and glossy black cockatoos depend. The Queensland Human Rights Commission's submission said First Nations people's cultural rights to spiritual connections to the land and waters may be impeded if the government continues allowing commercial beekeepers to access national parks in this way. The Greens share those concerns and do not think they have been adequately addressed by the government. Unless this government changes the bill to give clarity and direction to the beekeeping industry, addresses human rights and conservation concerns and stops the privatisation by stealth of our national parks, the Greens cannot support this bill.



Ms PUGH (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (5.05 pm): I rise to support the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill as somebody who loves honey, loves food and has also learned an awful lot this week about how those things are made.

While doing a bit of research I came across an article in the *Brisbane Times* from last year that summarised very well some of the key issues that we are talking about today. I will share some of that information with the House today. They mention in the article that Queensland beekeepers maintain that every third mouthful of food that a Queenslanders eats needs honey bees to pollinate it. We have talked a lot about the vast amount of produce that we have in Queensland and that produce that requires

pollination by honey bees, but when you put it like that it really throws into stark relief that none of us here would be eating today if it were not for the humble honey bee. The humble honey bee, along with rain, good soil and sunshine, is one of the key ingredients of Queensland's multibillion dollar fruit and vegetable industry.

As a person who has worked in the hospitality industry, we were proud to put Queensland produce on our menus. Whether it was carrots from Kalbar, beautiful macadamia nuts or Mareeba coffee beans—which got a look-in on our dessert menu for a while—we are spoilt for choice in Queensland. I must say that I did not realise the extent to which the humble honey bee was involved in that process. We are incredibly lucky.

According to this article, it is estimated that the honey bee alone contributes about \$2.4 billion to the state's economy annually. These little fellas are doing a lot of heavy lifting. About 75 per cent of Queensland's beekeeping industry clusters around the Lockyer Valley, which we know to be a food bowl with beautiful carrots, tomatoes and all the other food that they produce; Toowoomba; the Scenic Rim; up into the Wide Bay Burnett; and the Gympie areas. I think all of the members for those communities have spoken or will be speaking on the bill.

Bees need healthy flowering plants. We heard earlier from the member for Rockhampton, who members will be aware is a keen amateur apiarist. He talked about how he was able to see firsthand that having that bee colony improved the health of his plants and flowers. I understand that today over 1,000 professional apiary sites are located in 49 Queensland national parks. They are not just located in national parks. I am very lucky to have in my community at Corinda State High School an agriculture program and through that agriculture program they run an apiary. They have two ways that they run that: they have a young student who runs a small business—or should I say 'buzziness'—through the school; and the school also creates its own honey.

Some people—like my mum—say that the best way to get your bee honey is locally. Some people believe that bee honey that is harvested from your local area is more likely to have the health benefits that you need because it has the local cultures and the local bacteria.

I am not New Zealand born, but my father is from New Zealand and he will always get Manuka honey. I do not know how I am going to go home after parliament and break the news to my father that Manuka honey might, in fact, be an Australian product. I think that might break his heart and rock his world view. That is shocking news and I will have to do more research on it. That would be big news in the Pugh household because we love our Manuka honey. It is expensive but it is worth it.

As I said, in my electorate there are a number of beekeepers separate to the school, which does an amazing job educating the next generation of beekeepers. I thank the Corinda State High School for their program. It is a really good program that is run through the agriculture unit at the school. There are several beekeeper groups in my community and some people who own their own apiaries. It really is a wonderful and important profession.

Judging by the number of members from both sides of the House who offered to speak on the bill, we have all enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about what the humble honey bee has contributed not just to our national parks but also to our economy. We must make sure that the sector has a strong future for the next 20 years. That is why I certainly will be supporting the bill and I commend it to the House.



Mr BENNETT (Burnett—LNP) (5.10 pm): At the outset I want to thank the Queensland Beekeepers' Association, which has worked tirelessly to obtain an extension to access to our national parks and protected estates for another 20 years. I give a big shout-out to Jo and the team at the Queensland Beekeepers' Association for supporting the Bundaberg Region Promotion Night for the past six or seven years. They have been there every time we have run it. The event gives us a great opportunity to engage with members of parliament and others on the importance of bees. The association's perseverance in pursuing this outcome over many years highlighted for me the importance of access to publicly owned resources such as state forests and national parks.

I want to thank the beekeepers who made considered and insightful submissions to the committee. It was evident and consistent throughout the submissions that, if the government had continued with their proposal to exclude beekeeping from national parks, there would be a significant consequence. The success of the Queensland horticultural industry was highlighted many times in submissions to the committee, time and time again proving that the industry's success is supported by the pollination that comes from many healthy bee colonies. We know that the beekeeping industry's ability to supply those colonies is maintained by its access to rich native forests.

The committee heard that state forests and national parks remain critical to food production because the resource remains scarce outside those protected estates and that is due to many factors, including extreme weather events, urban clearing and expanding agricultural development. While in Queensland the value of honey and honey bee products might seem to be a modest amount at \$64 million, the industry contributes significantly to the Queensland economy—it is estimated that it contributes about \$14 billion—through pollination, honey production and boosting investment and employment, particularly in regional areas.

In areas all over Queensland and in the Burnett, agriculture is experiencing a huge expansion. Large numbers of juvenile tree crops such as macadamias and avocados are being planted each and every year. Stakeholders make their decisions trusting that beekeepers will be able to meet future demand and that they will be able to access strong and healthy hives for pollination. Many people underestimate the vital role that pollination plays in producing food and fibre. Much has been said here today and some of us have learned even more about pollination. Tree crops such as almond, macadamia, avocado, mango, apple and citrus all rely on bees. Fruit crops such as berries, melons and tomatoes as well as pumpkins, carrots, onions and other vegetables rely on bees. Vegetable seed crops and fodder crops such as clover and lucerne, as well as broadacre crops such as canola, beans, peas and sunflowers, rely on bees, and on it goes.

Areas of natural environment provide bees with protection and balanced nutrition to prepare for and recover from the important process of pollination. If we want to provide the food and fibre we need to feed the nation, we must accelerate Queensland's agriculture production. The industry and government must initiate long-term plans to futureproof our state's ability to continue to pollinate, grow and prosper with certainty.

Population growth and the COVID migration have seen significant development requests to progress many existing greenfield sites and, along with severe weather events, droughts, bushfires and floods events, this emphasises the need for there to be more diverse access to state protected assets. We know there are many examples where beekeepers work closely with other agricultural and horticultural enterprises when the application of chemicals provides challenges, making some areas unsafe for bees. Again, areas of natural protected estate provide bees with protection and balanced nutrition to prepare for and recover from all of those different situations.

I want to address the issue of setting an arbitrary 20-year extension on beekeeping permits. It is important that we acknowledge the amendment that has been put forward. I think it would be a tragedy if we do not allow a balance so beekeepers can plan their businesses. Twenty years will be upon us before we know it and I have no doubt that a different parliament will be here making this same sort of decision. As urban sprawl and the challenges facing our communities continue, access to protected estates will be needed to make sure that we continue to grow.

With something so important I question the reference to the cardinal principle and the arguments provided against having access to our protected estates. While the member for Maiwar is not here, I give a reminder to those who were talking about not supporting the bill. Those who advocate for the removal of bees from parks and state forests seem to forget that beekeepers are an asset in terms of surveillance while accessing forests. Commercial honey bee colonies are placed in forests for a period of only six weeks, every two to five years. Surely we should be able to work together. These are our protected estates. They are Queenslanders' protected estates. Why should not a very important part of our industry have access for such a minimal period? Those opposed seem to forget just how poorly our protected estates are managed. They are overgrown with feral weeds and overrun by feral pigs and pests. They are subject to intense wildfires as a result of a lack of mitigation and back-burning. I would suggest that does more damage than allowing honey bees into protected estates.

In closing, I give a big shout-out to the Queensland Beekeepers' Association for their tenacity in this project. They have given a lot of support to the people of my area. We talk about these things that are a little bit in the shadows and it is important to recognise just how important bees are. During COVID when the borders were closed, we realised that the migration of bees from northern New South Wales into the Burnett and Wide Bay was extremely important. For a long time the continuation of that process was on edge. The minister worked well with the industry and that needs to be acknowledged. Minister Furner rallied really quickly and we got the beehives into the area. It goes to show that sometimes we forget how important honey bees are and how important support for this legislation and, I suggest, the amendment is to Queensland's economy and Australia's food production.



Mr SKELTON (Nicklin—ALP) (5.16 pm): I rise in support of the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. Firstly, I thank the Queensland Beekeepers' Association. I know there is a lot of buzz going on here and it has been a hive of activity. I send a personal thanks to the Sunshine

Coast Beekeepers Association. If anyone is up my way, they should head to Yandina on a Saturday where you can actually get creamed honey, which is really hard to get these days, as well as many other products. I thank the State Development and Regional Industries Committee chair, the member for Bancroft; the deputy chair, the member for Lockyer; as well as the other members of the committee.

The bill is for an act to amend the Forestry Act 1959, the Marine Parks Act 2004, the Nature Conservation Act 1992, the Nature Conservation (Animals) Regulation 2020, the Nature Conservation (Plants) Regulation 2020, the Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) Regulation 2017, the Recreation Areas Management Act 2006, the State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2014 and the Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993 for particular purposes.

Mr Bennett interjected.

Mr SKELTON: I know. I am just mentioning all of the acts. The primary objective of the bill honours a commitment by the government. The bill provides a 20-year extension to allow beekeeping in specified national parks until 31 December 2044. It should be noted that the extension only applies to areas where beekeeping could be lawfully undertaken immediately prior to the transfer of the land. Under the Queensland Nature Conservation Act 1992, beekeeping is inconsistent with the cardinal principle for our national parks, which is an area of contention about which there has been much debate. Our national parks are for the permanent preservation of nature and the protection of the parks' cultural resources and values.

Under the 1999 South East Queensland Forests Agreement, the transfer of some Queensland state forests included NCA amendments to allow beekeeping to continue temporarily, until 31 December 2024. These amendments provided continued access to national parks by the beekeeping industry.

The value of the beekeeping industry to Queensland is commonly understood. It not only produces honey and other honey bee related products but also provides vitally important crop pollination services that support the entire horticultural industry. Loss of access to national park sites on 31 December 2024 would be detrimental to the supply of these services and products. The government has committed to this extension to provide the beekeeping industry with certainty of access for the near future. Twenty years is a long time into the future. These amendments were deemed necessary, as securing alternative beekeeping sites located outside of national parks has proven challenging. These 2022 amendments allow for an extension of time, provide for new work to be undertaken to seek alternative apiary sites, support adoption of industry best practice on protected areas and identify initiatives to assist industry to progressively relocate off park over the next 20 years.

The bill also corrects several minor errors and relocates certain administrative provisions that are replicated across three regulations into the Nature Conservation Act 1992. It will remove an outdated version of the intergovernmental agreement from the act and reference the current version via a definition. The outdated terminology of 'ministerial council' has been replaced with the equivalent state minister and Commonwealth minister in response to Commonwealth government reform in 2020. This reform replaced Council of Australian Governments meetings with the National Federation Reform Council and abolished the Wet Tropics Ministerial Council.

Very importantly, this bill provides needed enhancement to the Department of Environment and Science's capacity to respond to misconduct on Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service managed areas such as state forests, marine parks, recreation areas and national parks by providing new offences for impersonating a forest officer and a ranger—Yogi Bear beware: they are after you, mate—and expanding existing obstruction offences so that they apply to obstructing conservation officers, authorised officers and inspectors in the performance of their functions.

The bill relocates powers of officers to seize and deal with things that are seized, administrative provisions relating to approved forms, and internal and external reviews of decisions from subordinate legislation into the NCA to reflect current practices. These amendments have been made necessary by several reported cases of persons purporting to be rangers or forestry officers when they are not, as referenced by the Hanna Barbera cartoons. These behaviours have adversely impacted on persons lawfully enjoying our abundant national parks and recreation areas.

Ms Bush interjected.

Mr SKELTON: I take that interjection from the member for Cooper. Hanna Barbera were the people responsible for Yogi Bear.

QPWS rangers within DES manage lands and waters under numerous acts. This change makes it illegal for a person to hold themselves out to be a ranger or a state forestry officer when they are not. For consistency of application, this provision is now being inserted in all these pieces of legislation.

The amendments also acknowledge the partnership with several First Nations groups to jointly manage national parks and Indigenous joint management areas. Aboriginal and other corporations partner with the state to care for land and sea through initiatives such as the Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program and the Looking after Country Grant program. Rangers employed or engaged by these organisations working directly with QPWS or on projects independent of QPWS are properly recognised in this bill. The definition of 'ranger' in the offence means that rangers employed in these partnerships are not captured by the offence provisions when performing their functions consistent with the DES agreed arrangements.

Impersonation of a QPWS inspector or officer remains an offence in the act. The amendment provides improved clarification regarding when an inspector or conservation officer is being obstructed. The amendment removes any doubt by clarifying that it is an offence to obstruct an inspector in the performance of a function or when they are exercising a power under this act.

Amendments also relocate the provision for the seizure of relevant things—appliances, vehicles, boats and aircraft—that are found on land without the landholder's consent, found abandoned on land or being used to commit an offence against the act for the protection of native wildlife outside protected areas.


The bill will achieve its objective of relocating into the NCA from subordinate legislation the powers of officers to seize and deal with things that are seized, administrative provisions relating to approved forms, and internal and external reviews of decisions. Transferring administrative provisions to the NCA is a streamlining amendment as they would be otherwise replicated across three regulations. Transferring seizure provisions ensures conservation officers have clear and appropriate powers that are not distributed across the NCA and three regulations. Relocated provisions are redrafted into a modern form based on a precedent that reflects current drafting practices and is acceptable to parliamentary committees.

The bill delivers on our government's commitment to a 20-year extension to beekeeping in our national parks, until 31 December 2044. This extension will only be applied in areas where beekeeping was already an existing use prior to the transfer of land to national park. The bill also enhances compliance and enforcement capacity within Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service managed areas. Finally, it will update and improve coordination and the operation of the legislation by correcting several errors, reflecting the changes to intergovernmental arrangements and providing consistency with contemporary drafting practices. I commend this bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Skelton, adjourned.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND OTHER LEGISLATION (COVID-19 MANAGEMENT) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (5.26 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Corrective Services Act 2006, the Public Health Act 2005 and the State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2014 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Health and Environment Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Public Health and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Management) Amendment Bill 2022 [\[1266\]](#).

Tabled paper: Public Health and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Management) Amendment Bill 2022, explanatory notes [\[1267\]](#).

Tabled paper: Public Health and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Management) Amendment Bill 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[1268\]](#).

It has been 2½ years since COVID-19 was first detected in Queensland. While it has been an unprecedented time of uncertainty, anguish and change, COVID-19 has also enlivened our sense of community spirit in the face of serious threat. For the past 2½ years, Queensland's temporary pandemic management framework has been pivotal to our success throughout the different phases of responding to COVID-19. Initially, during the elimination phase, the pandemic powers were used effectively to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within Queensland and contain the small outbreaks that occurred. By preventing community transmission prior to widespread vaccination, we were able to avoid extended lockdowns, keep our economy open and thriving and, most importantly, save lives.

After ensuring that a significant majority of Queenslanders were vaccinated, our borders opened in December 2021. Queensland shifted from an elimination to a suppression strategy. Despite COVID-19 circulating widely in Queensland's community for the first time, the number of

hospitalisations and admissions to intensive care units remained lower than expected. We know that this was due to Queenslanders doing what Queenslanders do best: listening to the health advice, getting vaccinated and staying home when unwell.

As a result, the Chief Health Officer was able to significantly ease restrictions and allow our community and economy to transition to living with COVID-19, as we do with many other communicable diseases. The pandemic management powers introduced by this parliament in March 2020 have served us well; however, there will come a point in the future when it is no longer appropriate or necessary to continue to operate under this framework. As we now shift towards managing COVID-19 circulating broadly in our community, we have the opportunity to consider what measures will be needed to respond to COVID-19 once the emergency phase ends.

The Public Health and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Management) Amendment Bill 2022 recognises that COVID-19 is unpredictable and may continue to present risks for some time yet. Though the use of the current pandemic management powers may no longer be required, there are likely to be ongoing risks to our community and health system. These risks require targeted and proportionate responses to avoid the uncontrollable spread of COVID-19 and ensure its impacts can be effectively managed.

This bill reflects the government's approach in preparing to manage COVID-19 once the public health emergency ends. As we move towards managing COVID-19 as a more normal part of life, our focus continues to be on balancing individuals' rights and protecting public health. The government will continue to take the necessary steps to protect the health and safety of Queenslanders and preserve the public health system. But, over time, individuals and entities will increasingly take more responsibility for self-managing COVID-19. However, it is important that we retain appropriate, targeted powers during this transition period.

COVID-19 continues to present serious public health risks. Just because COVID-19 is a more normal part of our everyday lives, we cannot become complacent. COVID-19 is not low risk or stable. It is unpredictable and has the potential to have significant impacts on both individuals and the health system. While it is generally believed that repeated waves of COVID-19 will decrease in severity over time, this is not certain. For example, the most recent wave of the Omicron-driven COVID-19 infection hit Queensland during winter, resulting in record levels of infection and hospitalisation. Queensland's public health system is still under significant strain from the pandemic and influenza season. The public health workforce, which underpins the system, is understandably fatigued. The uncontrolled spread of a more infectious or vaccine-resistant variant of COVID-19 has the potential to overwhelm the public health system if we cannot put targeted and proportionate public health interventions in place to manage these risks.

The Chief Health Officer advises that waves of COVID-19 are likely to continue to occur. Population susceptibility to future COVID-19 variants in Queensland is likely to fluctuate. There are also a range of post-infection impacts that, although not yet well understood, are likely to have a considerable impact on the health system and workforce. These risks remind us that, while the health response is moving towards a self-managed approach, the virus is simply too unpredictable to remove all controls and rely solely on self-management strategies at this time. To do so would leave the community unnecessarily vulnerable to the ongoing impacts of COVID-19.

This bill proposes to allow the emergency framework to expire as scheduled on 31 October 2022. In place of that framework, the bill introduces a limited set of temporary and targeted measures to manage COVID-19 as a notifiable condition in the Public Health Act 2005, without the need for an ongoing public health emergency to be declared. The new temporary legislation will provide a step-down approach beyond the current framework. The new temporary amendments in the bill will sunset on 31 October 2023.

Recognising the unique nature of COVID-19 compared to other notifiable conditions, the bill inserts a new part in the notifiable conditions framework in the Public Health Act to provide tailored powers to deal specifically with COVID-19. To be clear, this bill does not cover other infectious diseases or pandemics more generally.

This is a temporary bill to manage the specific risks of COVID-19 after the current legislation expires, based on the current trajectory of the pandemic. The time limited powers in this bill are a significant step down from the broad powers and discretion exercised by the Chief Health Officer during the public health emergency phase. The bill retains only those powers that are likely to be necessary to manage serious risks in the current phase of the pandemic and to maintain a nationally consistent approach to responding to COVID-19.

The bill limits the Chief Health Officer's power to issue public health directions to the three key measures that are most likely to be needed over the next 12 months. Specifically, the bill will allow the Chief Health Officer to make directions about mask wearing in stated circumstances, isolation for positive COVID-19 cases and quarantine for close contacts with symptoms, and vaccinations for workers in certain settings. I want to be clear: just because this bill provides the basis for the Chief Health Officer to make certain directions, it does not mean that they will do so. For instance, during the most recent Omicron wave, the Chief Health Officer recommended the use of masks but did not issue a public health direction mandating their use.

The isolation and quarantine of diagnosed cases and symptomatic close contacts will continue to be crucial to prevent those at the highest risk of spreading the virus from moving about within the community, potentially putting others at risk and increasing further strain on the health system. The bill limits the period for isolation and quarantine of diagnosed cases and symptomatic close contacts for a maximum of seven days. It permits a direction to be made for an additional isolation or quarantine period of up to seven days in limited circumstances such as if a person who is in isolation continues to experience fever or acute respiratory symptoms of COVID-19. This is consistent with Queensland's current approach to managing diagnosed cases and close contacts. It is also based on national guidelines developed by the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee and the Communicable Diseases Network Australia.

Retaining a power to require vaccination, but in more targeted circumstances and only for workers, is proportionate to the ongoing risks posed by COVID-19, particularly in high-risk settings. However, as today's decision of the Chief Health Officer shows, the mere fact that the Chief Health Officer has the power to make a direction does not mean that he will.

I turn to the threshold for issuing a direction. The bill provides that the Chief Health Officer can only issue a public health direction if satisfied the direction is reasonably necessary to prevent or respond to a serious risk to the public health system or the community as a result of COVID-19, or give effect to decisions of National Cabinet or advice from national advisory bodies relating to the public health response to COVID-19. This test will ensure that directions continue to be used only when necessary and in line with the current public health response to COVID-19. The Chief Health Officer is best suited to make these decisions and to exercise the power to give public health directions, which requires continual assessment of clinical considerations, epidemiological data and other factors.

While the proposed powers are a significant step down from the current emergency legislation, they are still substantial powers. Measures like isolation, mask wearing and vaccination requirements can have a significant impact on individuals and their human rights. Careful consideration has been given to minimising the impact on individuals and businesses to the greatest extent possible while not detracting from the ultimate objective of promoting human life and preserving the capacity of our health system.

We have listened to the feedback from stakeholders on this bill and COVID-19 legislation more broadly. The advocacy of stakeholders like the Queensland Human Rights Commission, the Queensland Law Society and stakeholders from the health, disability, aged-care, tourism and business sectors have informed this bill.

The bill requires public health directions to be tabled in parliament within 21 days. When tabled in parliament, directions will be referred to the relevant parliamentary committee for review. Directions will be subject to disallowance by parliament. Further, directions must be accompanied by a statement explaining their rationale and compatibility with human rights. This justification statement must be published on Queensland Health's website and tabled in parliament with the direction. Directions will automatically expire after 90 days and must be revoked sooner if they no longer meet the criteria for being issued.

The bill also includes additional safeguards relating to the enforcement of directions. A person must be given the opportunity to voluntarily comply with a direction before an authorised person can take steps to enforce compliance. A person who fails to comply with a direction does not commit an offence if they have a reasonable excuse. The role of enforcement will be more limited and targeted than under the current emergency framework. Authorised persons will be able to enforce specific requirements set out in public health directions, but, in contrast to emergency officers, will not have independent powers to give directions about matters related to COVID-19.

The bill also temporarily extends amendments made to the Corrective Services Act 2006 to support the continued management of COVID-19 in correctional facilities until 31 October 2023. Corrective services facilities are uniquely vulnerable to the spread of COVID-19 due to the close proximity of prisoners and staff, transience of prisoners and staff into and out of facilities, and the limited

ability to maintain social distancing and other controls. A baseline level of controls is still required to manage these risks. Queensland Corrective Services will continue to review and ease restrictions in corrective facilities when appropriate.

This bill provides the toolkit government needs to step down from an emergency to a COVID-normal life. If restrictions are needed to manage future variants or waves of COVID-19, the bill provides the necessary powers to respond proportionately. If the risk remains low, the powers do not need to be exercised. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (5.38 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to Health and Environment Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Health and Environment Committee.

Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (5.39 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, under the provisions of standing order 136, the Health and Environment Committee report to the House on the Public Health and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Management) Amendment Bill by Friday, 14 October 2022.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.


Motion agreed to.

NATURE CONSERVATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 2497, on motion of Ms Scanlon—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (5.39 pm): As we have heard, the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 provides a 20-year extension to allow beekeeping on specified national parks to continue until 31 December 2044. For those who are unaware, commercial beekeeping activities involve beekeepers utilising tracks and trails to transport hives of non-native European honey bees to locations. Currently, there are 1,088 apiary sites across 49 of Queensland's national parks, including the Tewantin National Park, with the most common sites being in natural clearings, logging dumps or gravel pits. High-value floral resources are rare outside national parks due to a combination of extreme weather, urban clearing and agricultural development. National parks provide a safe refuge for our honey makers from potentially dangerous urban and agricultural environments.

The Department of Environment and Science, DES, advised that the new extension provision to 2044 recognises the detrimental impact that the loss of national park access would have on the supply of honey bee products and pollination services provided to the horticultural industry. They acknowledged that national parks provide a safe place for bees, free from chemicals, which can be used for a range of activities including preparation of hives for the pollination of crops, hive recovery after pollination jobs over winter and generating honey to provide income when there is no pollination work to be done. Yes, bees are extremely busy all year round!

Further, they noted that not only are national parks needed for rearing bees for pollination but all of the trees and shrubs and ground flora need bees too for their existence in most cases. The department also advised that this transition position was agreed to minimise disruption to the beekeeping industry and provide the industry additional time to reach a more secure and perpetual arrangement.

The majority of submissions received were from industry organisations within the beekeeping, agricultural and horticultural sectors, most of which outlined their strong support for the bill. Cotton Australia said that excluding bees from national parks could increase risk of exposure of beehives to insecticides used to grow crops on other land in industries such as cotton. If apiarists are forced onto other lands where cotton is grown, it could also hinder cotton crop management. Crop Pollination Association Australia said beekeepers use national parks to get their beehives into a strong healthy condition so the bees can go about their job of pollinating. Some of the crops that rely highly on bees for pollination are almonds, macadamias, blueberries, onions, carrots, apples, pears and cherries—just to name a few of them.

Conservation groups affirmed their opposition to the extension of beekeeping in national parks, with several submissions from environmental groups not supporting the bill. These stakeholders contended that beekeeping is against national park management principles, including the cardinal principle which we heard earlier, and had a detrimental impact on the natural environment. As we have heard today, there appears to be limited data and information on this.

Wildlife Queensland is of the view that the beekeeping industry has had knowledge for over 20 years that access to national parks would cease after 31 December 2024. They highlighted that there is almost 19,000 hectares of high honey-yielding forest areas located on private land which may be available as an alternative resource when access to SEQFA land ceases. We have also heard that the department has been looking for many years and has not sourced this land as yet.

While the committee was satisfied that provisions in the bill are appropriate and fit for purpose and that this extension applies only to areas where beekeeping was an existing use prior to the transfer of the land into the national park estate, there are still questions. For our conservation groups, the rationale provided for this extension will not be satisfactory given that commercial activities in our national parks are seen as in direct contrast to the aims of conservation.

As we are experiencing with the Cooloolo Great Walk, these concerns are being exacerbated by outdated management plans that are needed to assess any increase or retention in activity. With this in mind, the committee recommended that the department develop clear and accessible guidelines for beekeeping on sites in national parks within the next 12 months to ensure potential risks to the natural environment are appropriately managed and that it adopt a clear strategy and plan to identify and secure alternative sites over the 20-year extension.

Unrelated to the beekeeping amendments, the bill also enhances the department's capacity to respond to misconduct on Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service managed areas such as state forests, marine parks, recreation areas and national parks. This we welcome very much in my electorate as the ongoing poor behaviours—and quite atrocious behaviours—of a few are impacting the enjoyment of these areas for all. Again, it is vital that the Great Sandy Region Management Plan reviews are finalised.

I thank the committee, submitters, attendees to the public hearing and public briefing and the department for their examination of this bill—as well as our bees that do so much good.

In closing, I call again for any outstanding management plan reviews involving our national parks to be escalated as a matter of urgency so that the questions remaining are answered—as well, that clear scientific data is collected over the next 20 years to assist the decision-makers of the future. This is the reason why I will not be supporting the member for Bonney's amendment. A clear time frame will ensure that the department secures the research needed to give surety to our pollinators. With that in mind, I commend the bill to the House.



Ms BUSH (Cooper—ALP) (5.45 pm): I rise to support the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I thought I would start with an anecdote.

Mr Skelton: Is it about bees?

Ms BUSH: I take the interjection: it is actually about bees. Before becoming a member of parliament, I was working as a senior officer in the Public Service managing statewide service delivery teams. People who have met me probably know that I love a good quote or a good metaphor. With my teams I used to speak a lot about time management—in the Public Service that is a big part of the role—but also about the importance of impact, making sure that the work that you do has a real impact for Queenslanders.

The anecdote that I used a lot was comparing two insects—the mosquito and the bee. I used to say to my team that both insects are incredibly busy but, while the mosquito is really irritating, the bee has impact. No-one can possibly deny the highly productive qualities of the honey bee. So it should concern us all, and it certainly concerns me, that the bee numbers in Queensland—in fact, throughout Australia and internationally—have been in decline. I will talk about the importance of that in a moment.

This bill is principally about protecting the immediate future of the honey bee in Queensland by providing a 20-year extension to existing arrangements that enable beekeeping to occur on certain national parks. It has been reported that between the years 2006 and 2016, and obviously ongoing, Australia has lost over 100,000 commercial honey beehives. More than 20 per cent of the honey-producing hives have been lost in a single decade.

In Queensland we have gone from 127,000 commercial hives in 2006 to just 73,000 a decade later. We probably all know, and have heard in this debate, the many reasons for that including habitat loss; disease—we now have the varroa mite or the destructor that we know is coming into Newcastle, and I really hope we are able to contain that; intensive farming practices, which we have heard a lot about; the use of pesticides; and climate change. In particular, in Australia we have had bushfires throughout the various states. They have all contributed to the decline of both the honey bee and the native bee. That has had devastating effects environmentally worldwide.

That impacts on honey production domestically, with honey imports in 2013 surpassing exports, but the impact is so much greater than that. As we have heard, it is actually about food security. Globally, one-third of food production depends, at least partly, on animal pollination—and honey bees are our largest pollinator. Although the honey bee is an introduced species in Australia, the majority of crops they pollinate have also been introduced and would struggle to be productive without the honey bee pollination. Almonds, blueberries, cucumbers, apples and avocados—I promised to talk about avocados—all rely 100 per cent on honey bees for their pollination.

I was interested to learn through the committee process that honey bees are in fact a keystone species. I think it was the member for Gympie who referenced that. The ecosystem as we know it simply would not survive without them, so their survival is really critical.

The committee received 29 submissions, the majority of which did support the bill. I will speak to those themes and issues first. Currently there are over 1,000 apiary sites across 49 Queensland national parks, including 145 hives within the D'Aguilar National Park, which is the national park my electorate has a connection with. The bill proposes to provide a 20-year extension to allow beekeeping on specified national parks to continue until December 2044 and delivers on a 2020 government election commitment.

Currently, commercial beekeeping occurs in a number of national parks due to the transfer of state forests to national parks which occurred predominantly in the early 2000s. Commercial beekeeping activities involve beekeepers utilising tracks and trails to transport the hives of European honey bees to the locations we know as apiary sites. Commercial beekeeping is inconsistent with the management principles for national parks in the Nature Conservation Act, which requires that national parks be managed, to the greatest extent possible, for the permanent preservation of the natural condition and the protection of cultural and natural resources.

The Department of Environment and Science advised that the new extension provision to 2044 recognises the detrimental impact the loss of national park access would have on the supply of honey bee products and crop pollination services provided to the horticultural industry. This bill also simplifies the framework for authorising beekeeping on national parks. The department advised that the new framework for managing the extension of beekeeping was developed in consultation with Queensland Beekeepers' Association.

Why national parks? I have to be honest: that was the question that came to my mind when I first looked at the bill. Why do we need national parks? Why are they such a critical part of this process? To understand this I picked up the phone and spoke to a gentleman called Neville Bradford. Neville is a third-generation beekeeper. He has hives in the D'Aguilar National Park. Neville explained to me the work that he does and the role national parks play in beekeeping generally and specifically in his work. I was really fascinated to learn that Queensland honey bee industry products are valued at \$64 million. Honey bee pollination provides over \$2 billion in economic value for Queensland, \$14 billion nationally. It is not just in honey production but also the pollination services that are offered.

The growth of pollination services has resulted in Queensland beekeepers travelling interstate to participate in the pollination season for certain crops. For example, in 2021 the almond industry required 275,000 hives to pollinate crops. Neville explained how national parks are home to such a high volume and variety of flowering plants and that they are haven for bees: free from pesticides, a place to recuperate after their high-intensity pollination work. I did not realise the work that is required for these bees to be transported around and popped into a location, how far they have to drive to get around to all of these trees and pollinate everything. Neville explained to me how they only have so many flaps in their life span and that when that runs out they will decline. They have to monitor them in real-time and pull them off if that starts to happen. It is an extraordinary practice.

I have such newfound respect after reading the submissions and looking through the public transcripts. I want to congratulate the committee on the work they did. Speaking to Neville has been interesting, and it has been such a nice respite from my legal affairs work to look in-depth at this particular bill. Without this respite the honey bee population would absolutely be at risk.

In the time I have left I do want to touch on some of the issues that were raised in the submissions, particularly from environmental interest groups, which were not entirely supportive of the bill. I absolutely get that concern. I have to declare that I am a member of Land for Wildlife, and I really do take the protection of our native species quite seriously. There were issues raised around competition for food and resources, particularly if they become feral. After reading the literature in front of me and having the conversation with Neville, I understand they are breeding out the trait in bees that causes them to roam and become feral. In fact, that is an historical situation from some older crops and it is not as big an issue. As Neville said to me, 'It is in our commercial interests to not let these bees become feral and escape. Commercially, there is no value to us in doing that.'

I would like to congratulate the work of Land for Wildlife and a lot of the bush care groups that go out to create hollows and nesting boxes for sugar gliders and possums, because in Australia 17 per cent of our birds, 42 per cent of our mammals and 28 per cent of our reptiles do depend on tree hollows. It is really important that we make sure they are protected. The work that our bush care groups do in creating artificial hollows is so vital.

I do believe this bill strikes the important balance between making sure we have a really stable, resilient honey bee and food security future moving forward while also recognising that we do have a very important and vital national parks and native fauna that we have to protect, and getting that balance right is so critical. Having read the bill and having looked at the submissions, I do feel really satisfied that we are in the right place for that, particularly with the recommendations the committee put forward around making sure a strategy is in place to look at whether it is possible to have a transition plan. I commend the bill to the House.



Mr MELLISH (Aspley—ALP) (5.55 pm): The primary purpose of the bill is to provide a 20-year extension to existing arrangements that enable beekeeping to occur in certain national parks. The committee recommended that the bill be passed. As the committee report notes, it is clear that beekeeping plays an important and valuable role, both for honey production and for other agricultural strategies. You can see from the variety of submissions, including from the macadamia, almond and cotton industries, just to name a few, that beekeeping is about more than just honey production. It is clear that national parks provide the conditions necessary for honey bees to thrive.

The committee has recommended that the Department of Environment and Science develop clear and accessible guidelines for beekeeping on national park sites to ensure that any potential risks to the natural environment are appropriately managed. It is also acknowledged that there are complexities associated with identifying alternative sites outside of national parks. To that end, the committee recommended that the department adopt a clear strategy and plan to identify and secure alternative apiary sites over the period of the 20-year extension. The extension will only apply to areas where beekeeping could be lawfully undertaken immediately prior of the transfer of the land to the national park.

I note that environmental groups such as Wildlife Queensland, Gecko and Friends of Nerang National Park have expressed some concerns with the continuation of allowing native bees into national parks, and that has been considered in the decision-making. One of the submissions stated that 'honey bees impact biodiversity in two broad ways via competition for tree hollows and via competition for floral resources such as pollen and nectar.' Of course, this competition would at very different levels depending on the size of the national park, the number of bees being allowed to access the area, and the time period for doing so.

In terms of competition for hollows, it was noted by submitters that gliders such as the greater glider, powerful owls and glossy black cockatoos can, on occasion, be crowded out by honey bees, so of course there must be a balance. The balance is that the extension would only apply to areas where beekeeping could be lawfully undertaken prior to the transfer of the land to a national park.

It is also worth noting that, in addition to the extension of time provided by the amendments to the NCA, new work will be undertaken to seek alternative sites to national parks, to support the adoption of industry best practice and to identify initiatives to assist the industry to progressively relocate off-park over the next 20 years. Alternatively, the loss of access to these sites in 2024 would have an immediate

detrimental effect on the supply of honey bee services and products. The government has committed to this further time extension to provide the industry with certainty of access in the near and medium future. This is a sensible compromise between industry and the environment.

Section 92 of the act currently makes it an offence to impersonate an inspector, which is a position that a person is specifically appointed to and has various powers under as described in the act. In these instances, the existing impersonation offence does not apply if someone is impersonating a ranger if the ranger is not appointed as an inspector. There have been instances of misconduct in managed areas where a person has deceived visitors by impersonating a ranger, but that would not be an offence if they did not purport to be an inspector. A new offence is therefore being inserted to cover that gap. This is a welcome move, as it is a very serious offence and should be treated as such.


In the hearings, the department explained that it is already an offence for someone to impersonate an authorised officer and that the amendments are largely covering a gap. Having previously worked in water resource management myself for the former department of natural resources—not as an authorised officer but as someone who would on occasion accompany them—I can understand the importance of this. The same goes for the moves for consistent legislative provisions that protect staff from being obstructed from doing their jobs.

Going back to the beekeeping part of the bill, I know that there are a number of beehives in my area. In Geebung, Gerns hams has a number. They are a fantastic 125-year-old local business in Geebung. They do great Christmas hams that are smoked on site. I encourage anyone on the north side to check them out. In addition to the bees there, they also have a few sheep and goats, which I think are the closest sheep and goats to the CBD. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Mellish, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Cattle Management, National Parks

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (6.00 pm): I again rise to highlight the issue of cattle shoot-to-kill operations occurring in Cape York national parks. More than 5,000 cattle have been shot over a 3½-year period, and that would be worth more than \$5 million on today's market. It is important to note that much of the cattle in Cape York today would have originated from landowners. When I last spoke on this, I received massive feedback from Queenslanders who considered it bizarre that cattle can be slaughtered in such a wasteful manner.

The government are reviewing the animal protection act to strengthen animal protection laws, yet here they are away from the public eye blasting cattle and leaving them there to rot to feed the feral pigs. It is a myth that Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service can easily identify branded and unbranded cattle in thick dense bushland while hanging from a chopper. The reality is that Queensland Parks have had little to no consultation with landowners and traditional owners.

A policy shift needs to take place to ensure the best possible outcomes for all stakeholders so this terrible waste of valuable resources does not continue to occur. I have had further discussions with land and traditional owners on this, and a number of alternatives have been proposed. The No. 1 priority is to immediately stop all shoot-to-kill operations in national parks in Cape York. At the moment, it takes so long for landowners to secure a permit that Queensland Parks go in and shoot their cattle before their permits can be secured. A complete overhaul of the national park access permit system must be prioritised to ensure processing times for approval are minimal, instead of dragging on for months.

Queensland Parks must coordinate efforts between land and traditional owners to muster branded and unbranded cattle. I have been informed that this once occurred before bureaucracy replaced common sense. I have seen firsthand ringers and contractors mustering cattle, which provides jobs and economic flow-on benefits right through to the meatworks. Plus it is exciting work and it gives Indigenous ringers work opportunities, which the government currently are denying them.

Lastly, there are fantastic opportunities that exist in rounding up unbranded cattle as a resource for the bush beef industry. This is in its infancy. However, a pilot program through Normanby Station has been extremely successful. Station owners cannot believe the waste in shooting unbranded cattle. Bush beef is becoming more and more popular, with the restaurants in Cairns wanting supply to satisfy demand. I call on the minister to halt all cattle shooting and meet with representatives from Cape York to discuss this fantastic opportunity.

Redcliffe Electorate; Melanoma, Skin Checks



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (6.03 pm): I want to talk about a couple of local events in my community. With the first, I give a huge shout-out to Shane Newcombe and his team at Moreton Bay Region Industry and Tourism for putting on the Moreton Bay Food and Wine Festival on the Redcliffe Peninsula recently. With the last two years being cancelled because of COVID, this was much anticipated for everyone and no-one was disappointed. Tens of thousands of people came along. It supported a lot of local businesses right across the region, and it was an amazing event. This event is going to grow and grow in popularity over the coming years. Well done to the team at MBRIT.

Last week the inaugural Housing for Happiness Gala was held at the Redcliffe Leagues Club in support of Redcliffe's very own Chameleon Youth Housing. Chameleon Youth Housing has been operating for 33 years locally and is a not-for-profit that specialises in homeless services supporting young people between the ages of 16 and 25. The event was attended by more than 180 members of the community, along with representatives from the New Zealand Warriors and the new NRL franchise, the Dolphins, and other supporters. It was hosted by Ausbuild. The event exceeded expectations by raising \$103,950, and this will go a long way to realising Chameleon's goal of building an additional share house for young people in the Moreton Bay region.

I would like to join Carmel from Chameleon Youth Housing and her team in thanking MBRIT and Ausbuild for making the event possible and for the support of the Vodafone Warriors and the Redcliffe Dolphins. I would also like to thank the Redcliffe community who got behind Chameleon Youth Housing. I look forward to supporting Carmel and the team for many years to come. I know they will turn this into an annual event which will be really exciting.

Lastly, I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone, both in this House and also in the community, for their well wishes when I was recently diagnosed with a melanoma. I want to thank my hairdresser, Tahnee. As my specialist said, it is often hairdressers who identify skin irregularities on people's scalp because they are very hard to find. The message is that people should have regular skin checks—

Honourable members interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: Yes, you might be able to spot some easier than others. Outside of regular skin checks, if you or someone you know draws to your attention something unusual or concerning, please go and get it checked quickly. That is what I did and it made all the difference. I want to thank everyone for their support. I really appreciate it.

Second M1, Delays



Mr CRANDON (Coomera—LNP) (6.06 pm): Here we are in September 2022 with some of the truth coming out regarding the second M1. Let me expand on that. In 2017 the LNP committed to doing something that this government would not, and that was build the second M1. That was before the 2017 election. We continued to commit to that promise right the way through, until finally in September 2020 we heard from those opposite. The Premier said, 'We'll build the second M1 as an election promise.' In September 2020, she said, 'Construction on the second M1 will start within 12 months.'

Our proposal was criticised by the transport and main roads minister. He said, 'Only four lanes. Only six kilometres. Not good enough.' We said, 'We'll start work and finish this stage in this term.' He said, 'Not good enough. We'll build 16 kilometres. Ours will be six lanes and it will have bike lanes and pedestrian lanes. We'll start building within 12 months.' How did that go?

Well, it was finally announced after the election that: it will be three stages, not one stage; it will not cost \$1.5 billion, but it will cost \$2.1 billion; and it would not start in 2021 but would in fact be mid-2022—but here we are in September 2022 and it still has not started. It is two years down the road and we still have not started. Where are we now? Nowhere. What have we got? We are back to four lanes. We have not started, but we are back to four lanes and there are no bike lanes for the whole 16-kilometre length. We have had a blowout of \$600 million. It has gone from \$1.5 billion to \$2.1 billion, there are no bike lanes and it is only four lanes. Oh, and it has not started yet. Does that sound familiar?

Let me talk about a couple of other projects in the northern Gold Coast. The first is exit 49. They have just started exit 49. They have had the money since 2019. Another is exit 38. The business case was on the minister's desk in November 2018, and there has not been one dollar in any budget since then for exit 38. That is an absolute quagmire every day of the week, including weekends. The Coomera electorate has seen almost 50 per cent growth since 2016, and this government are stuck in the slow lane when it comes to delivering the road infrastructure that we need. It is time for that to change.

Rookwood Weir



Mr O'ROURKE (Rockhampton—ALP) (6.09 pm): Last week, Queensland's Minister for Water, Glenn Butcher, and I visited the \$367.2 million Rookwood Weir site. This project has now reached another milestone: staff have clocked up one million hours. This is a landmark infrastructure project which will deliver long-term water security and is delivering good jobs and better services in Central Queensland. There are more than 350 people working on site to build the weir that will capture water from the Fitzroy River for irrigation, industrial and urban use.

The Fitzroy is the second largest water catchment area to the Murray-Darling. With more than 350 staff now on site, this is the largest workforce since construction started in late 2020 and includes 160 Central Queenslanders and more than 170 from other parts of the state. There are also 16 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander positions and 25 apprentices and trainees who have been given the opportunity to work and learn on this infrastructure project. It is pleasing to see so many Central Queenslanders performing critical roles on an initiative that will benefit our region for generations.

When fully operational, Rookwood Weir is expected to create a further 300 jobs within the agriculture industry. I noticed when I was out there that they have started planting massive macadamia orchards and there is talk of a 35,000-head feedlot as well. With two large meatworks in Rocky, this will support great local jobs.

A government member: More beef!

Mr O'ROURKE: More beef, that is right. I will take that interjection. Central Queensland has also benefited with over \$100 million from construction which has been spent with local suppliers and contractors delivering a significant boost to economic growth in the region. Sunwater CEO Glenn Stockton praised the Rookwood Weir workforce as they experienced some difficulties in the river catchment over the past six months. It has been flooded out three times. Currently, the weir is progressing well with daytime concrete production to support night operations. By the end of July, they had already poured 35,000 cubic metres with about 130,000 cubic metres required. This is about futureproofing Central Queensland and creating great jobs.

Toowoomba, Olympics Legacy



Mr WATTS (Toowoomba North—LNP) (6.12 pm): I want to talk about an Olympic legacy for Toowoomba. There was great fanfare when we started looking at the Olympics. It would be a 45-minute train journey from Toowoomba to Brisbane—that is gone. The west ticketing system stops at Ipswich. There are a few things west of Ipswich, I just wanted to add. We do have a desperate need for our stadium at the Toowoomba sports ground or the Clive Berghofer Stadium or the athletic oval to be upgraded. It would be good to see some investment there to transform it into a boutique stadium. However, I am very concerned about the temporary nature of the stadium. We do not want this just for the Olympics. I think it would be better to invest the money in something of a more permanent nature.

What I would really like to see in Toowoomba—we have done a bit of an audit—is the government to address the lack of female changing rooms and female facilities so that girls and women can participate in sport. Sport is exploding, whether it be Rugby League, AFL or rugby union. All of the football codes and all sport is growing. We do not have the facilities: we do not have the pedestals in the changing rooms, we do not have girls' changing rooms and we do not have ladies' changing rooms. I would love to see part of the legacy of the Olympics for Toowoomba to provide these kind of facilities to encourage our young girls and young ladies not only to get started and participate in sport but to continue playing sport in the lead-up to the Olympics. Some of them might play at the Olympics, but the main thing is that they have the opportunity to participate in sport. I think that is very important.

Another area of concern is that Toowoomba does not have a tartan track outside of a private school. We have one tartan track, but it is not a full-sized track and it is at a private school. We need a tartan track in Toowoomba. We have a Commonwealth Games gold medallist thrower, but we do not have a throwing circle of any standard at all to be able to use. We do not have a decent athletics facility.

I would encourage the minister to engage with the university, to engage with the council and take a serious look at building at least a district level athletics facility. Perhaps with the university and the council contributing as well, we can get something that will allow us to host district sports. It is embarrassing for Toowoomba not to have these facilities. This is our opportunity. If we really want an Olympic legacy, let's get the female changing rooms up to scratch, let's make sure that our girls can participate in all the sports, let's make sure that we have an athletics track and a full athletics facility

available to at least host district level competition. In addition, when we do upgrade the athletic oval or Toowoomba stadium or the Clive Berghofer Stadium, let's not just do it with scaffolding and of a temporary nature, let's do it properly so that it is there for the long term.

Mansfield Electorate, Koala Protection; Job Creation



Ms McMILLAN (Mansfield—ALP) (6.15 pm): I am passionate about flora and fauna preservation and renewal, and so is the Mansfield electorate community. Last weekend, I rolled up my sleeves to plant new eucalypt trees at our Mount Gravatt TAFE campus. These 500 trees will provide food for our local koalas, deterring them from crossing Cavendish Road in search of food. In addition, the new koala fencing ensures that the koalas cannot climb the fence bordering busy Cavendish Road. I would like to thank Minister Farmer and her Department of Employment, Small Business and Training and the QBuild team for their work on both projects. A special thankyou to the Queensland Koala Society and the Mount Gravatt East Townhouse Action Group for their advocacy in protecting this beautiful native animal which we all love.

While koalas are currently on the move, the demographics of the Mansfield electorate community have also changed over the past decade. The release of the 2021 ABS statistics has shown a considerable shift in my community's demographic profile to a rich and diverse cultural patchwork of individuals and many young families who are predominantly from a Chinese or Indian heritage, complementing our existing diverse, vibrant and talented community. It is wonderful that these families have chosen the Mansfield electorate as their home, which is also recognised as a hub of educational excellence, with 19 exceptional state, private and Catholic schools and an exceptional TAFE campus serving our local families.

Since being elected in November 2017, I have delivered more than \$200 million to our local schools and TAFE. Only a Palaszczuk Labor government cares and invests in education, and I thank the Minister for Education for her great support. Only a Palaszczuk Labor government has a plan to skill more Queenslanders for good, secure jobs after they graduate from our excellent local schools.

In very clear contrast, the LNP has a history of destabilising the lives of Queenslanders. The LNP government slashed \$288 million in employment programs, including Skilling Queenslanders for Work, and tried to decimate our TAFE system, slashing funding by \$170 million, cutting more than 2000 TAFE jobs and attempting to sell off TAFE campuses, including our beautiful Mount Gravatt campus. They sold Old Yarranlea State School that the Member for Toohey spoke about on Tuesday evening in his adjournment speech.

The LNP cuts resulted in 4,700 local people in my community losing their jobs. Cutting Queensland services and jobs destroys people's lives. Destroying people's lives leads to instability, stress, poverty and homelessness. This Palaszczuk Labor government is committed to delivering world-class education and training programs to ensure Queenslanders are afforded a great lifestyle which job security brings.

Scenic Rim, Roads; Floods, Recovery Assistance



Mr KRAUSE (Scenic Rim—LNP) (6.18 pm): Upgrades to Beaudesert Nerang Road around Canungra and surrounding areas must be put on the agenda of the Minister for Main Roads immediately. Canungra is now regularly choked with traffic, most of which is not from development around Canungra, although there has been residential growth there, but from further afield in Scenic Rim and Logan City. There have been huge numbers of people moving into Yarrabilba, Jimboomba, Flagstone and other areas around that part of Logan in the last decade, clogging up Canungra and making it unsafe for locals, visitors and especially schoolchildren at busy times.

Councillor Virginia West of the Scenic Rim Regional Council and I have tried for years to get Main Roads on board to plan for upgrades and/or a bypass, if that is possible, but they just flick it back to Scenic Rim Regional Council, saying it is their problem and that, if they want any action, they need to take the initiative. That is not good enough. This is a state road corridor, and all the way from Benobbe on the Tamborine side through to Clagiraba on the Maudsland side needs attention. But most of all the Canungra situation—and I will call it the Canungra bottleneck—needs attention. It needs investment in proper planning but, moreover, it needs a willingness to admit there is a problem on the part of the Minister and the Department of Main Roads.


The Scenic Rim is now included in the Lonely Planet's top 10 regions in the world to visit, but right now the minister and Main Roads have their head firmly stuck in the sand, ignoring the issue and hoping it will go away. It will not. It is only going to worsen. We need action now.

On another matter, May's flood event impacted Scenic Rim farmers differently to the February floods as some were impacted far more than they were in February. Unfortunately, no support grants of up to \$75,000 have been activated for farmers in Scenic Rim following May's event, unlike after February's event. Those growers are looking for assistance from DRFA support programs. In fact, I wrote to the minister just days after May's floods to alert him to this issue and to request steps be taken to ensure that occurred. Subsequently, on two occasions I have asked for meetings with the minister, his office or DAF to discuss why Scenic Rim was not included in those grants but I have not had a reply.

In speaking with a grower this week I can say that it is clear that some of the damage and loss caused is only now becoming apparent. These growers have been working to mitigate losses and to maximise yield after a very difficult summer and winter season. Damage caused by the floods in February has also resulted in an overload of work for contractors, so people cannot get quotes for work to be done. There is a real worry that they will miss the deadline for applying for the grants for the February floods.

There are two things the minister and DAF should do. They should assess against Scenic Rim's category C eligibility after the May floods, and extend the deadline for applying for support after the February floods.

Women in Leadership

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (6.21 pm): I understand that we had the great Julia Gillard in Parliament House today. Her presence in Parliament House brought to mind her famous misogyny speech, and it is rather fitting that it has been brought to my mind this week. For those honourable members who do not know—which is probably everyone on that side of the House—this was a passionate speech that was revered around the world and has been quoted time and time again.


Julia delivered that speech 10 years ago. In the lead-up to this speech there were instances of sexist, hateful attacks from anonymous critics and a plethora of pornographic and degrading images of her circulated on websites, emails and social media. Let's remember that this was the Prime Minister of Australia. Ten years ago Julia spoke about double standards and sexism and called out misogynistic behaviour. Julia was subjected to disgraceful commentary in the media, such as being likened to the 'coven' before a women's leader's forum and also 'ditch the witch'.

Much is said and, indeed, is being done on this side of the House to develop women's strategies and a women in the workforce strategy. However, more needs to be done. Working towards fair, equal and respectful treatment of women in the workplace is the responsibility of each and every one of us each and every day in each and every workplace.

What has changed? We continue to see our female leaders endure a level of scrutiny that would not be applied to their male cohorts. For example, the Finnish PM was hauled over the coals for dancing and was forced to undergo a drug test. I ask: what male leader would be held to account in the same way? None! Is it because she is a mother she cannot have fun anymore? This PM is a young, intelligent, strong and attractive female, but the rules seem to be different for her just because she is a woman. That PM did not miss one day of work. She did not leave a single task undone. Her children were not abandoned and she had worked throughout the entire pandemic, working towards keeping her country safe and doing her job.

Does all of this commentary sound familiar when compared to what we heard at the beginning of this week in our own state from those opposite? It is an absolute disgrace and I am tired of the treatment of women in this place. I ask honourable members: if it were a man, would we have heard this same commentary? I argue no. So double standards and sexism are still rife in this place. It is high time the male leaders recognised their role and their female colleagues held them to task.

M1, Flood Mitigation

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (6.25 pm): Seriously, Mr Deputy Speaker. I want to talk about something serious. Earlier this year there was flooding in my electorate. Quite a bit of rain fell. It was not unprecedented rain, as this government would tell honourable members. It was just a lot of rain. There were houses that flooded—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr HART: This is serious. It is about people's houses flooding and I want to talk about it. This happened in my electorate. This is my adjournment speech. I want to talk about those people—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Order, members!

Mr HART:—because their homes have been affected by the flooding that occurred earlier this year.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for McConnell! We will hear the member for Burleigh's adjournment speech in silence.

Mr HART: Thanks for your protection, Mr Deputy Speaker. A lot of houses flooded that had never flooded before. Some people who had had slight flooding previously suffered an adverse flooding event and they are blaming it on the works on the M1. They are saying that the M1 works acted like a dam because Tallebudgera Creek was choked and the culvert overflow into the Tallebudgera canal system was made smaller and was full of rubble at the time.

Those people have gotten together and they have been ably represented by Scott and Jude Johnson who have written to the Minister for Transport and the Premier. They have asked for meetings. In fact, Scott wrote to the Minister for Transport. He said—

I was informed by your office that you "do not take calls and do not respond personally to emails" ...

Seriously, what is this guy being paid for?

Ms Grace: That's rubbish and you know it.

Mr HART: I will table those emails for the benefit of the doubting members opposite.

Tabled paper: Bundle of emails from individuals to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Hon. Mark Bailey, regarding the Tallebudgera Creek flooding in February 2022 [[1269](#)].

I will table a whole series of photos that show that the creek has been choked and the culverts have been reduced and the flooding effect that had on these people.

Tabled paper: Bundle of photographs depicting the February/March 2022 flooding of the Tallebudgera Creek [[1270](#)].

In fact, in the last few days Judy wrote to the minister. She said—

Your complete lack of interest in our communities issues is quite frankly staggering.

You have refused us access to the requested documentation that we as tax payers are entitled to review.

This is despite applications via the Freedom of Information ...

When will this be available to us?

...

I appeal to your duties and responsibilities to take the time to listen to our communities and assist us in finding the appropriate solutions.

I table the email.

Tabled paper: Email, dated 22 August 2022, from Judy Johnson to the Premier and Minister for the Olympics, Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk, and the Minister for Transport Minister and Main Roads, Hon. Mark Bailey, regarding the M1 upgrade [[1271](#)].

They have been told by the minister that he will not have a meeting with them. How can the Premier say people do not need a lobbyist to have a meeting, yet nobody can get a meeting with this minister or the Premier?

Rigger, Ms M; Awiyawi, Mr D; Clare, Ms C



Hon. MT RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (6.28 pm): It has been a very sad couple of months for the Caboolture region because we have lost three community champions from our region. I would like to pay tribute to each of them tonight. One of the most fulfilling things I find about being a representative of a community is that you get to meet people you would not normally meet. You are impressed by their commitment to community and their dedication to others and you actually form friendships with them. Tonight I pay tribute to not only three community champions but three friends.

The first person is Michele Rigger, who was an outstanding contributor in the area of sports and also child protection. She was a long-term member of the Caboolture Sports Football Club and one of the key directors of the Caboolture Sports Club. In fact, she was one of the club directors of the year for the whole state of Queensland, a very big contributor to junior sports and sport more broadly. Where I think Michele shone was she was also the founder about 11 years ago of the Kids in Care Christmas Appeal. The Caboolture Kids in Care Christmas Appeal grew to be the biggest community Christmas appeal in the state, and that is a fantastic legacy for Michele and her family.

I also want to acknowledge my friend Chief Daniel Awiyawi, a chief of Vanuatu who was also a strong contributor to the community of Caboolture. He was a strong advocate for those who were residents and descendants from people from Vanuatu and went about connecting people to culture as well as making people aware of Vanuatu custom and also the great friendship that Vanuatu has with Australia.

The final person is Carol Clare, a magnificent person who contributed so much to Neighbourhood Watch. She was one of the key people in the Petersen Road Neighbourhood Watch group but also contributed more broadly to district and state Neighbourhood Watch matters. In fact, in recognition of her contribution, in 2018 she was awarded the Neighbourhood Watch Member of the Year for Queensland for that year. That is a magnificent testimony to her contribution, and her contribution was very broad. Not only was she one of the first Neighbourhood Watch members to adopt Facebook as a means of disseminating important community safety messages; she was a mentor to other groups to help them adopt Facebook as a way of disseminating that information. She also was a key leader around the anti-theft screws for numberplates and the Dogs on Patrol initiative. To the families and friends of Carol, Chief Daniel and Michele: we miss them and they leave behind a great legacy.

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, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Katter, Kelly, King A, King S, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lui, MacMahon, Madden, Mander, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke, Pease, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Watts, Weir, Whiting